



2nd Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference

25th- 28th March 2025: Argyle Grand Hotel, Nairobi

Call to Action

Draft

Title	<i>2nd Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference: Harnessing the Potential of Agroecology in Transforming and Sustaining Resilient Agri-Food Systems.</i>
Theme	<i>Strengthening Agri-Food System Transformation for Resilience, Sustainability and Socioeconomic Development.</i>
Preamble	<p>The 2nd Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference, convened by Biovision Africa Trust, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development of Kenya and Agroecology stakeholders drawn from the Eastern Africa region was held from 25th to 28th March 2025 at the Argyle Grand Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya. The conference builds on the success of the 1st Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference, which was held in March 2023 at the Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi.</p> <p>This second conference brought together over 800 delegates from over 42 countries spanning regions of Africa, Europe, Asia, South America and North America.</p> <p>Through keynote speeches, panel discussions, case studies, exhibitions, and poster presentations , the conference fostered healthy dialogue on how agri-food systems can be transformed to enhance health, equity, resilience, and cultural diversity goals in production, processing, distribution, and trade. The conference also highlighted the critical role of women and youth in shaping progress towards sustainable food systems.</p> <p>The conference underscored the importance of agroecology as a critical pathway for strengthening agri-food systems as it enhances sustainability, resilience, and socioeconomic development. However, policy gaps, funding constraints, trade and market barriers remain key challenges. It is anticipated that the insights gathered from this conference will help drive agroecological transformation through evidence-based policymaking, investment, and</p>

	<p>knowledge-sharing.</p> <p>We, the delegates attending the 2nd Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference CALL UPON the UN Bodies and Agencies, the African Union (AU), the Regional Economic Communities (RECS), Member States, Development partners, Donors, Financial institutions, Private sector, Civil Society Organizations, Media, Farmers and other Stakeholders to note and take the necessary actions as per the following Call to Action.</p> <p>The EAAC Conference Committee for Call to Action will identify actions relevant to the specific stakeholders mentioned for deriving action plans for implementation. Progress will be reported during the Third Eastern Africa Conference to be held in 2027.</p>
Acton Areas	Call to Action
Research and Innovations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invest in research and development for agroecological innovations, fostering adaptive solutions for food security and climate resilience. 2. Incorporate meaningful engagement of farmers in research and recognize their role in co-creation and replication of knowledge and practices, while ensuring transparency in sharing of research outcomes and benefits. 3. Engage in further research to address gaps identified in this conference. 4. Integrate agroecological innovations, fostering adaptive solutions for food security and climate resilience.
Policy and Program Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Convene structured dialogues to facilitate policy development and alignment, knowledge sharing and exchange and best practices in agroecology from local to global levels. 2. Develop and align national agroecological strategies and or policies with global and continental commitments and declarations (For example, Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs), Africa Agenda 2063, Regional Agricultural Development Frameworks and National Determined Contributions). 3. Establish legal, institutional and financial frameworks to mainstream agroecology into national agricultural policies, plans and strategies. 4. Develop standardized performance measurement tools to track the impact and scalability of agroecological interventions.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Advance national agroecology certification and trade facilitation, ensuring that agroecological products meet both domestic and international market standards. 6. Address land tenure challenges limiting access to land by women and other marginalized groups and strengthen farmers' seed systems to ensure food security and sovereignty. 7. Review and integrate agroecology into National and Regional Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs & RAIPs) to institutionalize sustainable food production. 8. Develop appropriate performance indicators for agroecology for integration within the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Biennial review process, enhancing accountability and impact assessment. 9. Develop comprehensive monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the performance of agroecology-based food systems, to inform evidence-driven decision-making, planning and execution, and cost of inaction. 10. Align Agroecological Policies and Programs across Member States, ensuring alignment with the AU decision on organic farming (2011) and its Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative, the Soil Initiative for Africa, CAADP's Kampala Declaration, Africa Agenda 2063, and the African Common Position on United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) outcomes. 11. Align National and Regional policies with existing trade protocols to facilitate the growth of agroecological markets and enhance farmers' access to fair and sustainable trade. 12. Institutionalize agroecological coordination mechanisms, ensuring sustained leadership and governance for agroecology and ecological organic agriculture. 13. Integrate livestock aspects, policies and programs into agroecology initiatives.
Partnership and Capacity Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop capacity for resource mobilization and investments in agroecological interventions, with a focus on gender inclusivity and youth participation. 2. Enhance partnerships for fostering collaborations that lead to co-creation and sharing of knowledge, technology transfer, and practical applications for farmers worldwide. 3. Support continuous learning and research in agroecology, prioritizing areas such as biopesticides, farmer-led innovation, and agroecological business models. 4. Revise national education curricula to incorporate agroecology principles from primary to tertiary levels.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate multi-stakeholder engagement by coordinating agroecology actors and optimizing resource utilization.
Trade and Markets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support market access for organic and agroecology products and raise consumer awareness on agroecology benefits. Explore trade opportunities for agroecological products, leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to boost intra-African trade in sustainable food commodities. Develop, strengthen and promote regional standards and develop protocols for agroecological products, ensuring quality assurance and market acceptance. Support establishment of agroecology incubation hubs and businesses for the youth across the continent. Collaborate with stakeholders in developing standards for agroecologically produced products.
Financing Mechanisms	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Allocate dedicated funding for agroecology programs, with a focus on women, youth, and marginalized communities. Member states urged to allocate 20% of the total agriculture budgetary allocation to Agroecology to ensure sustainable agri-food systems in funding agendas, recognizing agroecology as a viable solution for enhancing soil health, food security and climate adaptation. Development and technical partners to allocate more resources to support agroecological interventions in Africa. Develop innovative financing models including blended financing and leveraging on existing inclusive financing options. Enhance investments in agroecological research and innovations including mechanization to reduce drudgery.