

Agroecology Coalition

SUB-REGIONAL MEETING – EASTERN AFRICA

Nairobi, Kenya | 23 and 24 March 2025

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Holistic and integrated, agroecology simultaneously applies ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of food and agricultural systems with multiple co-benefits such as providing healthy diverse foods, addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation that reduces climate risks, enhancing biodiversity. Existing evidence from the field should be highlighted and brought to policymakers.
- Agroecology policies and strategies exist in a number of countries but these need to be implemented and funded especially at the sub-national level, supporting local governments, smallholders, local communities, right-carriers, indigenous peoples and other food system actors.
- Agroecology offers an opportunity to attract young people into agriculture. It recognizes the key role of young farmers in building food systems based on equity and fairness. Young people bring added value in farmer-to-farmer exchange, thanks to their knowledge of both traditional and innovative methods, contributing therefore to co-creation of knowledge.
- There is a need to foster greater policy coherence. One cannot have a policy of agroecology while heavily subsidizing harmful chemical fertilizers and pesticides or limiting policies and programmes to ensuring access to food (focus of food security) without upholding the right of people and communities to manage their own food systems (focus of food sovereignty). These national policy frameworks should be included in relevant regional and international frameworks such as the Kampala declaration or the AU and EU High Level Dialogue.
- We need to be engaging beyond the Ministries of Agriculture. If we talk about food systems transformation through agroecology, we need to be engaging with Ministries of Health, of Environment, of Finance and Budget.
- Agroecological interventions, to be sustainable, need to go beyond the standard pilot or demo project mode. Resources should be allocated on a longer term basis covering multiple cropping.
- Agroecology relies on the involvement of all food systems actors, and fosters a close connection between producers and consumers, promoting tight-knit communities where consumers are not just buyers but important actors building solidarity networks and building trust with producers. Through agroecology, consumers can also make informed choices and are empowered actors in a food system where large corporations do not impose the offer. They consume diverse, nutritious, locally- produced food. It also ensures that the production and consumption of agroecology locally-produced food products are aligned.