

FEATURING

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Nandi's Green Evolution: Cultivating a resilient future through Agroecology

By Alexander Githinji

Agriculture is the heartbeat of Nandi County, fueling over 55% of its economy and sustaining 70% of rural livelihoods. However, the sector is under pressure from climate change, worn-out soils, and skyrocketing production costs that squeeze farmer margins.

To safeguard the county's food security, BIBA Kenya has joined forces with the county government and local stakeholders to pioneer a sustainable path forward. Together, they have crafted the Draft Nandi County Agroecology Policy (2026).

This landmark framework moves beyond traditional farming by prioritizing soil health, biodiversity conservation, and climate-resilient techniques, ensuring Nandi's farming legacy remains profitable and sustainable for generations to come.

In this bold move toward sustainable development, Nandi County is positioning itself as a national leader in agricultural reform through a new, farmer-centered policy framework.

Driven by BIBA Kenya and a coalition of local partners, the



A farmer in Nakuru admires her organically grown indigenous maize

initiative shifts away from top-down mandates, focusing instead on inclusive value chains and climate-resilient systems. By facilitating direct dialogue and grassroots capacity-building,

advocates are ensuring that policy commitments translate into measurable improvements for local livelihoods.

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POLICY AND ADVOCACY

BIBA Kenya spearheads Agroecology for Climate Resilience (A4CR) Project.

Partnerships target to reduce use of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) while promoting indigenous farming and soil health practices.



Dr. John Gachara, the County's

CEC for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries during the much celebrated BIBA Kenya and Kirinyaga County joint MoU signing event that took place on March 18th 2026 in Kutus Town.

New Hope for Farmers as A4CR Climate Project Launches in Nandi, West Pokot, and Kirinyaga

The Agroecology for Climate Resilience (A4CR) Project is a two-year initiative (October 2025 – September 2027) aimed at transforming food systems in Nandi, Kirinyaga,

and West Pokot counties.

Led by the Biodiversity and Biosafety Association of Kenya (BIBA Kenya), the project promotes climate-smart farming to reduce reliance on highly hazardous pesticides and restore soil health.

against climate change while also promoting adoption of environmentally sustainable practices that benefit people and ecosystems alike.

The project is financed by Climate Works and is being implemented by BIBA Kenya, Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN), Resources Oriented Development Initiatives (RODI), Effective IPM association (EIPMA) and aims at benefiting at least 1000 farmers in the three counties.



A4CR project aims to strengthen indigenous food systems and build farmers

Through a combination of approaches including policy development and review support, community involvement campaign, knowledge sharing and partnerships, the project aims to strengthen local food systems, build farmers resilience

Nandi's Green Evolution: Cultivating a resilient future through Agroecology

The strategy outlines several urgent priorities to revitalize the region's breadbasket, including soil health management, biodiversity conservation, and the modernization of extension services.

The draft policy seeks to prioritize improvement of soil health in the county while also focusing on conserving the county's fast biodiversity. **"To protect smallholder farmers' vulnerability to climate change, the policy should promote climate-resilient farming systems while enhancing farmer training programs and**

extension services," noted Ms.

Anne Maina the National Coordinator for BIBA Kenya while reaffirming the organization's commitment to support the Nandi County's agroecology policy development process.

A specific emphasis has been placed on integrating youth and women into the agricultural economy, ensuring they have the market access and training needed to thrive in agroecological farming.

With new monitoring mechanisms in place, Nandi is setting a blueprint for how ecologically

regenerative practices can drive economic growth while protecting the environment for future generations.

"This isn't just about guidance on paper," noted a representative involved in the forums. "It's about reflecting the real needs of our communities."

Kirinyaga Sets New Standard for Green Farming in Landmark Partnership to Champion Agroecology

By Esther Nduati

Kirinyaga County is officially rooting for a greener future. In a landmark move for sustainable farming, the County Government, led by County Executive Committee (CEC) Member for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Dr. John Gachara has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BIBA Kenya, KOAN, EIPMA, and RODI Kenya.

In a significant move toward agricultural reform, the County Government of Kirinyaga has formal-

ized a strategic partnership aimed at establishing a new national standard for agroecological policy. This initiative, central to the "Wezesha Kirinyaga" vision, focuses on securing sustainable livelihoods through farmer-led innovation and climate-resilient practices.

Building Climate-Resilient Farms

This strategic alliance is designed to transform the local agricultural landscape. "As our

environment shifts, 'business as usual' is no longer enough for our local growers. Climate resilience is about more than just surviving a tough season; it's about providing farmers with the innovative tools and sustainable strategies they need to thrive despite unpredictable weather,"



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Innovative Tools and Sustainable Strategies for small holder Farmers



Partnering to advance adoption of agroecology in Counties

The initiative targets to support investments in drought-resistant seeds, advanced water management, and soil health while protecting crops in an endeavor to secure the future of Counties entire food system.

Strengthening Local Soil and Biodiversity
Through this strategic alliance, proposed community

initiatives will focus on going back to basics in protecting the heart of Kirinyaga County. The partnership marks the official launch of a project dedicated to preserving natural resources and restoring soil health. **"By focusing on the ground beneath our feet, we're ensuring a vibrant, resilient ecosystem for both current and**

generations to come," noted representative of small holder farmers in Kirinyaga County who was also in attendance during the much celebrated joint MoU signing event that took place on March 18th 2026 in Kutus Town.

The partnership specifically targets the reduction of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) while promoting indigenous farming and soil health practices. By integrating ecological principles into county planning and budgeting, as proposed by the parties to the joint agreement, Kirinyaga County will ensure that local communities have the permanent support and tools needed to thrive.

"Beyond signaling the county's dedication to agricultural sustainability, this achievement paves the way for coordinated action and long-term impact in securing our food future," noted **Dr. John Gachara, the County's CEC for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries** in his keynote address.

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asserted **Mr. Eustace Kiarie, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)** one of the project implementing partners speaking to Bio News during a meeting that saw the parties sign a memorandum of Understanding in an initiative aimed at championing agroecological farming.

Economic Growth: Securing sustainable livelihoods through farmer-led innovation.



Farmers display their indigenous seed, herbs, cultural items and food during last year's national SEED AND FOOD CULTURE HARVEST FAIR held in Nanyuki, Laikipia County.



"By focusing on the ground beneath our feet, we're ensuring a vibrant, resilient ecosystem for both current and generations to come," organic farmers in Mzee wa Nyama area in Nakuru observe as they showcase their home made organic fertilizer.

Stakeholders in Kirinyaga County Charts a New Agroecology Roadmap

Stakeholders in Kirinyaga County have officially kicked off the implementation phase of the county's Agroecology Strategy. In a high-energy inception meeting held on March 18th 2026, government officials, farmer representatives, development partners, and BIBA Kenya moved beyond policy discussion into concrete action planning.

The session focused on bridging the gap between strategy and the soil, ensuring that upcoming initiatives directly support local livelihoods and environmental health. By the end of the meeting, the group achieved several critical milestones including the development of a clear guideline paper outlining a step-by-step criteria for the implementation of the agroecology strategy.

ing of a financial framework that outlines a mechanism for coordinated and sustainable funding of the process.

This collaborative effort blends expert strategic planning with deep local knowledge. With a solid foundation now in place, Kirinyaga County is ready to transform its agricultural landscape into a more resilient, sustainable, and farmer-centered system.

By Kendi Juster

KAPENGURIA – In a landmark move to secure its agricultural future, the County Government of West Pokot has officially entered into a formal partnership with the Biodiversity and Biosafety Association of Kenya (BIBA Kenya) to implement the Agroecology for Climate Resilience (A4CR) Project.

The two entities recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding



Farmers in Kirinyaga display their resilient indigenous seed varieties

The partners present proposed the establishment of a 10 member Technical Working Group (TWG) whose mandate is to oversee smooth implementation of the project and a tentative action plan that synchronizes project schedules with the county's core development pillars.

The roadmap also saw the drafting and finaliz-

Climate friendly farming in West Pokot County

(MOU) at Kilimo House in Kapenguria, solidifying a collaborative framework to weave sustainable livestock production and animal welfare into the county's local governance.

The A4CR Project, which runs through September 2027, aims to transform West Pokot into a hub for climate-resilient food systems by reducing reliance on highly hazardous pesticides and promoting organic alternatives.

The Partnership aims at rolling out a mechanism to transition West Pokot County into agroecological farming by prioritizing farmer-

centered solutions that restore soil health and conserve biodiversity. Through the Agroecology for Climate Resilience (A4CR) Project, the County-CSO collaboration aims at strengthening climate resilience through development of agricultural systems capable of withstanding the region's increasing climate variability.

To further develop the all-important livestock sub sector in the county, the initiative seeks to invigorate livestock keeping by integrating animal welfare standards and make West Pokot County a sustainable livestock rearing region.

This collaborative engagement follows the county's recent enactment and launch of Agroecology Policy whose successful implementation is guided by an established monitoring and evaluation framework.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, **Mr. Wilfred Longronyang, the County Executive Committee (CEC) Member for Agriculture**, emphasized the urgency of the shift: "Declining soil health poses a serious threat to our agricultural productivity, livestock systems, and overall ecosystem sustainability. We must restore our

Through the Agroecology for Climate Resilience (A4CR) Project, the County-CSO collaboration aims at strengthening climate resilience through development of agricultural systems capable of withstanding the region's increasing climate variability.

Mechanism to transition West Pokot County into agroecological farming

soils and regenerate our landscapes through agroecology" he noted. **Continued on page 5...**

BIBA Kenya National Coordinator Ms. Anne Maina highlighted that the agreement is a binding promise to the county's smallholder farmers. The initiative will focus on training and capacity building to ensure that local communities are equipped with modern, environmentally friendly farming practices. This partnership makes West Pokot one of the leading counties in Kenya to formalize such a green

commitment, alongside Nandi and Kirinyaga.

From Paper to Soil

West Pokot is turning its agroecology policy into reality. With support from BIBA Kenya, the county has launched a new plan to track how sustainable farming is improving the lives of local fami-



BIBA Kenya supports farmers exchange visits where they learn agroecologically suitable practices such as composting

lies.

This isn't just a document on a shelf; it's a "living framework" that measures real progress. By keeping a close eye on clear goals, the county can prove that these eco-friendly methods actually work,

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Project hailed as green commitment for West Pokot

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helping to secure funding and support for years to come. "When leaders and farmers work together, they create a food system that protects the land and feeds the future", a project partners noted.



BIBA Kenya signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the West Pokot County Government, witnessed by the County Attorney

Cultivating Change in grassroots counties through Agroecology shift

By Bio-News Writer

BIBA Kenya: Advocacy and Policy Development Support

For BIBA Kenya, promoting agroecology in Nakuru County is about more than what happens in the soil—it is about shifting the foundations of power through advocacy and policy. "Our journey, defined by hurdles and hard-won victories, is fueled by the stories of resilient smallholder

farmers who are finally finding their voice," states Ms. Juster Kendi, the Programs Officer for BIBA Kenya as she narrated to the **Bio-News** the organizations fervent journey to push for the adoption of agroecology through development of favorable policy environment in Counties.

Following a firm support for the National Agroecology Strategy for Food Systems Transformation (2024–2034), BIBA Kenya played

a pivotal role in conceptualizing groundbreaking policies in West Pokot and Nakuru counties. In 2025, these counties reached a historic turning point by formally adopting their first-ever Agroecology Policies.

Grassroots Movement: A push beyond legislation

To BIBA Kenya, this policy developments are more than a legislative win; it is the crowning achieve-

"BIBA Kenya continues to play a pivotal role in conceptualizing groundbreaking policies in Counties"



ment of a grassroots movement dedicated to restoring the soil health of community farms by prioritizing regenerative agriculture to heal farmers' lands for food sovereignty.

"This is a push beyond legislation, it is a far-reaching transformation of our food systems by shifting toward sustainable production for improved food safety," states Mr. Gideon Muya, a program officer at BIBA Kenya.

Speaking to **Bio-News**, Mr. Muya reiterated that the successful implementation of the BIBA supported agroecology policies in counties goes a long way in protecting and securing livelihoods of the people who feed us by opening international market opportunities and building their climate resilience.

By integrating these principles into local governance, BIBA Kenya, a membership network goes a step closer to

ensuring that budgetary allocations in the devolved levels of govern

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The agroecology policies advance prioritization of regenerative agriculture to heal farmers' lands for food sovereignty

Agroecology shift: Cultivating change in grassroots counties



Nakuru and West Pokot counties launch agroecology policies

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ment support sustainable farming practices that take cognizance of both present and future .

Protecting and securing community livelihoods

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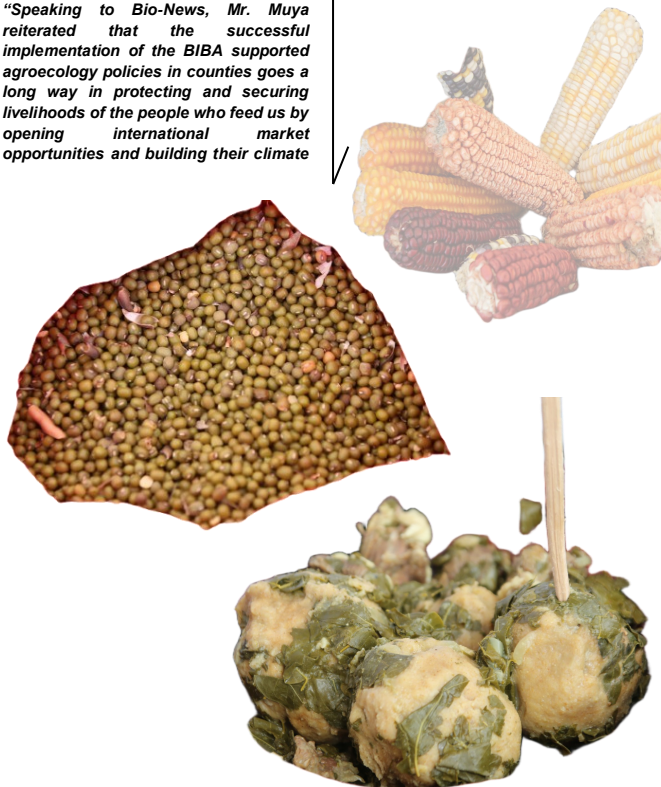


Grassroots Youth Activism Reshape Agriculture in Nakuru

Nakuru County is charting a bold new course for food security by blending high-level policy with grassroots youth activism. At the core of this transformation is the County Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC), a specialized technical hub featuring experts from County government of Nakuru and BIBA Kenya. This team is tasked with turning the county's agroecology policy into reality, overseeing a rigorous monitoring plan to ensure sustainable practices take root across the region.

To bridge the gap between policy and the field, the county has launched intensive training for extension officers. These officers are being equipped with specialized knowledge in biodiversity and climate change, enabling them to better support farmers in adopting ecological methods.

The movement's true energy, however, comes from the next generation. In partnership with Slow Food Kenya, Nakuru's youth are taking the lead as champions of food sovereignty. By integrating indigenous knowledge with modern ecological techniques, young leaders are protecting local crop varieties and bringing agroecology into schools and community hubs. This inclusive approach ensures that Nakuru's agricultural future stays rooted in ancestral wisdom while driving contemporary innovation.



Promotion of indigenous seeds and food in a mechanism to transition Counties into agroecological farming

CASE STUDY: Makueni County Agroecology Policy Action

By Janet Ndiiki

From Vision to Harvest:

Makueni County officially transitioned from policy design to grassroots action with the launch of the Makueni Agroecology Policy on November 7, 2025. This groundbreaking framework, the first of its kind in Kenya, is a direct response to the county's unique status as an Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL) region. By prioritizing "Resilient Farms, Healthy Soils, and Thriving Communities," the county is setting new standards for sustainable food systems that harmonize with nature rather than depleting it.

A Co-Created Blueprint for Change

The journey began in early 2024 with a rigorous, inclusive process.

Recognizing that top-down mandates rarely take root, the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Cooperatives established a Technical Working Group (TWG). The TWG consequently mobilized various sections of the society in an effort to fast track policy action.

The established TWG was critical in mobilization of farmers and local associations, a drive that helped ground the policy in real-world challenges like declining soil fertility and water scarcity in Makueni County. A collaborative effort that brought together actors from Civil Society and NGOs such as BIBA Kenya, ActionAid Kenya, PELUM Kenya, and Biovision Africa Trust provided technical expertise that saw successful enactment of the County's agroecology policy.

By building synergies with the relevant County and national government departments, the

TWG ensures the policy aligns with the [County Integrated Development Plan \(CIDP\)](#) for long-term budget and planning.

As a result of enactment of an enabling agroecology legislation, agricultural transformation in Makueni is already visible across the county. In early 2026, the county rolled out a Mobile-Based Agroecology Soil Health Programme an initiative that targets to provide e-vouchers for agroecology inputs to 2,700 farmers and specialized training to another 6,500 farmers.

The Mobile based Agroecology program also scales up regenerative agricultural practices by supporting practices like composting, crop diversification, and integrated pest management that not only restores the land but also boosts

Policy implementation: From paper to the Shamba

yielding.

By embedding these ecological principles into the county's DNA, Makueni isn't just surviving climate change—it's thriving. As Deputy Governor Lucy Muli noted during the launch, this policy secures today's livelihoods while acting as a "blueprint for a greener and more sustainable Makueni" for generations to come.

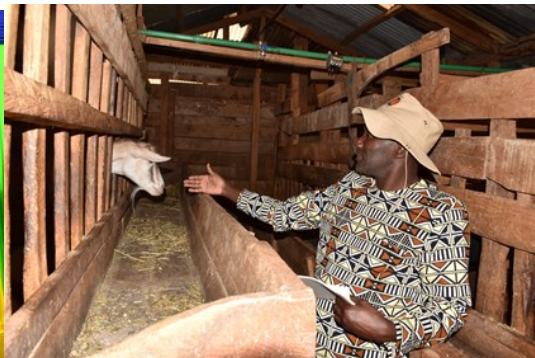


☐ **Sustainable Agri-Food Systems:**

Switching from chemical inputs to local, eco-friendly resources.

☐ **Social Equity & Inclusion:**

Makueni agroecology policy ensures women, youth, and vulnerable groups are at the center of progress.



☐ **Partnerships for resilience:**

BIBA Kenya Participates in Makueni County Agroecology Policy Development.

☐ **Food & Nutrition Security:**

Championing drought-tolerant, nutrient-dense traditional varieties.



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MISSION

Empowering communities in Kenya through capacity development and influencing policy geared towards biosafety and biodiversity conservation

Resilience: Kirinyaga Farmers embrace the seeds of sustainability

By Esther Nduati

In the heart of Kirinyaga, a vibrant exchange of traditional wisdom and modern innovation recently took center stage. BIBA Kenya joined forces with local growers and stakeholders for a high-impact, two-day Farmers' Agricultural Showcase at the Kirinyaga Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training Centre.

The event served as more than just an exhibition; it was a living classroom designed to bolster productivity and rural livelihoods. At the BIBA Kenya pavilion, the air was filled with a sense of heritage. Indigenous seed varieties and traditional food displays sparked deep dialogues on the urgency of preserving local seed systems. These conversations centered on agroecology, a practice that nurtures soil health and fosters the biodiversity necessary for a resilient food future.

The true "aha!" moment for many occurred at the demonstration farm. Moving beyond theory, farmers engaged in a hands-on exploration of diverse crop cycles and sustainable techniques. By seeing these practices in action, attendees left not just with information, but with a practical roadmap for climate-resilient farming.

As the showcase concluded, the message was clear: by merging indigenous roots with sustainable innovation, Kirinyaga farmers are better equipped to grow a greener, more secure tomorrow.

Karethani DEB School's New Green Classroom

By Gideon Muya



Located in Tharaka Nithi County, Karethani DEB School for Special Needs is proving that the best lessons aren't always found in textbooks, sometimes, they're grown in the soil. Thanks to a partnership with the Biodiversity and Biosafety Association of Kenya (BIBA Kenya), the school has launched a vibrant agroecological demonstration farm that is transforming the lives of students and neighbors alike.

Beyond the Classroom

For students at Karethani DEB, the farm is a hands-on laboratory for independence. By participating in daily planting and crop care, learners are developing practical agricultural skills that build confidence and self-reliance. This "learning by doing" approach ensures that every student, regardless of ability, has the chance to contribute to a sustainable future.

A Blueprint for Healthier Living

The project focuses on agroecological farming, a method that prioritizes soil health, biodiversity, and chemical-free food production. By ditching synthetic inputs for natural alternatives, the school is ensuring that

students have access to the most nutritious, safe diets possible while protecting the local ecosystem.

A Hub for the Community

The impact doesn't stop at the school gates. The demo farm has evolved into a community knowledge hub, inviting local farmers and residents to exchange ideas and explore resilient food systems. Together, Karethani DEB and BIBA Kenya are planting the seeds for a healthier, more food-secure community.

Karethani DEB School for Special Needs

**- best lessons aren't always found
in textbooks, sometimes, they're
grown in the soil -**



Green learning for Students at Karethani DEB School in Tharaka Nithi County