



PELUM ASSOCIATION
Participatory Ecological Land Use Management Association

World leaders commit to transforming food systems at COP 28



The 134 signatories pledged to integrate food and agriculture in their climate plans at the COP28 declaration to strengthen the link between climate change and the food we eat.



Editorial Message

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**@PELUM Association our
commitment to the Transformation
of Food systems and livelihoods
through agroecology continues.
Get inspired as you read our
stories**

Dear esteemed readers, we are happy to share with you the PELUM Association Newsletter for October – December 2023. In this issue, we bring to you key highlights from COP28 on food systems and Agriculture that convened in Dubai in the Arab Emirates, our participation in the Women in Agroecology Expo that convened in Uganda, the 5th African Organic Conference in Kigali, Rwanda and PELUM Uganda’s agroecology week of action.

Bihunirwa Medius

Head of Programmes/PELUM Association Newsletter Editor

THE COP28 IN DUBAI; SOME TAKEAWAYS FOR THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

The PELUM Association membership actively participated in the COP28, that happened between 30th November – 12th December 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The participation happened within the means of both PELUM country chapters and through mobilization by our other networks and associations. As per the structuring at the COPs, our actions mainly fell in the “Observer status/category” of what the main negotiators and country government delegations deliberated on.

In Dubai, our actions therein included the provision of information for sessions and advocacy, participating in related side events, advocacy, and lobbying. This year, our participation advocated for agroecology to be considered as the rightful course and recourse, not only for resilient food and agricultural systems but also an important climate change action and recourse that in a way links with other global sustainable goals. We were desirous of agroecology being included in the COP28 outcomes texts and pledges.



COP28.com Courtesy Photo of the COP28 Session on Food and Agriculture System

The United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, short, COP is the leading global summit on climate change. The COPs trace back to the first climate change-related agreement in 1992 and have been held in various global locations, annually. The COP28 was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates between 30th November 2023 and 15th December 2023. Besides being the most attended COP, with an estimated 70,000 participants, several issues were speculated to be key topics of discussion such as the ending of fossil fuels dependency, and other (just) energy transitions, the changes needed in the food systems, and the loss and damage Fund establishment among others.

The COP28, as accustomed, is mainly intended for governments to dialogue and agree or commit to actions aimed at limiting the global rise in temperatures and actions meant to support the management of climate change effects. As such the participation of all other groups such as the non-governmental and Civil Society Organizations, private companies, and individuals outside government core teams, is to influence the decisions, commitments, and outputs of governments. Since the Paris Agreement on Climate Change of 2015, the following COPs are aimed at its implementation by the 196 adopting Parties.

The COP28 Agenda and outcomes

COP28 had various agendas, that revolved around presenting the first global stocktake (GST) report, which is the Parties' tracking system on the progress of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement ([GST Sourcefile:///C:/Users/USER/Downloads/sb2023_09E.pdf](sourcefile:///C:/Users/USER/Downloads/sb2023_09E.pdf)), reaching a consensus and decisions for proceeding climate actions. Unique from the previous high-level documents used in the COP, the 2023 global stocktake report, was applauded by stakeholders in the food and agriculture sectors for including some text on the food and agricultural system (section 55 of the GST), thus, a step in the needed direction. One could equally attribute the food and agriculture pledges and declaration that gathered signatures from over 130 member states at the start of this step, in addition to other contributions. The pledges on food and agricultural actions were part of the 11 main climate actions pledges package such as the loss and damage funds, powering with coal end, and renewable energy tripling, among others that are also a considerable positive multi-sectoral approach to ensuring the desired wellbeing of society.



Courtesy photo of the various leadership at the helm of the declaration

The food and agricultural-related pledges were packaged as the COP28 UAE Declaration on sustainable agriculture, resilient food systems, and climate (<sourcefile:///C:/Users/USER/Downloads/COP28%20UAE%20Declaration%20on%20Sustainable%20Agriculture-Resilient-Food-Systems-and-Climate-Action.pdf>) and according to shared press briefing (sourcefile:///C:/Users/USER/Downloads/231201_Food%20declaration_PRL%20tracked%20Release.pdf). The progress post-COP28 regarding the declaration and pledges is of significant interest and relation to the PELUM Association network. However, there are still concerns as the actions around food and agricultural pledges included the text orients more into adaptation, rather than mitigation, yet food and agricultural systems account for approximately a third of the greenhouse gas emissions, globally. Indeed, going forward, the PELUM Association sees further opportunities through the promotion of agroecology as a means of operationalizing the COP28 UAE Declaration on sustainable agriculture, resilient food systems, and climate.

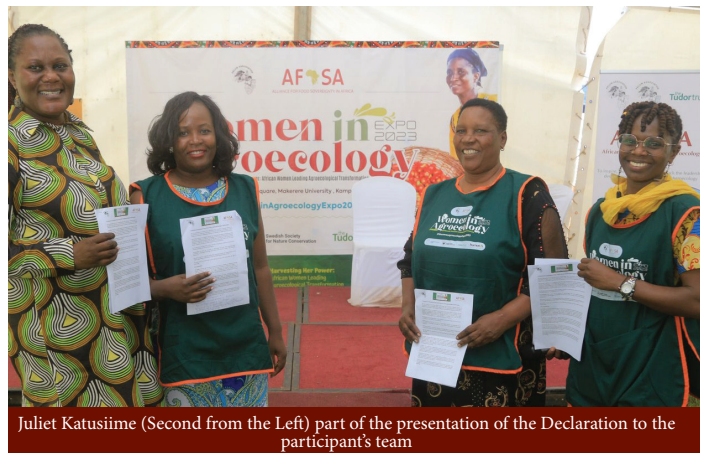
Story compiled by Juliet Katusiime, PELUM Association Regional Secretariat

Women in agroecology Expo

The PELUM Association Regional Secretariat MERL personnel, Juliet Katusiime participated in the Women in Agroecology Expo held on 24th, November 2023 at Freedom Square at Makerere University. The event was organized by AWOLA (African Women Leadership in Agroecology), an initiative of PELUM Kenya involving PELUM Uganda and PELUM Zimbabwe in collaboration with the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA). The expo attracted a productive gathering of more than 100 women in agroecology including, entrepreneurs, policymakers, researchers, and organizations focused on women's development from Uganda, Kenya, and Zimbabwe, all coming

together to celebrate and showcase the achievements and innovations in agroecology. Other activities included a panel discussion, experience sharing, and networking. A key output of the expo, which was themed "Harvesting Her Power" included the presentation, citation, and endorsement of "A DECLARATION FOR HARVESTING HER POWER: AFRICAN WOMEN LEADING AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION".

The Declaration was shared widely on various media platforms and can be found on this link; <https://afsafrica.org/african-women-agroecology-expo-2023-harvesting-her-power/>



Juliet Katusiime (Second from the Left) part of the presentation of the Declaration to the participant's team



Story compiled by Juliet Katusiime , PELUM Association Regional Secretariat

The 5th African Organic Agriculture conference, Kigali Rwanda



PELUM Association participated in the 5th African Organic Agriculture Conference that convened at the Marriot Hotel in Rwanda. The conference organized under the theme: Strengthening Resilient and Sustainable Food Systems in Africa through Organic Agriculture was organized by the African Organic Agriculture Network (AfroNet) in collaboration with the Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM). PELUM Association was represented at the conference by Medius Bihunirwa- the Head of Programmes, Rosinah Mbenya the Country Coordinator of PELUM Kenya, and other staff from PELUM Kenya and PELUM Uganda.

The conference covered several topics of interest and possible areas for further development namely;

- a) the status of implementation of the AU Decision on farming in Africa;
- b) sustainable development in fragile areas using an agroecological approach;
- c) engaging smallholder farmers as primary custodians of seed to influence seed policies for the promotion of resilient and sustainable food systems. Additional topics looked at the;
- d) roles of farmer organizations in strengthening resilient and sustainable food systems in Africa through Organic Agriculture;
- e) the current global challenges and shocks impacting African food systems;
- f) organic agriculture innovative business models for sustainable food systems in Africa;
- g) promoting the use of organic fertilizers to enhance African food systems resilience.



During the summit, several cases and or program outcomes were also shared from the fertilizer and

soil health Summit, the creation of public-private partnerships for organic agriculture business in Africa case from the Organic and Agroecology Business Summit (NOABS) in Nigeria, the strengthening of national organic policy development in Africa from Uganda and the ecological organic farming, quality management, and community participation from China. among others

The conference also had some breakaway sessions where more targeted messages were developed related to policy, farmers' value chains and markets, and Research. In the policy track, the PELUM Association presented her experience in advancing Agroecology and its contribution to Resilient food systems in Africa and policy.



Medius Bihunirwa making a presentation on PELUM's experience

We are glad to note, the following policy related call to action from the 5th African Organic Agriculture Conference - Marriott Hotel, Kigali-Policy Track

- 1.CALLS UPON African governments to enact policies that promote public investments in organic and agroecological research and extension.
- 2.CALLS UPON African governments to incentivize organic inputs (e.g. subsidies) and encourage public-private partnerships and investments within the organic sector.
- 3.URGES African governments to invest in policies that support the strengthening of inclusive data processes that include data sets on organic and agroecology.
- 4.URGES African governments to develop programs that offer innovative and attractive value propositions to attract and actively sustain the youth within organic and agroecological value chains.

The PELUM Uganda Agroecology Week of Action 2023



Medius Bihunirwa HOP PELUM RS with a micro giving her submission on youth in agroecology during the panel discussion

The PELUM Association participated in the Agroecology Week of Action organized by PELUM Uganda. Food systems and livelihoods transformation through Agroecology is a current thematic niche for the PELUM Association. PELUM Uganda Agroecology week of action included media engagements, the 5th Agroecology Actors' Symposium, the 2nd Agroecological Market Systems Expo and the 13th Indigenous Food and Seed Fair. PELUM Association Regional secretariat was represented by Medius Bihunirwa, Namutebi Imelda, and Boaz Serunyigo. Who contributed through various roles on the panel, presentations, regional booth in the exhibition, in regional communication, and sharing among others.

Agroecology Week of Action Pictorial





PELUM Uganda Country coordinator Ms. Akia Josephine, PELUM Regional Secretariat HOP Ms. Bihunirwa Medius, and Mr. Mukiibi Eddie-the Slow Food Uganda Director with the Uganda Parliamentary Committee on Food Security and Agriculture at the 13th Food & Seed Fair



PELUM RS staff during the PELUM Uganda Agroecology Week of Action

Exploring partnership for Regional Agroecological Advocacy

PELUM Association Regional secretariat had engagements with potential partners during the quarter both virtually and physically and continues to look forward on nurturing these relations.



From Left PELUM RS SG, Country Representative and Advisor from Broederlijk Delen (BD), PELUM RS HOP after a meeting at the RS office

Photos credited to PELUM RS, PELUM Uganda, AfSA and COP28

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