



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF LAIKIPIA



**TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURE THROUGH SUSTAINABLE
AGROECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS FOR FOOD SECURITY, CLIMATE
RESILIENCE, HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS AND INCLUSIVE GREEN GROWTH**



AGROECOLOGY POLICY

2026-2032

-SEPTEMBER 2026-

OUR PARTNERS



FOREWORD



H.E. JOSHUA WAKAHORA IRUNGU
GOVERNOR COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF LAIKIPIA

Agriculture is a foundation of Laikipia County's economy and a major source of livelihoods, food and nutrition, employment and household incomes. It is also closely interconnected with the County's rangelands, forests, water resources, biodiversity, conservancies and other natural assets. Laikipia's agricultural transformation must therefore strengthen productivity and economic opportunity while safeguarding the natural resource base on which present and future generations depend.

The **Laikipia County Agroecology Policy (2026–2032)** provides a Seven-year framework for transforming the County's agri-food systems towards greater resilience, sustainability, inclusivity and economic prosperity. It responds to the realities of Laikipia's diverse agricultural and pastoral systems and provides a coordinated approach to improving soil health, water security, biodiversity, climate resilience, food and nutrition security, sustainable livestock and crop production, value addition, market access and green enterprise development.

The Policy recognizes that Laikipia is diverse in its landscapes, livelihoods, cultures and production systems. It therefore embraces the knowledge, experiences and priorities of crop farmers, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, livestock keepers, producer organizations, cooperatives, women and youth, indigenous knowledge holders, communities living around conservancies, private and community conservancies, businesses, researchers, civil society organizations, development partners and other stakeholders. Their participation has strengthened the Policy and helped ensure that it responds to the realities and aspirations of the people of Laikipia.

The Policy is anchored in the Constitution of Kenya, Kenya Vision 2030, the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), the Laikipia County Integrated Development Plan, the National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation (2024–2033), the African Union Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, among other relevant frameworks.

The Policy establishes an integrated framework covering crop, livestock and aquaculture productivity; ecosystem restoration and climate resilience; agricultural products development and markets; food and nutrition security; research, knowledge management,

digital extension and capacity building; social and cultural inclusivity; investment and financing; renewable energy transition and climate action; and governance, coordination and institutional strengthening.

Implementation will require sustained investment, strong institutions, effective partnerships and meaningful participation by communities and other stakeholders. I therefore call upon national and county government institutions, farmers and pastoralist organizations, cooperatives, conservancies, development partners, financial institutions, research and academic institutions, civil society, private sector actors and investors to work with the County Government in translating this Policy into practical programmes and measurable results.

Our ambition is to build a Laikipia where farmers and pastoralists can secure productive and resilient livelihoods; where women and young people can participate meaningfully in green and sustainable enterprises; where food and nutrition security are strengthened; where biodiversity and ecosystems are protected and restored; and where agricultural development and conservation reinforce rather than undermine each other.

The Laikipia County Agroecology Policy (2026–2032) is therefore more than a policy document. It is a shared commitment to a resilient, productive, inclusive and sustainable future for all the people of Laikipia.

I invite all stakeholders to join the County Government in implementing this ten-year agenda and positioning Laikipia as a leading example of agroecological transformation, climate resilience, sustainable agriculture and inclusive rural development.

.....

Approval Date.....

H.E. Joshua Wakahora Irungu
Governor-County Government of Laikipia

PREFACE



Mr. Edwin Dennis Kasoo
County Executive Committee Member

The Laikipia County Agroecology Policy (2026–2032) provides a Seven-year policy framework for guiding the transition towards resilient, productive, inclusive and sustainable agri-food systems across the County. It has been developed in recognition of Laikipia's diverse agroecological conditions, livelihood systems, agricultural enterprises, natural resources and cultural contexts.

Laikipia's agricultural landscape encompasses crop farming, livestock production, pastoralism and agro-pastoralism, apiculture, aquaculture, agroforestry and emerging green enterprises. These systems operate across areas with different levels of agricultural potential and varying exposure to drought, erratic rainfall, land degradation, declining soil fertility, biodiversity loss, invasive species, water insecurity, human-wildlife interactions and other climate and environmental pressures. At the same time, the County possesses significant opportunities for sustainable intensification, ecosystem restoration, value addition, market development, renewable energy, circular bioeconomy, digital agriculture and nature-based enterprises.

The Policy adopts agroecology as an integrated approach for addressing these challenges and opportunities. It seeks to connect agricultural productivity and profitability with soil and water conservation, biodiversity protection, ecosystem restoration, climate adaptation, sustainable livestock and rangeland management, food and nutrition security, inclusive markets and improved livelihoods.

Importantly, the Policy has been informed by stakeholder engagement and public participation. Farmers, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, livestock keepers, producer organizations, cooperatives, conservancies, women and youth groups, indigenous knowledge holders, community leaders, research institutions, civil society organizations, private sector actors, development partners and government institutions contributed perspectives and experiences during the formulation, review and validation process. These contributions have helped to strengthen the Policy's relevance to the diverse realities of Laikipia County.

The Policy is aligned with the Constitution of Kenya (2010), Kenya Vision 2030, the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), the National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation (2024–2033), relevant County planning instruments and applicable regional and international commitments. It provides a framework for coordinated

implementation by County Government departments and agencies in collaboration with national government institutions, communities, development partners, research and academic institutions, civil society, private sector actors and other stakeholders.

The Policy shall be anchored on the following strategic pillars: Crop, Livestock and Aquaculture Productivity Enhancement; Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Resilience; Agricultural Products Development and Markets; Food and Nutrition Security; Research, Knowledge Management, Digital Extension and Capacity Building; Social and Cultural Inclusivity; Investment and Financing for Agroecology; Renewable Energy Transition and Climate Action; and Governance, Coordination and Institutional Strengthening.

The Seven-year implementation period, 2026–2032, provides an opportunity to move beyond isolated interventions towards coordinated, long-term investment in agroecological transformation. Successful implementation will depend on adequate financing, institutional coordination, evidence-based planning, knowledge sharing, innovation, effective monitoring and evaluation, and continuous engagement with communities and other stakeholders.

The County Government recognizes that agroecology must work for all of Laikipia's people and landscapes. Implementation will therefore take account of the specific circumstances of crop farmers, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, livestock keepers, communities living alongside wildlife and conservancies, women, youth, persons and groups that may face barriers to participation, and other vulnerable and marginalized groups.

I call upon all stakeholders to support implementation of this Policy through investment, innovation, knowledge generation, technical cooperation, community participation and responsible enterprise development. With shared commitment and coordinated action, Laikipia can strengthen resilient livelihoods, sustainable food systems, healthy ecosystems and inclusive economic growth over the next decade.

.....
Mr. Edwin Dennis Kasoo
County Executive Committee Member
Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
County Government of Laikipia

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Elizabeth Mwangi
Chief officer crops
and Irrigation



Mary Wanja Gichuru
Chief officer Livestock, Fisheries
and Mechanization

The development of the Laikipia County Agroecology Policy (2026–2032) has been made possible through the collective commitment, expertise and participation of many individuals, institutions and communities. The Policy is a product of technical work, evidence, stakeholder engagement, public participation, consultation, review and validation.

The County Government of Laikipia expresses its sincere appreciation to **H.E. Joshua Wakahora Irungu, EGH, Governor of Laikipia County**, for his leadership and commitment to sustainable agricultural transformation and inclusive development.

Special appreciation is extended to **Mr. Edwin Dennis Kasoo, County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries**, for providing policy direction and institutional leadership throughout the formulation process. The County Government also recognizes the contribution of the Chief Officers and technical officers of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and other County departments whose expertise strengthened the technical, institutional and implementation dimensions of the Policy.

The County Government acknowledges the contribution of the **Technical Working Group, consultants, technical experts, research institutions and other professionals** who supported research, analysis, drafting, technical review, stakeholder engagement and validation. Particular appreciation is extended to **Mr. Elijah Mbugua- Assistant Director Agriculture**, for his coordination, stakeholder engagement, partnership development and technical support during the policy formulation process. Appreciation is also extended to **Dr. Daniel Kinyumu, Robinson Njomo, Pius Butich- Assistant Director Livestock, County technical officers and all members of the Technical Working Group** whose expertise contributed to the quality of the Policy.

The County Government further appreciates the contributions of County departments and institutions, including those responsible for health services, trade, ICT and digital economy, gender and culture, environment and natural resources, public participation, legal services, as well as the **County Assembly of Laikipia** and other government agencies that participated in consultations, technical review, validation and related processes.

We gratefully acknowledge the support and collaboration of key development and technical partners, including **PELUM Kenya, IMPACT Kenya, Africa Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), Biovision Africa Trust, Hivos, Farm Africa, BIBA Kenya, Pioneer Child Development Programme, Laikipia Permaculture Centre, Help Self Help Centre, IPSIA, Caritas Nyahururu, Equal Foundation, GROOTS Kenya, Lanscape and Nature Community Collective Initiative (LANCCI)** and other organizations that contributed technical, financial, institutional and advisory support to the policy process.

Most importantly, the County Government acknowledges the people whose knowledge, experiences and priorities are at the heart of this Policy. These include **crop farmers, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, livestock keepers, farmer groups, producer organizations, cooperatives, conservancies, communities living alongside wildlife and conservation areas, women and youth groups, indigenous knowledge holders, community leaders, village elders and other citizens** who participated in consultations, public participation forums, technical meetings and validation processes.

Their contributions have helped ensure that the Policy recognizes the diversity of Laikipia's agricultural and livelihood systems and addresses the practical realities of different communities and landscapes. The voices of farmers and pastoralists, in particular, have strengthened the focus on sustainable production, livestock and rangeland management, food and nutrition security, natural resource stewardship, markets, resilience and inclusive livelihoods. The participation of conservancies and conservation stakeholders has reinforced the importance of balancing agricultural development with biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and sustainable land and natural resource management.

The County Government also appreciates the contribution of private sector actors, financial institutions, academic and research institutions, civil society organizations, development practitioners and other partners whose knowledge, innovation and resources will remain important during implementation.

As the County moves from policy formulation to implementation, we recognize that achieving the objectives of the **Laikipia County Agroecology Policy (2026–2032)** will require continued collaboration, investment, accountability and participation. The County Government therefore looks forward to sustaining these partnerships and working with all stakeholders to strengthen resilient livelihoods, sustainable food systems, ecosystem health, climate resilience and inclusive economic opportunities across Laikipia County.

1. **Elizabeth Mwangi- Chief officer crops and Irrigation**
2. **Mary Wanja Gichuru- Chief officer Livestock, Fisheries and Mechanization**
County Government of Laikipia
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	Meaning	Acronym	Meaning
AFA	Agriculture and Food Authority	AFC	Agricultural Finance Corporation
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa	ASAL	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
ASTGS	Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy	BETA	Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda
CBO	Community-Based Organization	CECM	County Executive Committee Member
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan	CSA	Climate-Smart Agriculture
CSO	Civil Society Organization	DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	EWS	Early Warning System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	FBO	Farmer-Based Organization
FFS	Farmer Field School	GIS	Geographic Information System
GHG	Greenhouse Gas	GoK	Government of Kenya
GVC	Green Value Chain	ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	IFOAM	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
IPM	Integrated Pest Management	KALRO	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization
KCSAP	Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project	KEPHIS	Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service
KFS	Kenya Forest Service	KMD	Kenya Meteorological Department
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics	KWS	Kenya Wildlife Service
MCA	Member of County Assembly	MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation	MoALD	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization	PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PPP	Public-Private Partnership	R&D	Research and Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals	SHGs	Self-Help Groups
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise	TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TWG	Technical Working Group	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USAID	United States Agency for International Development	WRA	Water Resources Authority

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following terms shall have the meanings assigned to them.

Agroecology

An integrated approach to agriculture and food systems that applies ecological principles, scientific knowledge, indigenous knowledge, and social innovation to design and manage sustainable, resilient, productive, and equitable agricultural systems while conserving biodiversity and natural resources.

Agroecological Transition

The progressive transformation of agricultural and food systems from conventional, input-intensive production models towards diversified, resilient, environmentally sustainable, and socially inclusive agroecological systems.

Agroforestry

The deliberate integration of trees, shrubs, crops, livestock, and other agricultural enterprises within the same landscape to improve productivity, biodiversity, climate resilience, and ecosystem services.

Biodiversity

The diversity of plants, animals, microorganisms, genetic resources, and ecosystems that support ecological functions, agricultural productivity, and human well-being.

Bio-inputs

Biological products such as compost, biofertilizers, biopesticides, biochar, microbial inoculants, and botanical extracts used to improve soil fertility and manage pests and diseases sustainably.

Carbon Sequestration

The process through which atmospheric carbon dioxide is captured and stored in soils, vegetation, forests, wetlands, and other natural ecosystems.

Circular Bioeconomy

An economic system that promotes efficient use, reuse, recycling, and regeneration of biological resources to create sustainable agricultural production systems with minimal waste.

Climate-Smart Agriculture

Agricultural practices that sustainably increase productivity, strengthen resilience to climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions where feasible, and improve food security.

Community Seed Bank

A locally managed system for conserving, multiplying, exchanging, and distributing indigenous and locally adapted seed varieties.

Conservation Agriculture

A farming system based on minimum soil disturbance, permanent soil cover, and crop diversification to improve soil health, conserve water, and enhance productivity.

Ecosystem Restoration

Actions aimed at recovering degraded terrestrial, freshwater, and rangeland ecosystems to improve biodiversity, ecological functions, and agricultural productivity.

Food System

The interconnected activities, actors, and institutions involved in producing, processing, transporting, marketing, consuming, and disposing of food.

Indigenous Knowledge

Knowledge, skills, innovations, and practices developed by local communities over generations and applied in managing natural resources, agriculture, and food systems.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

A sustainable approach to pest and disease control that combines biological, cultural, mechanical, physical, and chemical methods to minimize environmental and health risks.

Nature-Based Solutions

Actions that protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural ecosystems while addressing societal challenges such as climate change, food security, biodiversity loss, and disaster risk.

Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)

A market or incentive mechanism through which land managers receive financial or non-financial rewards for conserving or restoring ecosystems that provide public environmental benefits.

Regenerative Agriculture

A system of farming that restores soil health, increases biodiversity, enhances water cycles, and improves ecosystem resilience while maintaining profitable agricultural production.

Resilience

The capacity of individuals, communities, ecosystems, and agricultural systems to anticipate, withstand, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses while maintaining essential functions.

Sustainable Food Systems

Food systems that provide sufficient, safe, nutritious, and affordable food for all while protecting environmental resources, supporting viable livelihoods, and ensuring social equity for present and future generations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agriculture is the backbone of Laikipia County's economy and remains the primary source of livelihoods for the majority of its population. The sector contributes significantly to food and nutrition security, employment creation, household incomes, industrial development, environmental conservation and overall socio-economic growth. Approximately 74,000 farming households engage in diverse agricultural enterprises including crop production, livestock keeping, apiculture, aquaculture, agroforestry and wildlife-based enterprises. The County's unique ecological diversity, ranging from high-potential agricultural zones to extensive arid and semi-arid rangelands, provides significant opportunities for sustainable agricultural transformation through agroecology.

Despite its enormous potential, agriculture in Laikipia County faces multiple and interrelated challenges. Climate change has resulted in increasing temperatures, erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, flooding and emerging pests and diseases that threaten agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods. Other persistent challenges include declining soil fertility, land degradation, biodiversity loss, deforestation, invasive species, water scarcity, post-harvest losses, weak value chains, inadequate access to quality inputs and markets, limited irrigation infrastructure, youth unemployment, gender inequalities, inadequate agricultural financing, and increasing pressure on natural resources. These challenges necessitate a transition towards sustainable production systems that restore ecosystem health while improving productivity and resilience.

The Laikipia County Agroecology Policy (2026–2032) provides a comprehensive framework for transforming agriculture through agroecological approaches that integrate ecological principles, scientific innovation and indigenous knowledge. The Laikipia County Agroecology Policy (2026–2032) will be a comprehensive, implementation-ready policy document that meets county government planning standards and reflects international best practice. It will also serve as a strong basis for resource mobilization, legislative support and coordinated implementation across all sectors.

The Policy promotes farming systems that conserve biodiversity, restore degraded ecosystems, enhance soil fertility, improve water management, strengthen climate resilience, promote sustainable livestock production, support healthy food systems and create green economic opportunities. Agroecology is recognized not merely as a production approach but as a holistic framework that addresses environmental sustainability, social inclusion, economic development and public health.

The Policy aligns with the Constitution of Kenya (2010), Kenya Vision 2030, the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), the Agriculture Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS), the National Agroecology Strategy (2024–2033), the Climate Change Act, the Community Land Act, the County Governments Act, the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP), and other national policy frameworks. It also contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), African Union Agenda 2063, the Malabo Declaration, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

The overall goal of this Policy is to transform Laikipia County into a leader in sustainable, resilient and inclusive agroecological development by promoting environmentally sound, economically viable and socially equitable agricultural systems that enhance food and nutrition security, conserve biodiversity, restore ecosystems and improve livelihoods. To achieve this goal, the Policy is guided by principles of sustainability, ecosystem integrity, climate resilience, participation, inclusivity, equity, accountability, innovation, evidence-based decision-making, indigenous knowledge, circular economy and strategic partnerships.

The Policy recognizes the diversity of Laikipia County's fifteen wards and adopts a place-based approach to agricultural development. High-potential agricultural areas will focus on sustainable intensification, dairy development, horticulture, agroforestry and value addition, while the semi-arid and arid landscapes will prioritize sustainable pastoralism, regenerative grazing, water harvesting, drought-resilient cropping systems and landscape restoration. The Policy further recognizes the importance of conservancies, community lands, indigenous knowledge systems, wildlife-livestock integration and inter-county cooperation as integral components of sustainable agroecological development.

To guide implementation, the Policy is organized around fifteen strategic thematic areas: sustainable crop production and food systems; sustainable livestock and pastoral development; soil health restoration; water resource management and irrigation; agroforestry and landscape restoration; climate change adaptation and mitigation; biodiversity conservation; indigenous knowledge, research and innovation; food and nutrition security; inclusive markets and value chains; green enterprises and circular bioeconomy; renewable energy for agriculture; digital agriculture and smart extension services; youth, women and social inclusion; and governance, institutional coordination and partnerships. These themes are complemented by fifteen county-wide strategic investment priorities that target climate-smart agriculture, soil restoration, irrigation, seed systems, rangeland management, agro-processing, renewable energy, carbon markets, digital innovation and nature-based enterprises.

Implementation of the Policy will be coordinated by the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Mechanization, Irrigation and Cooperatives in collaboration with other County departments, National Government agencies, research institutions, universities, farmer organizations, private sector actors, conservancies, civil society organizations, development partners and local communities. The Policy establishes clear institutional arrangements, stakeholder roles, financing mechanisms, implementation strategies and coordination structures to facilitate effective delivery of agroecological programmes.

Resource mobilization will be undertaken through County Government budget allocations, National Government programmes, development partner support, climate finance, carbon markets, public-private partnerships, green investment funds, community financing mechanisms and private sector investments. The County Government shall establish an enabling environment that attracts investment in sustainable agriculture, green enterprises and ecosystem restoration while strengthening local capacity for programme implementation.

Monitoring, evaluation, learning and adaptive management will be integral to implementation. A comprehensive results framework with measurable indicators, baseline data, targets and periodic reviews that promote accountability, evidence-based decision-making and continuous improvement. Mid-term and end-term evaluations will be conducted to assess progress and inform policy review.

Implementation of this Policy is expected to increase agricultural productivity and profitability, improve household incomes, strengthen food and nutrition security, restore degraded ecosystems, improve soil health and water resources, enhance biodiversity conservation, increase climate resilience, expand green employment opportunities for women and youth, promote sustainable management of natural resources and position Laikipia County as a national leader in agroecological transformation. Through collaborative implementation and sustained investment, the Policy will contribute significantly to achieving resilient food systems, healthy ecosystems and inclusive green economic growth for present and future generations.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Agriculture is a strategic pillar of Laikipia County's economy and a major source of livelihoods, food and nutrition security, employment, household income and local economic activity. The sector encompasses crop and livestock production, pastoralism, apiculture, aquaculture, agroforestry, ranching, wildlife-linked enterprises and emerging green businesses. Agriculture also supplies raw materials to agro-processing industries, supports trade and investment, and contributes directly to the stewardship of soils, water, biodiversity and other natural resources.

Laikipia occupies a distinctive ecological position in Kenya, linking relatively high-potential agricultural landscapes with extensive arid and semi-arid rangelands. This diversity supports a broad portfolio of production and livelihood systems, including dairy, beef, sheep and goats, camels, maize, wheat, barley, potatoes, beans, horticulture, pyrethrum, poultry, apiculture, aquaculture, agroforestry, ranching, pastoralism and conservation-based enterprises.

At the same time, the County's food and agricultural systems face interacting environmental, climatic, economic and social pressures. These include recurrent drought, erratic rainfall, rising temperatures, occasional flooding, declining soil fertility, land degradation, biodiversity loss, invasive species, water scarcity, land fragmentation, changing land-use patterns, pests and diseases, market volatility and increasing competition for natural resources. Collectively, these pressures affect productivity, profitability, food security, household incomes, ecosystem services and the resilience of farming and pastoral communities.

The interdependence of farms, rangelands, forests, wetlands, rivers, wildlife, markets and communities requires a systems-based response rather than isolated interventions. Agroecology provides such a pathway by applying ecological principles to the design and management of sustainable agrifood systems while integrating scientific knowledge, indigenous knowledge, local innovation, social inclusion and viable economic opportunities.

In line with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) framework, this Policy recognizes agroecology as a context-specific pathway for transforming agrifood systems. The Policy therefore mainstreams the FAO 10 Elements—diversity; synergies; recycling; efficiency; resilience; co-creation and sharing of knowledge; human and social values; culture and food traditions; responsible governance; and circular and solidarity economy—throughout its policy directions, investments and implementation arrangements.

The Policy is aligned with Kenya's constitutional and devolved governance framework and with the National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation (2024–2033), while responding to Laikipia's distinct ecological, economic, cultural and institutional circumstances. It is intended to translate national and international commitments into practical county-level action, investment and measurable results.

The County adopts a landscape and food-systems perspective that links sustainable production with ecosystem restoration, water stewardship, climate resilience, healthy diets, inclusive markets, renewable energy, circular bioeconomy, digital agriculture, value addition, green enterprise and biodiversity

conservation. Implementation will be collaborative and will involve farmers, pastoralists, producer organizations, cooperatives, conservancies, women, youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous knowledge holders, private investors, financial institutions, research and academic institutions, civil society, development partners and national and county government agencies.

1.2 County Profile

1.2.1 Geographic Location and Administrative Structure

Laikipia County is one of Kenya's 47 counties and is located in the central Rift Valley region. It lies approximately between latitude 0°17' South and 0°45' North and longitude 36°11' East and 37°24' East and covers an estimated 9,462 square kilometres. The County borders Samburu to the north, Isiolo to the east, Meru and Nyeri to the southeast, Nyandarua to the south, Nakuru to the southwest and Baringo to the west.

The County's strategic location creates important ecological and economic linkages between the central highlands and northern rangelands. These linkages support agricultural trade, livestock mobility, wildlife movement, water systems, conservation, tourism and regional markets. Administratively, the County comprises three sub-counties—Laikipia East, Laikipia North and Laikipia West—five constituencies and fifteen wards namely.

Nanyuki, Thingithu, Ngobit, Umande, Tigithi, Igwamiti, Marmanet, Githiga, Rumuruti, Salama, Ol-Moran, Segera, Mukogodo East, Mukogodo West and Sosian.

The fifteen wards have distinct ecological, agricultural and socio-economic profiles. Consequently, implementation shall be decentralized and place-based, with ward investment priorities developed through participatory planning and informed by local evidence.

The County headquarters are in Rumuruti Municipality. Nanyuki, Doldol, Kinamba and Nyahururu are among the important commercial and service centres supporting agricultural marketing, financial services, input distribution, trade and agro-processing.

1.2.2 Topography and Physical Features

Laikipia's terrain ranges from the slopes of Mount Kenya and the Aberdare system in the southeast to plateaus and semi-arid rangelands in the north and west. Elevation ranges from approximately 1,500 metres to more than 2,600 metres above sea level, creating substantial variation in climate, soils, vegetation and production systems.

Higher-potential areas support intensive crop and dairy production, while northern and western landscapes support pastoralism, ranching, wildlife conservation and dryland livelihood systems. Rivers, wetlands, forests, grasslands and conservation landscapes provide critical ecosystem services, including water regulation, biodiversity conservation, soil protection and carbon sequestration.

Major rivers associated with the Mount Kenya and Aberdare ecosystems, including the Ewaso Nyiro, Naromoru, Burguret, Timau and Likii, support irrigation, livestock production, domestic water supply and ecosystem functions. These resources are increasingly exposed to catchment degradation, climate variability and competing demand

1.2.3 Climate

Laikipia experiences marked climatic variation associated with altitude and ecological conditions. Annual rainfall ranges from approximately 400 mm in northern and western ASAL areas to more than 1,200 mm in higher-potential areas. The County generally experiences bimodal rainfall, with long rains between March and May and short rains between October and December. Mean annual temperatures range from approximately 16°C in higher-altitude areas to above 26°C in lower-lying rangelands.

Climate variability is expressed through prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall, rising temperatures, occasional flooding and other extreme events. These conditions affect planting calendars, crop yields, pasture regeneration, livestock productivity, water availability and ecosystem health. The Policy therefore treats climate resilience as a cross-cutting investment criterion for all programmes and projects.

1.2.4 Population and Socio-Economic Characteristics

The 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census recorded approximately 518,560 residents in Laikipia County. The County is socially and culturally diverse, with multiple livelihood systems and strong rural–urban linkages. Population growth increases demand for food, land, water, energy, employment and public services.

Women are central to food production, household

nutrition, livestock management and natural resource stewardship, while young people represent a major source of labor, innovation and entrepreneurship. However, poverty, unemployment, food insecurity and exposure to climate shocks continue to affect vulnerable households. Agroecological transformation is therefore expected to create productive employment, strengthen food and nutrition security, improve incomes and build resilience.

1.2.5 Agroecological Zones

For policy and investment planning, the County can be understood through five broad and interconnected production and ecological settings:

Zone	Characteristics	Priority systems
High-potential highlands	Relatively favorable rainfall and fertile soils; intensive mixed farming.	Dairy, potatoes, wheat, barley, beans, maize and horticulture.
Medium-potential transitional zones	Mixed crop–livestock systems with variable moisture availability.	Legumes, cereals, fodder, sunflower and irrigated agriculture.

Semi-arid zones	Water-limited production systems requiring climate-resilient technologies.	Sorghum, millet, pigeon peas and adapted livestock enterprises.
Pastoral rangelands	Extensive dryland systems where mobility and communal resource governance are important.	Cattle, sheep, goats, camels, apiculture and livestock–wildlife systems.
Conservation landscapes	Interconnected areas combining conservation, livestock and nature-based livelihoods.	Wildlife conservation, tourism, livestock, restoration and ecosystem services.

The Policy adopts a place-based approach: technologies, incentives, infrastructure and investment packages shall be adapted to the ecological and livelihood conditions of each ward and landscape.

1.2.6 Land Use and Natural Resources

Land use includes smallholder and commercial agriculture, pastoral grazing, ranches, community land, forests, conservancies, urban settlements and protected ecosystems. Community land is particularly important for grazing, livestock mobility, biodiversity, water access and cultural heritage. Private and commercial land supports agricultural production, while ranches and conservancies contribute to livestock production, conservation, tourism, employment and ecosystem services.

The County's natural capital includes productive soils, forests, wetlands, rivers, groundwater, grasslands, wildlife habitats and biodiversity. These assets underpin agricultural productivity and human well-being. Yet degradation, deforestation, overgrazing, invasive species, pollution and unsustainable extraction threaten their long-term productivity. Ecosystem restoration and sustainable natural-resource governance are therefore core policy investments.

1.3 Situation analysis

1.3.1 Sector Overview

Agriculture supports an estimated 74,338 farming households and provides direct and indirect employment across production, aggregation, transport, processing, trade and services. The sector includes crops, livestock, pastoralism, apiculture, aquaculture, agroforestry and related enterprises. The County's ecological diversity provides a strong foundation for diversification and sustainable intensification.

1.3.2 Crop Production

Major food crops include maize, beans, potatoes, sorghum, millet, green grams and vegetables. Commercial and high-value crops include wheat, barley, pyrethrum, sunflower and horticultural produce. Available estimates indicate approximately 40,000 hectares under maize, 23,300 hectares under beans, 4,000 hectares under wheat and about 4,900 hectares under horticulture.

Productivity is constrained by soil fertility decline, climate variability, pests and diseases, inadequate irrigation, high input costs and post-harvest losses. Policy investments will therefore prioritize soil health, diversification, water efficiency, integrated pest management, agroforestry, climate-resilient seed systems, value addition and market development.

1.3.3 Livestock Production

Livestock is a major source of income, employment, food and resilience. The County's estimated livestock assets include approximately 200,000 beef cattle, 55,000 dairy cattle, 450,000 sheep, 350,000 goats, 10,000 camels, 320,000 poultry and about 132,000 beehives

The Policy recognizes livestock–wildlife coexistence and sustainable pastoralism as integral components of agroecological transformation, not systems to be displaced.

• Climate-resilient fodder and feed systems;	• Regenerative and planned grazing;
• Improved animal health and veterinary services;	• Conservation of indigenous and locally adapted breeds;
• Livestock aggregation, traceability and market infrastructure;	• Value addition for meat, milk, hides, skins, wool and leather;
• Livestock insurance and appropriate financial products;	• Women- and youth-led livestock enterprises; and
• Integration of livestock, conservation and nature-positive enterprises.	

1.3.4 Pastoralism and Rangeland Systems

Pastoralism is both a livelihood and an ecological management system. Indigenous grazing knowledge, seasonal mobility, communal resource governance and drought coping strategies are important assets. Key pressures include drought, land fragmentation, invasive species, declining water availability, disease, restricted mobility and changing land use.

• Rangeland restoration and reseedling with suitable indigenous species	• Rotational and planned grazing
• Protection of grazing reserves and livestock mobility corridors	• Water harvesting and resilient livestock water infrastructure
• Community-led rangeland governance	• Negotiated grazing arrangements and conflict prevention

• Fodder banks and climate-resilient fodder production	• Livestock aggregation, value addition and market access
• Documentation and integration of indigenous and scientific knowledge	

1.3.5 Fisheries and Aquaculture

Aquaculture provides an opportunity to diversify diets and incomes, particularly in higher-potential areas. The County shall promote water-efficient systems, quality fingerlings, farmer training, integrated farming, food safety, value addition and market development.

1.3.6 Apiculture

Apiculture is a strategic nature-positive enterprise, particularly in ASAL and forest-adjacent landscapes. The County shall strengthen improved hive technologies, colony management, quality assurance, processing, branding, certification, pollinator conservation and market linkages for honey, beeswax, propolis and other hive products

1.3.7 Forestry and Agroforestry

Forestry and agroforestry provide soil fertility, fodder, fruits, fuelwood, timber, shade, wind protection, carbon sequestration and watershed benefits. Investments shall support farm forestry, indigenous trees, riparian restoration, silvopastoral systems, farmer-managed natural regeneration and protection of forests and catchments.

1.3.8 Agricultural Markets, Value Addition and Finance

Fragmented value chains, inadequate storage, limited processing capacity, weak market information, price volatility and limited access to finance reduce competitiveness. The County shall strengthen aggregation, cooperatives, cold chains, agro-processing, quality systems, digital markets and market intelligence. Financing shall include public investment, private capital, blended finance, climate finance, carbon and ecosystem-service finance, appropriate credit, insurance and public–private partnerships.

POLICY STATEMENT: Agroecology investments shall be designed as investable value-chain and landscape portfolios with clear beneficiaries, business models, co-financing arrangements, measurable outcomes, risk-management measures and credible monitoring systems.

1.3.9 Extension, Research and Innovation

Extension is essential for technology transfer, farmer learning and adoption. The County shall strengthen Farmer Field Schools, demonstration farms, community-based extension, digital advisory services, climate information, farmer-to-farmer learning, indigenous knowledge documentation and research–

extension–farmer linkages. Innovation shall be supported through universities, research institutions, private technology providers and producer organizations.

1.4 Land Tenure, Community Land Governance and Agroecology

1.4.1 Land Tenure and Agroecological Investment

Secure and equitable land rights create conditions for long-term investment in soil restoration, agroforestry, water conservation, biodiversity and ecosystem restoration. The County shall promote responsible land governance that respects individual and communal rights and supports sustainable land management.

1.4.2 Community Land Governance

Community land is a strategic asset for pastoral livelihoods, biodiversity, water, ecosystem services and cultural heritage. Consistent with Article 63 of the Constitution and the Community Land Act, 2016, the County shall support participatory land-use planning, documentation and registration processes within the mandates of responsible institutions, strengthened community governance, gender-responsive decision-making, protection of grazing areas and mobility corridors, restoration of degraded communal land and peaceful conflict resolution.

• Participatory land-use planning	• Transparent and inclusive community decision-making
• Protection of communal grazing, wetlands, forests and riparian areas	• Inclusion of women, youth, persons with disabilities and marginalized groups
• Conflict prevention and negotiated resource-use arrangements	• Integration of customary knowledge with statutory governance and scientific evidence

1.5 Conservancies, Biodiversity and Agroecology

Laikipia’s conservation landscape provides a strategic platform for linking biodiversity conservation, livestock production, tourism, restoration and community livelihoods. Conservancies can serve as centres of innovation and demonstration for regenerative grazing, habitat restoration, water stewardship, biodiversity monitoring, renewable energy and nature-based enterprise.

• Restoration of degraded rangelands and riparian ecosystems	• Protection of ecological and wildlife corridors
• Invasive-species management	• Sustainable grazing and livestock–wildlife coexistence
• Nature-based enterprises and conservation-linked employment	• Carbon and ecosystem-service finance where legally and technically appropriate
• Joint research, monitoring, learning and investment planning	

POLICY STATEMENT: The County shall treat conservancies and community conservation institutions as strategic partners in agroecological transformation and shall promote mutually beneficial arrangements that generate conservation, livelihood and climate outcomes.

1.6 Inter-County Coordination and Shared Landscapes

Ecological and livelihood systems extend beyond administrative boundaries. Shared rangelands, watersheds, wildlife corridors, livestock routes and markets require coordinated action with neighboring counties. The County shall strengthen cooperation on rangeland management, livestock mobility, catchment restoration, biodiversity, invasive species, disease surveillance, drought early warning, peacebuilding, market development, climate information and joint research.

1.7 Children, Youth and Agroecology Education

Children and young people are future custodians, innovators and investors in food systems. School-based agroecology can strengthen practical skills, nutrition awareness, environmental stewardship, climate literacy and entrepreneurship.

- Strengthen School Environmental and 4K Clubs as practical learning platforms.
- Support School Gardens, Tree Growing, Water Harvesting, Recycling and Climate Action.
- Build Teacher Capacity and provide practical learning materials.
- Promote Inclusion of Learners with Disabilities through accessible approaches.
- Link Schools with Extension Services, Communities, Research Institutions and Conservation Partners.
- Develop Youth Pathways into Green Jobs, Agribusiness, Digital Agriculture and Nature-Based Enterprises.

1.8 Ward-Based Agricultural and Agroecology Investment Profiles

Ward-level implementation is a core design principle of this Policy. The following indicative profiles are derived from the source chapter and are intended to guide participatory ward planning, investment prioritization and project development. They should be updated periodically using county data, farmer assessments and FAO-compatible performance diagnostics.

Ward	Agroecological profile	Major enterprises	Key constraints	Priority investment opportunities
Nanyuki	High-potential urban/peri-urban; irrigation potential	Dairy, vegetables, horticulture, poultry, aquaculture, fruit	Urban expansion, water pollution, post-harvest losses, limited land	Urban agriculture, ecological horticulture, protected production, composting, efficient irrigation, food processing

Thingithu	High rainfall; fertile soils; intensive mixed farming	Dairy, maize, beans, potatoes, fodder	Soil acidity, fertility decline, fragmented farms	Soil restoration, agroforestry, regenerative dairy, bio-input enterprises
Ngobit	Medium-high potential cereal zone	Wheat, barley, maize, dairy, seed production	Erosion, declining organic matter, mechanization costs	Conservation agriculture, precision farming, mechanization services, carbon-smart farming
Umande	Medium-rainfall mixed farming	Wheat, sunflower, dairy, legumes, potatoes	Climate variability, water shortages, soil fertility decline	Climate-smart irrigation, regenerative cropping, resilient seed systems
Tigithi	Semi-arid transition zone	Beef, sorghum, millet, fodder, legumes	Drought, pasture degradation	Drought-resilient crops, fodder, rotational grazing, water harvesting
Igwamiti	Highland mixed farming	Dairy, potatoes, beans, vegetables, fish	Soil erosion, disease, fertilizer costs	Integrated farming, aquaculture, agroforestry, bio-input enterprises
Marmanet	Highland agriculture and forestry	Dairy, wheat, beans, pyrethrum, forestry	Forest degradation, nutrient depletion	Agroforestry, pyrethrum revitalization, forest restoration, beekeeping
Githiga	High-potential mixed farming	Dairy, maize, beans, potatoes, vegetables	Soil fertility decline, land subdivision	Composting, integrated farming, conservation agriculture, nutrition-sensitive agriculture
Rumuruti	Semi-arid mixed farming	Beef, sheep, goats, sorghum, hay, horticulture	Water scarcity, rangeland degradation	Community irrigation, rangeland restoration, fodder and hay enterprises
Salama	Dryland agriculture	Sorghum, millet, green grams, livestock	Drought, unreliable rainfall	Water harvesting, resilient crops, dryland agroforestry, solar irrigation
Ol-Moran	Semi-arid mixed farming	Maize, beans, dairy, poultry, horticulture	Climate variability, soil fertility decline	Community irrigation, agroforestry, nutrition gardens, farmer-managed natural regeneration
Segera	Extensive rangelands	Beef, sheep, goats, wildlife enterprises	Overgrazing, invasive species, degradation	Regenerative grazing, biodiversity conservation, carbon and ecosystem restoration
Mukogodo East	Pastoral ASAL ecosystem	Goats, sheep, camels, beekeeping	Water scarcity, degraded grazing lands	Rangeland rehabilitation, apiculture, indigenous

				livestock improvement, water infrastructure
Mukogodo West	Semi-arid pastoral landscape	Livestock, honey, indigenous poultry	Drought, poor market access	Landscape restoration, fodder banks, pasture development, renewable energy
Sosian	Ranching and conservation landscape	Beef, apiculture, wildlife conservation	Human-wildlife conflict, climate variability	Nature-based enterprises, regenerative grazing, carbon markets, ecotourism

1.9 Comparative Advantages and Investment Logic

Laikipia’s comparative advantage lies in its ecological diversity, agricultural production base, livestock and pastoral economy, conservation landscape, strategic market location, human capital, research partnerships and emerging green economy. These assets provide a platform for a diversified agroecological investment portfolio.

- **High-Potential Production Systems** – Sustainable intensification, seed systems, horticulture, dairy and value addition.
- **Mixed Farming Areas** – Integrated crop–livestock systems, regenerative agriculture and irrigation efficiency.
- **ASAL and Rangeland Systems** – Regenerative grazing, drought-resilient livestock, fodder production, apiculture and ecosystem restoration.
- **Conservation Landscapes** – Biodiversity conservation, tourism, ecosystem services and nature-based enterprises.
- **Urban and Peri-Urban Systems** – Ecological horticulture, food processing, circular bioeconomy and short food supply chains.
- **Cross-Cutting Investments** – Renewable energy, digital agriculture, climate finance, research, extension, data systems and market linkages

1.10 Current Status of Agroecology in Laikipia County

Agroecological practices are already present across the County, although they have not always been implemented within a single coordinated policy and investment framework. Farmers, pastoralists, conservancies, research institutions, development partners and county programmes have progressively adopted practices that improve production while conserving natural resources.

1.10.1 Existing Practices

Practice	Current contribution
Soil health management	Composting, farmyard manure, crop rotation, minimum tillage, mulching, cover crops, green manures and contour farming.
Agroforestry	Integration of trees for fertility, fodder, fruits, fuelwood, timber, shade, wind protection and carbon benefits.
Conservation agriculture	Reduced soil disturbance, permanent soil cover and crop diversification.
Integrated crop–livestock systems	Nutrient recycling, diversified income and risk management through mixed enterprises.
Integrated pest management	Biological control, botanical products, crop diversification, habitat management and reduced reliance on harmful pesticides.
Water conservation	Water pans, farm ponds, roof catchments, shallow wells, drip irrigation and soil-moisture conservation.
Sustainable pastoralism	Seasonal mobility, communal governance, planned grazing, pasture reseeding and fodder production.
Apiculture	Improved hives, honey processing, market development and pollination services.

1.10.2 Institutional and Partnership Support

County Government programmes have supported climate-smart agriculture, irrigation, extension, soil conservation, livestock improvement, water harvesting, capacity development and value-chain development. National institutions—including KALRO, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, Water Resources Authority, Agriculture and Food Authority, KEPHIS and NEMA—provide research, regulatory, technical and policy support. Development partners, universities, conservancies, farmer organizations, civil society and private-sector actors complement these efforts.

The existing partnership base provides an important foundation for a County Agroecology Multi-Stakeholder Platform and investment pipeline. The Platform should reduce duplication, improve learning and align public, private and development finance around common outcome.

1.10.3 Achievements

- Greater Adoption of Conservation and Regenerative Farming Practices.
- Expansion of Agroforestry and Tree-Based Landscape Restoration.
- Increased Use of Organic Manure and Compost to improve soil health and fertility.
- Growth of Apiculture and Honey Value Chains as sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- Expansion of Climate-Smart Irrigation Technologies for efficient water use and increased resilience.
- Improved Dairy Productivity through enhanced fodder production, conservation and management.
- Community Participation in Watershed Restoration and sustainable water resource management.
- Establishment and Strengthening of Farmer Field Schools and Demonstration Farms for practical knowledge transfer.
- Increased Awareness and Capacity for Climate Adaptation among farmers and communities.
- Stronger Collaboration Among Government, Research Institutions and Development Partners to support innovation, knowledge generation and scaling of agroecological practices.

1.10.4 Gaps and Constraints

- Limited Awareness and Technical Capacity among producers and extension personnel.
- Weak Coordination and Fragmented Implementation across government agencies, stakeholders and programmes.
- Limited Access to Quality Bio-Inputs and Agroecological Technologies.
- Insufficient Research, Evidence and Performance Data to guide planning and investment.
- Weak Markets, Certification and Value Addition for agroecological products.
- Limited Access to Appropriate Finance and Agricultural Insurance.

- Climate Variability, Drought and Ecosystem Degradation affecting agricultural productivity and resilience.
- Biodiversity Loss, Invasive Species and Human–Wildlife Conflict threatening agricultural and ecological systems.
- Youth Migration and Limited Attractive Agricultural Employment Opportunities.
- Weak Aggregation and Producer Organization in some agricultural value chains.
- Insufficient Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Systems for tracking results, impact and continuous improvement.

1.10.5 Opportunities for Scaling

- Diverse Agroecological Zones and Production Systems that support a wide range of crops, livestock and integrated farming enterprises.
- Strong Farmer Organizations, Cooperatives and Community Institutions that provide platforms for collective action, aggregation, access to services and market participation.

- Extensive Conservation and Restoration Landscapes offering opportunities for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and sustainable livelihoods.
- Growing Demand for Healthy and Sustainably Produced Food creating opportunities for differentiated markets and premium products.
- Rich Indigenous Knowledge and Locally Adapted Practices that can complement scientific knowledge and modern agroecological innovations.
- National Policy Support through the National Agroecology Strategy (2024–2033), providing an enabling policy framework for county-level implementation.
- Development-Partner and Research Partnerships for technical assistance, innovation, capacity building, financing and evidence generation.
- Climate Finance, Carbon and Ecosystem-Service Opportunities to mobilize additional resources for sustainable land management and climate action.
- Renewable-Energy Investment Potential including solar-powered irrigation, cold storage, processing and other clean-energy applications.
- Digital Agriculture and Precision Technologies for improved production, extension, climate information, traceability, data management and market access.
- Agro-Processing, Green Enterprise and Circular Economy Opportunities for employment creation, value addition and waste reduction.
- Integration of Agriculture, Conservation and Tourism through Nature-Based Enterprises to diversify rural incomes while supporting ecosystem conservation.

POLICY STATEMENT: The County shall move from isolated agroecological projects to a coordinated portfolio of scalable programmes and bankable investment projects, supported by common standards, shared data, clear institutional roles and measurable environmental, social and economic outcomes.

1.11 Emerging Challenges Affecting Agroecological Development

1.11.1 Climate Change and Climate Variability

Current conditions include prolonged drought, erratic rainfall, rising temperatures, occasional flooding and climate-related production risks.

Underlying factors: Key drivers include global climate change, degraded catchments, unsustainable land use and limited adoption of resilient technologies.

Development implications: Implications include reduced yields, food insecurity, water and grazing conflicts, income losses and ecosystem stress.

Policy response: mainstream climate adaptation and mitigation through resilient crops and livestock, water harvesting, efficient irrigation, agroforestry, restoration, climate information, early warning, renewable energy and risk financing.

1.11.2 Land Degradation

Soil erosion, overgrazing, vegetation loss, invasive species, compaction and declining soil organic matter affect productive landscapes.

Underlying factors: Drivers include unsustainable cultivation, overstocking, deforestation, encroachment and weak land-use planning.

Development implications: Implications include lower productivity, desertification risk, biodiversity loss and reduced water infiltration.

Policy response: integrated landscape restoration, conservation agriculture, regenerative grazing, watershed rehabilitation, erosion control and ecosystem-service incentives.

1.11.3 Declining Soil Health

Nutrient depletion, acidity, erosion, compaction and declining organic matter reduce productivity.

Underlying factors: Drivers include continuous monocropping, inadequate nutrient recycling, residue burning and excessive tillage.

Development implications: Implications include lower yields, higher costs and reduced resilience.

Policy response: integrated soil fertility management, compost and bio-inputs, minimum tillage, cover crops, rotations, green manure and soil testing.

1.11.4 Biodiversity Loss

Habitat loss, invasive species, declining indigenous crop diversity and pollinator pressures threaten ecological resilience.

Underlying factors: Drivers include land conversion, deforestation, inappropriate pesticide use and climate change.

Development implications: Implications include weaker pollination, pest regulation and adaptive capacity.

Policy response: agroforestry, indigenous seed conservation, habitat restoration, pollinator protection, community seed systems and ecological pest management.

1.11.5 Water Scarcity and Watershed Degradation

Agricultural and livestock water availability is constrained by drought, catchment degradation, pollution and inefficient abstraction.

Underlying factors: Drivers include deforestation, riparian encroachment, siltation and inefficient irrigation.

Development implications: Implications include lower production, ecosystem stress and resource conflict.

Policy response: integrated water management, catchment restoration, water harvesting, efficient irrigation, groundwater recharge and riparian protection.

1.11.6 Invasive Plant Species

Invasive species such as <i>Opuntia stricta</i> , <i>Prosopis juliflora</i> and <i>Lantana camara</i> affect some rangelands and degraded ecosystems.	Underlying factors: Drivers include ecological disturbance, climate variability and weak management.
Development implications: Implications include reduced grazing capacity, biodiversity loss and increased management costs.	Policy response: prevention, early detection, integrated control, restoration and community-led management.

1.11.7 Food and Nutrition Insecurity

Some households experience periodic food and nutrition insecurity, particularly in ASAL areas affected by drought and livelihood shocks.

Underlying factors: Drivers include low productivity, rain dependence, post-harvest losses, poverty and limited dietary diversity.

Development implications: Implications include malnutrition, reduced productivity and increased vulnerability.

Policy response: diversified production, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, indigenous foods, kitchen gardens, improved storage, food markets, school nutrition and public awareness.

1.11.8 Weak Agricultural Markets and Value Chains

Farmers face market access constraints, price volatility, limited aggregation, inadequate storage and low value addition.

Underlying factors: Drivers include fragmented production, weak market intelligence, limited finance and processing infrastructure.

Development implications: Implications include low farm-gate prices, post-harvest losses and weak investment incentives.

Policy response: strengthen cooperatives, aggregation, storage, processing, market information, quality systems, certification and digital marketing.

1.11.9 Limited Agricultural Financing and Investment

Affordable and suitable finance remains inadequate for producers and agribusinesses.

Underlying factors: Drivers include risk perception, limited collateral, weak insurance and insufficient agroecology-specific financial products.

Development implications: Implications include slow technology adoption and weak enterprise growth.

Policy response: blended finance, guarantees, green investment incentives, climate funds, carbon finance, insurance, savings and credit mechanisms and PPPs.

1.11.10 Inadequate Extension, Research and Innovation

Demand for advisory services exceeds available human and operational capacity.

Underlying factors: Drivers include staffing gaps, logistical constraints and weak research–extension linkages.

Development implications: Implications include slow adoption and limited innovation.

Policy response: strengthen extension staffing, Farmer Field Schools, digital advisory services, demonstrations, climate information and research partnerships.

1.11.11 Youth Unemployment and Ageing Farming Population

Young people often perceive agriculture as low-return and have limited access to land, finance, skills and markets.

Underlying factors: Implications include labour shortages, rural–urban migration and reduced innovation.

Development implications: The issue can reduce productivity, resilience, incomes, environmental quality or equitable participation if not addressed.

Policy response: agribusiness incubation, digital agriculture, skills development, finance, market access and green jobs.

1.11.12 Gender Inequality and Social Exclusion

Women and other marginalized groups may face unequal access to land, finance, technology, extension, markets and leadership.

Underlying factors: Implications include lost productivity and persistent inequality.

Development implications: The issue can reduce productivity, resilience, incomes, environmental quality or equitable participation if not addressed.

Policy response: gender-responsive planning, equitable resource access, inclusive finance, leadership and enterprise development.

1.11.13 Human–Wildlife Conflict

Crop damage, livestock predation, infrastructure damage and safety concerns can occur where agricultural and conservation systems overlap.

Underlying factors: Drivers include habitat fragmentation, blocked corridors and climate-induced competition for resources.

Development implications: The issue can reduce productivity, resilience, incomes, environmental quality or equitable participation if not addressed.

Policy response: landscape planning, corridor protection, coexistence measures, conflict mitigation and conservation-linked enterprises.

1.11.14 Pastoralism and Rangeland Governance

Pastoral livelihoods face drought, land fragmentation, invasive species and declining grazing resources.

Underlying factors: Policy response: community-led rangeland governance, mobility corridors, rotational grazing, restoration, fodder systems and drought preparedness.

Development implications: The issue can reduce productivity, resilience, incomes, environmental quality or equitable participation if not addressed.

The County shall address this issue through coordinated planning, targeted investment, stakeholder participation, evidence-based implementation and results monitoring.

1.11.15 Community Land Governance and Fragmentation

Subdivision and competing land uses can weaken ecological connectivity and communal resource management.

Underlying factors: Policy response: participatory land-use planning, community governance, resource protection and conflict resolution.

Development implications: The issue can reduce productivity, resilience, incomes, environmental quality or equitable participation if not addressed.

The County shall address this issue through coordinated planning, targeted investment, stakeholder participation, evidence-based implementation and results monitoring.

1.11.16 Inter-County Coordination

Shared ecosystems and markets require stronger coordination across county boundaries.

Underlying factors: Policy response: formal mechanisms for rangelands, livestock mobility, watersheds, disease surveillance, climate adaptation, markets and peacebuilding.

Development implications: The issue can reduce productivity, resilience, incomes, environmental quality or equitable participation if not addressed.

The County shall address this issue through coordinated planning, targeted investment, stakeholder participation, evidence-based implementation and results monitoring.

1.11.17 Digital Agriculture and Technology Adoption

Digital adoption remains uneven because of connectivity, affordability and digital-literacy constraints.

Underlying factors: Policy response: e-extension, climate information, precision agriculture, digital markets, remote sensing and digital-skills development.

Development implications: The issue can reduce productivity, resilience, incomes, environmental quality or equitable participation if not addressed.

The County shall address this issue through coordinated planning, targeted investment, stakeholder participation, evidence-based implementation and results monitoring.

1.11.18 Agro-processing and Value Addition

Many commodities are sold with limited processing, reducing value captured locally.

Underlying factors: Policy response: processing infrastructure, aggregation, cold chains, quality assurance, branding, certification and market development.

Development implications: The issue can reduce productivity, resilience, incomes, environmental quality or equitable participation if not addressed.

The County shall address this issue through coordinated planning, targeted investment, stakeholder participation, evidence-based implementation and results monitoring.

1.11.19 Renewable Energy and Green Technologies

High energy costs constrain irrigation, processing and other agricultural activities.

Underlying factors: Policy response: solar irrigation, biogas, energy efficiency and renewable energy for processing and cold-chain systems.

Development implications: The issue can reduce productivity, resilience, incomes, environmental quality or equitable participation if not addressed.

The County shall address this issue through coordinated planning, targeted investment, stakeholder participation, evidence-based implementation and results monitoring.

1.11.20 Policy, Institutional Coordination and Governance

Multiple institutions and projects can result in fragmentation, duplication and inconsistent monitoring.

Underlying factors: Policy response: a coordinated governance architecture, multi-stakeholder platform, integrated planning, financing mechanisms, shared indicators and regular review.

Development implications: The issue can reduce productivity, resilience, incomes, environmental quality or equitable participation if not addressed.

The County shall address this issue through coordinated planning, targeted investment, stakeholder participation, evidence-based implementation and results monitoring.

1.12 Rationale for the Policy

The Policy is required to convert Laikipia's substantial ecological, agricultural and institutional assets into a coordinated pathway for sustainable food-system transformation. The County has a strong production base, conservation landscape, farmer organizations, research partnerships and growing interest in green enterprise, but interventions remain uneven and fragmented.

The policy response is therefore not simply to promote individual practices. It is to create an enabling environment in which producers, communities, public agencies, investors and development partners can transition towards diversified, resilient and profitable food systems. This requires coherent planning, investment, incentives, capacity development, research, market development, finance, governance and evidence.

The Policy also provides a basis for translating agroecology into bankable investments. Projects should be developed with clear investment cases, beneficiary profiles, technical designs, cost estimates, implementation arrangements, risk assessments, revenue or sustainability models where relevant, environmental and social safeguards, financing structures, measurable outcomes and monitoring arrangements. This will enable the County and its partners to move from policy commitments to a credible pipeline of projects suitable for public finance, private investment, blended finance, grants and climate finance.

In accordance with FAO's approach, agroecological transition shall be assessed as a multidimensional process rather than by a single productivity indicator. The County will progressively use evidence and appropriate tools, including the FAO Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE), to establish baselines, assess transition, identify enabling and constraining conditions, and track environmental, social and economic outcome

1.13 Problem Statement

Agriculture remains central to Laikipia's economy and livelihoods, yet the sector is increasingly exposed to climate change, drought, soil and land degradation, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, invasive species, human–wildlife interactions, weak value chains, limited finance, inadequate extension and insufficient research and innovation. These pressures are mutually reinforcing and cannot be addressed effectively through isolated sector interventions.

Although many agroecological practices and initiatives already exist, they are not yet operating at the scale, coherence or investment intensity required to transform county food systems. Institutional coordination, market development, financing, data, extension, value addition and monitoring remain insufficient. Women, youth, pastoralists, small-scale producers and other groups may also face structural barriers to productive resources and decision-making.

Without a coordinated policy and investment framework, the County risks continued loss of productive natural capital, rising production costs, greater exposure to climate shocks, weak household incomes and recurring food and nutrition insecurity. The Laikipia County Agroecology Policy therefore establishes a coherent framework for sustainable production, ecosystem restoration, inclusive markets, climate resilience, innovation, social inclusion and investment mobilization.

1.14 Policy Goal

POLICY STATEMENT: To transform Laikipia County into a leading centre of sustainable agroecological development through resilient, productive, inclusive and environmentally sustainable food and agricultural systems that enhance food and nutrition security, restore ecosystems, improve livelihoods and generate inclusive green economic growth.

1.15 Policy Objectives

Objectives	
1	Promote diversified and sustainable agricultural production systems that improve productivity and profitability while conserving natural resources.
2	Restore degraded landscapes, improve soil health and conserve biodiversity through agroecological and nature-positive practices.
3	Strengthen climate resilience and adaptive capacity among farming, pastoral and agro-pastoral communities.
4	Promote sustainable livestock production, regenerative rangeland management and resilient pastoral systems.
5	Improve water resource management, irrigation efficiency, watershed protection and water security for food systems.
6	Strengthen food and nutrition security through diversified production, healthy diets, resilient local food systems and reduced post-harvest losses.
7	Promote research, innovation, indigenous knowledge, digital agriculture and evidence-based extension.
8	Strengthen inclusive value chains, agro-processing, quality systems, market access and green enterprise development.
9	Promote gender equality, youth empowerment, social inclusion and equitable access to productive resources, services and opportunities.
10	Strengthen governance, coordination, partnerships, sustainable financing, accountability, monitoring, evaluation and learning for agroecological transformation.

1.16 Scope of the Policy

The Policy applies across Laikipia County and covers crops, livestock, pastoralism, fisheries and aquaculture, apiculture, agroforestry, forestry, rangelands, wildlife–agriculture interfaces, community lands, water and other natural resources. It also covers agro-processing, agricultural marketing, finance, research, extension, climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, renewable energy, digital agriculture, ecosystem restoration, food and nutrition security and related green enterprises.

The Policy provides guidance to county departments and entities, national government agencies operating in the County, producers, pastoralists, cooperatives, private investors, financial institutions, conservancies, research institutions, civil society, development partners and community institutions involved in agroecological development.

1.17 Guiding Principles

Principle	Policy application
Sustainability	Meet present needs without compromising the productive capacity and ecological integrity required by future generations.
Diversity	Promote biological, production, livelihood, dietary and market diversity as foundations of resilience.
Synergies	Design interventions that generate mutually reinforcing ecological, social and economic benefits.
Recycling and circularity	Return nutrients and biological resources to productive systems and reduce waste.
Efficiency	Use land, water, energy, finance and other resources responsibly and productively.
Resilience	Strengthen capacity to absorb, adapt to and recover from climate, market and other shocks.
Co-creation and sharing of knowledge	Combine scientific research, farmer innovation, indigenous knowledge and experiential learning.
Human and social values	Protect dignity, equity, decent work, inclusion and the rights and interests of vulnerable groups.
Culture and food traditions	Value local food cultures, indigenous foods and locally adapted production knowledge.
Responsible governance	Promote participation, transparency, accountability, inclusion, rule of law and coherent institutions.
Partnership and subsidiarity	Work across government, communities, private sector, research institutions and development partners while placing decisions as close as practicable to affected stakeholders.
Investment orientation and value for money	Prioritize interventions with clear results, credible delivery arrangements, measurable outcomes and sustainable financing.
One Health	Recognize the interdependence of human, animal, plant and ecosystem health.

1.18 Policy Development Process

The Policy was developed through a participatory, consultative and evidence-informed process led by the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Mechanization, Irrigation and Cooperatives. The process engaged farmers, pastoralists, community representatives, county departments, national government agencies, research institutions, universities, civil society organizations, private-sector actors, conservancies, development partners and other stakeholders through technical working arrangements, stakeholder consultations, field-level assessments and validation processes.

The Policy draws on county-specific information, national policy frameworks and international agroecology practice. In implementation, the County shall maintain stakeholder participation through the County Agroecology Multi-Stakeholder Platform and technical structures, and shall periodically review evidence, investment performance and emerging priorities. Baselines and targets should be validated during implementation planning before project appraisal and financing.

1.19 Strategic Policy Implications for Implementation and Investment

Adopt a landscape and food-systems approach rather than isolated project delivery.

Translate the ten FAO agroecology elements into practical programme and project design criteria.

Develop ward-level investment plans linked to the County Integrated Development Plan, annual plans and budgets.

Establish an Agroecology Investment Pipeline containing concept notes, feasibility studies, business cases and financing strategies.

1. **Use Blended Financing Approaches** – Combine public, private, development and climate finance according to project risk, scale and revenue characteristics.
2. **Prioritize Integrated Investments** – Give priority to investments that simultaneously deliver productivity, climate resilience, ecosystem restoration, social inclusion and market outcomes.
3. **Apply TAPE and Complementary County Indicators** – Establish reliable baselines and measure multidimensional agroecological outcomes and impacts.
4. **Apply Environmental and Social Safeguards** – Integrate environmental, social, gender and youth-responsive criteria into investment planning, appraisal and implementation.
5. **Strengthen Data and Digital Monitoring Systems** – Improve data collection, digital tracking, performance monitoring and public reporting of agroecology investments and results.
6. **Institutionalize Periodic Learning and Adaptive Management** – Conduct regular learning reviews to scale successful interventions, redesign underperforming initiatives and mobilize additional investment

1.20 Bankability and Scalability Framework

For the Policy to function as an investment platform, each major intervention shall be developed through a standard project-development pathway. Projects should move from identified problem and opportunity, through concept design and stakeholder validation, to technical and financial appraisal, financing, implementation, monitoring and scale-up.

Investment gate	Minimum requirement	Indicative output
1. Opportunity identification	Evidence of need, target beneficiaries, landscape context and policy alignment	Investment concept notes
2. Technical design	Technical feasibility, technology choice, resource assessment, safeguards and implementation model	Pre-feasibility/feasibility package
3. Business and financing case	Costs, benefits, cash flows where applicable, financing gap, risk allocation and co-financing	Bankable business/investment case
4. Institutional readiness	Lead institution, partners, procurement, governance, O&M and accountability arrangements	Implementation and partnership plan
5. Results and safeguards	Baseline, targets, indicators, gender/youth inclusion, environmental and social risk management	Results framework and safeguards plan
6. Financing and investment	Identified funding source, financing instrument, counterpart contribution and conditions	Financing plan/term sheet
7. Delivery and learning	Procurement, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, learning and scale-up pathway	Performance reports and scale-up plan

POLICY STATEMENT: All major agroecology investments shall demonstrate strategic alignment, technical feasibility, financial or economic viability, environmental and social sustainability, institutional capacity, measurable results and a credible pathway to replication or scale. Bankability shall not be interpreted as requiring commercial

revenue in every intervention; public-good investments may be financed through grants, public budgets, climate finance, concessional finance or blended structures where appropriate.

1.21 Policy Direction

The County Government shall promote an integrated, inclusive and climate-resilient agricultural and food system by strengthening sustainable crop and livestock production, pastoralism, aquaculture, apiculture and agroforestry; restoring degraded ecosystems; improving soil and water management; conserving biodiversity; strengthening research, extension and innovation; developing inclusive value chains; expanding agro-processing and markets; promoting renewable energy and circular bioeconomy solutions; mobilizing sustainable finance; and enabling farmers, pastoralists, women, youth, children and communities to participate meaningfully in agroecological transformation.

Implementation shall be coordinated across all fifteen wards and shall respond to their ecological, economic, cultural and livelihood characteristics. The County will prioritize interventions that can demonstrate measurable improvements in food and nutrition security, livelihoods, ecosystem health, climate resilience, biodiversity, employment and investment mobilization.

POLICY STATEMENT: The ultimate policy direction is to build resilient food systems, healthy ecosystems, prosperous rural livelihoods and inclusive green economic opportunities for present and future generations in Laikipia County.

1.22 Chapter Conclusion

Laikipia County has the ecological diversity, agricultural assets, conservation institutions, producer knowledge and partnership potential required to become a leading centre of agroecological transformation. The principal challenge is not the absence of practices, but the need to connect them through coherent policy, coordinated institutions, investment-ready programmes, inclusive markets, evidence and long-term financing.

This Chapter therefore establishes the baseline and policy case for a ten-year transformation pathway. Subsequent chapters should translate this foundation into strategic pillars, policy interventions, institutional arrangements, financing mechanisms, an implementation framework, a results-based monitoring and evaluation system, an investment pipeline and a detailed implementation matrix. Together, these components will position the Policy as a practical instrument for government action and a credible platform for mobilizing public, private, development and climate finance.

CHAPTER TWO

2.1 Rationale

The Laikipia County Agroecology Policy Framework provides the strategic direction for transforming agriculture and food systems through environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive and economically viable agroecological approaches. The framework establishes the County's long-term vision, mission, policy goal, strategic objectives, guiding principles and policy commitments that shall direct all agroecology-related programmes, legislation, investments and partnerships.

The framework recognizes that agroecology extends beyond agricultural production to encompass ecosystem restoration, climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, nutrition, sustainable livelihoods, social equity and green economic development. It therefore adopts an integrated landscape approach that strengthens the relationship between agriculture, water resources, forests, rangelands, wildlife, human health and local economies.

Implementation of this framework shall be guided by constitutional principles, national legislation, county priorities, scientific evidence, indigenous knowledge and international commitments on sustainable development.

2.2 Vision

A resilient, food-secure, prosperous and climate-resilient Laikipia County driven by sustainable agroecological food systems, healthy ecosystems and inclusive green economic growth.

2.3 Mission

To promote sustainable, diversified and resilient agricultural systems through agroecological approaches that enhance food and nutrition security, restore ecosystems, conserve biodiversity, strengthen climate resilience, improve livelihoods and stimulate inclusive green economic development through innovation, partnerships and responsible governance.

2.4 Policy Goal

The overall goal of this Policy is:

To transform Laikipia County into Kenya's leading model of agroecological development by promoting productive, resilient, equitable and environmentally sustainable food systems that improve livelihoods, restore natural ecosystems and contribute to inclusive economic growth.

2.5 Strategic Objectives

The County Government shall pursue the following strategic objectives:

Objective	
Objective 1	Promote sustainable agricultural production systems that improve productivity, profitability and resilience while conserving natural resources.
Objective 2	Restore degraded ecosystems, improve soil health and conserve biodiversity through agroecological landscape management.
Objective 3	Strengthen climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction within agricultural systems.
Objective 4	Promote sustainable livestock production, pastoral development and regenerative rangeland management.
Objective 5	Enhance integrated water resource management, irrigation development and watershed conservation.
Objective 6	Improve food and nutrition security through diversified, safe and nutritious food systems.
Objective 7	Strengthen research, innovation, indigenous knowledge systems and digital agriculture.
Objective 8	Develop competitive agroecological value chains, agro-processing industries and green enterprises.
Objective 9	Promote inclusive participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities and marginalized communities.
Objective 10	Strengthen governance, institutional coordination, financing, accountability and partnerships for agroecological development.

2.6 Expected Policy Outcomes

Successful implementation of this Policy is expected to achieve the following outcomes:

Environmental Outcomes	Improved soil fertility and soil organic carbon.	Restored degraded agricultural landscapes.
Increased forest and tree cover.	Improved watershed health.	Enhanced biodiversity conservation.
Increased carbon sequestration.	Reduced greenhouse gas emissions.	Improved ecosystem services.
Agricultural Outcomes	Increased crop productivity.	Improved livestock productivity.
Enhanced pasture productivity.	Expanded irrigation coverage.	Increased adoption of agroecological practices.
Reduced dependence on synthetic agrochemicals.	Reduced post-harvest losses.	Improved food quality and safety.
Economic Outcomes	Increased household incomes.	Increased agricultural exports.
Growth of agro-processing industries.	Expansion of green enterprises.	Increased rural employment.
Increased youth participation in agribusiness.	Improved market competitiveness.	Increased private sector investment.
Social Outcomes	Improved household food security.	Reduced malnutrition.
Increased participation of women and youth.	Improved social cohesion.	Reduced resource-based conflicts.
Improved public health.	Strengthened community resilience.	Governance Outcomes
Strong institutional coordination.	Effective policy implementation.	Improved monitoring and evaluation.
Increased stakeholder participation.	Enhanced resource mobilization.	Improved accountability and transparency.

2.7 Core Policy Principles

Implementation of this Policy shall be guided by the following internationally recognized agroecology principles.

No.	Principle	Description
1	Ecological Sustainability	Agricultural production shall maintain ecological integrity through sustainable management of soils, water, biodiversity and natural resources.
2	Diversity	The County shall promote diversified farming systems involving crops, livestock, trees, fisheries, pollinators and beneficial organisms to enhance resilience and productivity.
3	Resource Efficiency	Efficient utilization of land, water, nutrients, energy and biological resources shall be promoted while minimizing waste and environmental pollution.
4	Circular Economy	Agricultural systems shall encourage recycling of nutrients, organic waste, crop residues and livestock manure to improve productivity and reduce dependence on external inputs.
5	Climate Resilience	Agricultural development shall strengthen adaptation to climate change while contributing to greenhouse gas emission reduction and long-term resilience.
6	Biodiversity Conservation	The County shall conserve agricultural biodiversity, indigenous crop varieties, livestock breeds, forests, pollinators and wildlife habitats.
7	Equity and Inclusion	Women, youth, pastoralists, indigenous communities, persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups shall participate equitably in agroecological development.
8	Indigenous Knowledge	Traditional knowledge, local innovations and cultural practices shall be recognized, protected and integrated into agroecological development.
9	Innovation and Science	Scientific research, digital technologies, precision agriculture and innovation shall complement indigenous knowledge in improving agricultural productivity.
10	Partnership	Implementation shall be based on strong collaboration among County Government, National Government, private sector, research institutions, development partners, civil society organizations and farming communities.
11	Good Governance	Implementation shall uphold accountability, transparency, participation, integrity and evidence-based decision-making.
12	One Health	Agricultural development shall promote the interconnected health of people, animals, plants and ecosystems by reducing environmental pollution, supporting safe food production and minimizing disease risks.

2.8 Policy Commitments

The County Government commits to:

- Mainstream agroecology into county legislation, planning and budgeting.
- Allocate public investment in agroecological development to at least 10% of sector budget.
- Establish Directorate of agroecology, Policy, Value chain Development and strategic partnership within Department of Agriculture and Livestock.
- **Promote Blended Financing** – Mobilize and combine public, private, development and climate finance based on project risk, scale and revenue potential.
- **Prioritize Integrated Investments** – Direct resources towards investments that deliver productivity, climate resilience, ecosystem restoration, social inclusion and market development outcomes.
- **Institutionalize TAPE and County Performance Indicators** – Use the Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE), complemented by county-specific indicators, to establish baselines and assess multidimensional outcomes and impacts.
- **Apply Environmental and Social Safeguards** – Integrate environmental, social, gender-responsive and youth-responsive safeguards throughout investment planning, appraisal, implementation and evaluation.
- **Strengthen Data, Digital Monitoring and Public Accountability** – Develop robust data systems, digital monitoring platforms and transparent reporting mechanisms to track investments, performance and results.
- **Institutionalize Learning and Adaptive Management** – Undertake periodic performance and learning reviews to scale effective interventions, redesign underperforming programmes and attract additional investment.

2.9 Strategic Policy Statements

To operationalize this Policy, the County Government adopts the following strategic policy statements:

- Agroecology shall become the preferred pathway for sustainable agricultural transformation in Laikipia County.
- Every agricultural investment shall integrate environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and biodiversity conservation.
- County planning and budgeting shall mainstream agroecological principles across all relevant sectors.
- Public investment shall prioritize the restoration of degraded ecosystems and the development of resilient food systems.
- Agricultural extension services shall progressively transition to agroecological advisory systems supported by digital technologies and innovation.
- Indigenous knowledge shall be documented, protected, and integrated into agricultural development and decision-making processes.

- Youth and women shall be prioritized in agroecological enterprise development, green employment, and leadership opportunities.
- Community participation shall underpin the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of agroecological initiatives.
- Public-private partnerships shall be strengthened to mobilize investment, innovation, and market opportunities across agroecological value chains.
- Research, innovation, evidence generation, and continuous learning shall guide policy implementation and adaptive management

CHAPTER THREE: POLICY INTERVENTION AREAS

3.1 Introduction

This chapter sets out the strategic policy interventions that will guide implementation of the Laikipia County Agroecology Policy (2026–2032). The interventions are organized into fifteen thematic areas, reflecting the interconnected nature of agroecological systems and recognizing that sustainable agricultural transformation requires coordinated action across ecological, economic, social and institutional dimensions.

The thematic areas are designed to restore ecosystem functions, improve agricultural productivity, strengthen climate resilience, conserve biodiversity, promote inclusive economic growth, improve food and nutrition security and build resilient rural livelihoods. Together, they provide a comprehensive framework for mainstreaming agroecology into county development planning, budgeting and service delivery.

Implementation shall be guided by the principles of adaptive management, participatory governance, ecosystem-based planning, scientific evidence, indigenous knowledge, gender equality and continuous learning.

THEMATIC AREA 1: Sustainable Crop Production and Regenerative Agriculture

3.1.1 Situation Analysis

Crop production remains one of the principal agricultural activities in Laikipia County and contributes significantly to food security, household incomes and employment. Major crops include maize, beans, wheat, barley, potatoes, sorghum, millet, sunflower, horticultural crops, fruits and legumes. Despite favourable agroecological conditions in many parts of the County, crop productivity remains below potential due to declining soil fertility, erratic rainfall, increasing temperatures, soil erosion, pest and disease outbreaks, declining biodiversity, over-reliance on external inputs and increasing production costs.

Current production systems are characterized by varying levels of mechanization, input use and irrigation. While some farmers have adopted conservation agriculture, integrated pest management, composting and agroforestry, adoption remains uneven across the County. Climate variability has further exposed the vulnerability of monoculture systems and highlighted the need for diversified, resilient and regenerative production models.

Regenerative agriculture offers an opportunity to restore soil health, improve water retention, enhance biodiversity and increase long-term productivity while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Transitioning to diversified agroecological farming systems will improve resilience to climate change and contribute to sustainable food systems.

3.1.2 Policy Objective

To promote diversified, productive and climate-resilient crop production systems based on agroecological principles that enhance food security, improve farm profitability and restore ecosystem health.

3.1.3 Policy Statements

The County Government shall:

- Promote Agroecological Crop Production Systems as the preferred approach for sustainable agricultural development.
- Mainstream Regenerative Agriculture across all county crop development programmes and interventions.
- Reduce Dependence on Environmentally Harmful Agricultural Inputs while promoting safe, affordable and sustainable alternatives.
- Promote Diversified Farming Systems that enhance climate resilience, biodiversity, soil health and household nutrition.
- Strengthen Farmer Capacity in Agroecological Crop Management through extension, research, innovation, demonstration farms and Farmer Field Schools.
- Support the Development of Resilient Local Food Systems through local production, aggregation, processing, storage and market linkages.
- Promote Sustainable Mechanization that is compatible with conservation agriculture, soil health and efficient resource use.
- Encourage Integrated Crop–Livestock Production Systems to enhance nutrient cycling, productivity, resource efficiency and farm resilience.
- Promote Ecological Pest Management through integrated pest management, biological control and other environmentally sustainable approaches.
- Strengthen the Climate Resilience of Crop Production through climate-smart practices, resilient varieties, water conservation, soil management and climate information services.

3.1.4 Strategic Interventions

A. Crop Diversification

The County Government shall:

• Promote crop diversification across all agroecological zones.	• Expand cultivation of drought-tolerant crops.
• Promote indigenous cereals and legumes.	• Encourage mixed cropping systems.
• Support intercropping and relay cropping.	• Promote crop rotations.
• Encourage perennial cropping systems.	• Support integrated farming models.

B. Regenerative Agriculture

The County Government shall promote:

• Minimum soil disturbance.	• Permanent soil cover.
• Crop residue retention.	• Cover cropping.
• Green manure production.	• Conservation tillage.
• Organic matter recycling.	• Living root systems.
• Integrated nutrient management.	

C. Climate-Smart Crop Production

Strategic actions shall include:

• Climate advisory services.	• Climate risk mapping.
• Drought preparedness planning.	• Climate-resilient production calendars.
• Crop insurance.	• Weather-based extension.
• Early warning systems.	• Climate-resilient farm planning.

D. Sustainable Seed Systems

The County Government shall:

• Strengthen certified seed production.	• Support community seed banks.
• Promote indigenous seed conservation.	• Establish farmer seed enterprises.
• Promote participatory plant breeding.	• Facilitate seed quality assurance.
• Improve access to climate-resilient varieties.	• Strengthen seed policy implementation.

E. Ecological Pest and Disease Management

The County Government shall promote:

• Integrated Pest Management (IPM).	• Biological control agents.
• Botanical pesticides.	• Push-pull technology.
• Habitat management.	• Beneficial insects.
• Crop surveillance.	• Integrated disease management.
• Safe pesticide stewardship.	

F. Sustainable Mechanization

The County Government shall support:

• Appropriate-scale mechanization.	• Precision planters.
• Direct seeders.	• Conservation tillage equipment.
• Solar-powered machinery.	• Mechanization service providers.
• Farmer machinery cooperatives.	• Mechanization training centres

G. Organic and Ecological Production

The County Government shall promote:

• Organic certification.	• Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS).
• Organic fertilizer production.	• Biofertilizer enterprises.
• Organic markets.	• Organic value chains.
• Ecological horticulture.	• Safe food production.

3.1.5 Expected Outputs

Implementation of this thematic area shall result in:

• Increased crop productivity.	• Improved soil health.
• Higher farm incomes.	• Increased biodiversity.
• Reduced synthetic fertilizer use.	• Improved climate resilience.
• Reduced production costs.	• Increased organic matter.
• Expanded agroforestry.	• Improved household nutrition.

3.1.6 Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	Baseline (2026)	Target (2032)
Farmers adopting agroecological practices	TBD	>70%
Area under regenerative agriculture (ha)	TBD	+60%
Average soil organic carbon	TBD	+30%
Area under crop diversification	TBD	+50%
Certified community seed banks established	TBD	15
Reduction in synthetic pesticide use	TBD	40%
Farmers trained	TBD	60,000
Demonstration farms established	TBD	150
Farmer Field Schools operational	TBD	100
Climate-smart farms established	TBD	5,000

3.1.7 Lead Implementing Institutions

• Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Mechanization, Irrigation and Cooperatives	• County Directorate of Crop Development
• County Directorate of Agricultural Extension	• National Government Ministries responsible for Agriculture
• Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO)	• Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS)
• Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA)	

3.1.8 Collaborating Institutions

• Farmer Cooperatives	• Community-Based Organizations	• Producer Organizations
• Universities	• Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions	• Development Partners
• Civil Society Organizations	• Financial Institutions	• Private Seed Companies
• Bio-input Manufacturers	• Agro-dealers	• Conservancies
• Faith-Based Organizations		

3.1.9 Financing Strategy

Financing shall be mobilized through:

•County Government budget allocations.	•National Government conditional grants.	•Climate finance mechanisms.
• Green Climate Fund (GCF).	• Adaptation Fund.	• Development partner grants.
• Public-Private Partnerships.	• Carbon finance.	• Farmer cooperatives.
• Private sector investment.	•Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).	•Revolving agricultural development funds

3.1.10 Risk Mitigation

Potential implementation risks include climate shocks, limited financing, low farmer adoption, inadequate technical capacity, market fluctuations and policy inconsistency. These risks shall be mitigated through diversified financing, strengthened extension services, demonstration farms, farmer incentives, digital advisory systems, adaptive management and strong multi-stakeholder coordination.

Policy Outcome

By 2032, Laikipia County will have established resilient, diversified and regenerative crop production systems that restore ecosystems, increase productivity, improve household incomes, enhance food and nutrition security and contribute to climate-resilient green economic growth.

THEMATIC AREA 2: Soil Health Restoration and Sustainable Soil Fertility Management

3.2.1 Situation Analysis

Healthy soils are the foundation of productive, resilient and sustainable agricultural systems. In Laikipia County, soil resources underpin crop production, livestock grazing, water regulation, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services that support rural livelihoods. However, increasing pressure from unsustainable land use practices, climate variability and declining investment in soil management has resulted in widespread soil degradation across many parts of the County.

Declining soil fertility has become one of the major constraints to agricultural productivity. Many farming areas are experiencing depletion of soil organic matter, nutrient mining, soil acidification, erosion, compaction, reduced biological activity and declining water infiltration. Farmers increasingly rely on synthetic fertilizers to sustain production, yet continued use without balanced nutrient management has, in some areas, reduced soil health and increased production costs.

In the ASAL areas, overgrazing, vegetation loss and wind erosion have accelerated degradation of rangeland soils. In the high-potential zones, continuous cultivation, inadequate organic matter incorporation and poor soil conservation practices have contributed to declining productivity. Climate

change has further intensified these challenges through increased drought frequency, intense rainfall events and accelerated erosion.

The County possesses considerable opportunities to restore soil health through regenerative agriculture, conservation agriculture, agroforestry, integrated nutrient management, composting, biofertilizer production, biological nitrogen fixation and improved land management. Investing in soil restoration will increase productivity, strengthen climate resilience, improve water use efficiency, enhance biodiversity and contribute to long-term food security.

3.2.2 Policy Objective

To restore, conserve and sustainably manage soil resources through agroecological approaches that improve soil fertility, increase agricultural productivity, enhance ecosystem resilience and support sustainable livelihoods.

3.2.3 Policy Statements

The County Government shall:

1. Recognize Soil as a Strategic Natural Resource – Treat soil as a critical foundation for sustainable agricultural production, food security, ecosystem health and climate resilience.
2. Mainstream Sustainable Soil Management – Integrate sustainable soil management principles and practices into all agricultural programmes, projects and investments.
3. Promote Regenerative Soil Management – Support practices that restore and maintain the biological, physical and chemical properties of soils.
4. Reduce Soil Degradation through Integrated Landscape Management – Promote erosion control, land restoration, water conservation and sustainable land-use practices across agricultural landscapes.
5. Promote Balanced and Efficient Plant Nutrient Management – Encourage efficient and responsible use of organic and mineral nutrients based on soil and crop requirements.
6. Promote Locally Produced Organic Fertilizers, Compost and Biofertilizers – Support local production, quality assurance, accessibility and adoption of sustainable soil fertility inputs.
7. Strengthen Soil Testing, Mapping and Fertility Information Systems – Improve access to soil data and evidence to guide land-use planning, fertilizer recommendations and investment decisions.
8. Promote Soil Carbon Sequestration – Encourage soil management practices that increase soil organic carbon and contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
9. Strengthen Farmer Knowledge on Sustainable Soil Management – Enhance farmer capacity through extension services, Farmer Field Schools, demonstrations and practical training.
10. Encourage Research and Innovation in Soil Restoration Technologies – Support research, development, testing and scaling of locally appropriate technologies for soil restoration and long-term soil health.

3.2.4 Strategic Interventions

A. Integrated Soil Fertility Management

The County Government shall promote integrated approaches that combine organic and inorganic nutrient sources to optimize soil productivity while minimizing environmental degradation.

Strategic interventions include:

• Promotion of Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM).	• Balanced fertilizer recommendations based on soil analysis.
• Farmyard manure utilization.	• Compost production and utilization.
• Vermicomposting technologies.	• Biofertilizer development.
• Green manure production.	• Crop residue management.
• Biological nitrogen fixation.	• Legume integration into cropping systems.

B. Soil Organic Matter Restoration

Increasing soil organic matter shall be recognized as a strategic investment in climate resilience, water retention and long-term agricultural productivity. The County Government shall prioritize restoration of soil organic carbon through:

• Cover cropping.	• Mulching.
• Crop residue retention.	• Conservation tillage.
• Agroforestry.	• Silvopastoral systems.
• Compost application.	• Integrated crop-livestock farming.
• Biochar technologies where appropriate.	• Perennial vegetation establishment.

C. Soil Erosion Prevention and Control

The County Government shall implement integrated soil conservation measures including:

• Contour farming.	• Bench terraces.	• Grass strips.
• Stone bunds.	• Vegetative barriers.	• Check dams.
• Riparian restoration.	• Gully rehabilitation.	• Controlled grazing.
• Windbreak establishment.	• Conservation agriculture.	• Watershed management.
• Priority shall be given to highly erodible landscapes and degraded watersheds.		

D. Soil Biological Health

Healthy soils require diverse biological communities that drive nutrient cycling and ecosystem functioning.

The County Government shall promote:

• Reduced use of harmful agrochemicals.	• Biological soil amendments.
• Compost inoculants.	• Mycorrhizal fungi technologies.
• Beneficial microorganisms.	• Earthworm conservation.
• Integrated biological pest management.	• Habitat diversification.
• Increased plant diversity.	• Organic farming systems.

E. Soil Testing and Soil Information Systems

Effective soil management requires accurate information on soil condition.

The County Government shall:

• Establish routine soil testing programmes.	• Develop ward-based soil fertility maps.
• Promote digital soil information systems.	• Strengthen laboratory services.
• Build farmer awareness on soil diagnostics.	• Develop fertilizer recommendation maps.
• Monitor soil health indicators.	• Support precision nutrient management.

F. Bio-input Development

The County Government shall facilitate establishment of local enterprises producing environmentally sustainable agricultural inputs. These enterprises shall create employment while supporting circular economy principles.

Priority investments include:

• Biofertilizer production.	• Compost enterprises.
• Liquid organic fertilizers.	• Biochar production.
• Microbial inoculants.	• Botanical pesticides.
• Organic soil conditioners.	• Livestock manure processing.
• Waste recycling enterprises.	

G. Soil Carbon Sequestration

Recognizing soils as important carbon sinks, the County Government shall promote:

• Regenerative agriculture.	• Agroforestry.
• Permanent vegetation cover.	• Reduced tillage.
• Improved grazing management.	• Organic matter restoration.

• Carbon monitoring systems.	• Carbon credit opportunities.
• Landscape restoration programmes.	

H. Capacity Building and Farmer Education

The County Government shall strengthen farmer knowledge through:

• Farmer Field Schools.	• Demonstration farms.
• Soil health campaigns.	• Extension manuals.
• Digital advisory platforms.	• Community soil health champions.
• School environmental education.	• Continuous professional development for extension officers.

3.2.5 Cross-Sectoral Integration

Implementation of this thematic area shall be integrated with:

• Climate Change Adaptation.	• Water Resource Management.
• Forestry and Agroforestry.	• Livestock Development.
• Nutrition-sensitive Agriculture.	• Agricultural Mechanization.
• Research and Innovation.	• Carbon Financing.
• Circular Bioeconomy.	• Green Enterprise Development.

3.2.6 Expected Outputs

Implementation shall result in:

• Improved soil fertility across agricultural landscapes.	• Increased soil organic carbon.
• Reduced soil erosion.	• Increased adoption of integrated soil fertility management.
• Expanded compost and biofertilizer production.	• Improved nutrient use efficiency.
• Enhanced water infiltration and moisture retention.	• Reduced production costs.
• Increased crop productivity.	• Improved ecosystem resilience.

3.2.7 Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	Baseline (2026)	Target (2032)
Farmers adopting integrated soil fertility management	TBD	70%
Farms undertaking routine soil testing	TBD	60%
Ward soil fertility maps completed	0	15
Compost production enterprises established	TBD	150
Biofertilizer enterprises operational	TBD	30
Agricultural land under conservation practices (ha)	TBD	+80,000
Average soil organic carbon (%)	TBD	+30%
Reduction in severe soil erosion hotspots	TBD	50%
Extension officers trained in soil health	TBD	100%
Farmer Field Schools on soil health established	TBD	100

3.2.8 Lead Implementing Institutions

Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Mechanization, Irrigation and Cooperatives	County Directorate of Agroecology, Value Chain, Policy and Strategic partnership
County Directorate of Agricultural Extension	County Department of Environment and Natural Resources
National Government Ministry responsible for Agriculture	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO)
Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)	National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)
Water Resources Authority (WRA)	

3.2.9 Collaborating Institutions

- Universities and research institutions.
- Community-based organizations.
- Organic agriculture associations.
- Conservancies.
- TVET institutions.
- Farmer cooperatives.
- Private bio-input manufacturers.
- Development partners.
- Financial institutions.
- Civil society organizations.

3.2.10 Financing Framework

The County Government shall mobilize financing through:

- County budget allocations.
- Climate change financing mechanisms.
- Adaptation Fund.
- Development partner support.
- Corporate Social Responsibility programmes.
- Green enterprise financing.
- National Government transfers.
- Green Climate Fund.
- Carbon market initiatives.
- Public-Private Partnerships.
- Cooperative investment.

3.2.11 Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Mitigation Measure
Low adoption of sustainable soil practices	Strengthen extension, demonstrations and farmer incentives
High cost of soil testing	Establish subsidized county soil testing services
Limited supply of organic inputs	Support local compost and bio-input enterprises
Climate variability	Promote drought-resilient regenerative farming systems
Inadequate financing	Diversify funding sources and leverage climate finance

3.2.12 Policy Outcome

By 2032, Laikipia County shall have restored and sustainably managed its soil resources through widespread adoption of regenerative soil management practices, resulting in improved soil fertility, enhanced ecosystem services, increased agricultural productivity, greater climate resilience and reduced environmental degradation.

THEMATIC AREA 3: Sustainable Livestock Development, Pastoralism and Rangeland Management

3.3.1 Situation Analysis

Livestock production is the cornerstone of Laikipia County's agricultural economy and a major source of food, employment, household income and investment. The County supports an estimated 200,000 beef cattle, 55,000 dairy cattle, 450,000 sheep, 350,000 goats, over 10,000 camels, 320,000 poultry and approximately 132,000 beehives, making livestock one of the largest contributors to agricultural Gross County Product (GCP). Livestock enterprises include commercial ranching, smallholder dairy farming,

agro-pastoral systems, extensive pastoralism, poultry production, apiculture and emerging camel production systems.

The County is nationally recognized for its extensive commercial ranches, community grazing systems, conservancies and integrated wildlife-livestock production landscapes. Livestock production not only contributes to meat and milk supply but also supports leather industries, wool, hides and skins, manure production, transport services, tourism and export markets.

However, the sector faces increasing challenges arising from recurrent droughts, degradation of rangelands, invasive species, livestock diseases, inadequate water infrastructure, declining pasture quality, land fragmentation, weak livestock markets, limited value addition, climate variability and increasing human-wildlife interactions. These challenges have reduced livestock productivity and increased vulnerability among pastoral households.

Pastoralism remains an ecologically appropriate and economically viable production system within the ASAL landscapes of Laikipia. Traditional pastoral mobility, communal grazing arrangements and indigenous knowledge have historically enabled communities to sustainably utilize highly variable ecosystems. Strengthening these systems through agroecological approaches presents significant opportunities for climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable rural development.

3.3.2 Policy Objective

To promote sustainable livestock production, resilient pastoral systems and regenerative rangeland management that enhance productivity, conserve ecosystems, strengthen climate resilience and improve livelihoods.

3.3.3 Policy Statements

The County Government shall:

1. Recognize Livestock and Pastoralism as Strategic Pillars – Recognize livestock production and pastoralism as integral components of sustainable agricultural development, food security, livelihoods and rural economic growth.
2. Promote Regenerative Livestock Production Systems – Mainstream agroecological principles in livestock production to enhance productivity, resource efficiency, ecosystem health and climate resilience.
3. Strengthen Sustainable Rangeland Management – Promote sustainable management, restoration and productive use of communal and private rangelands.
4. Enhance Livestock Productivity and Genetic Improvement – Improve productivity through appropriate breeding, nutrition, animal health services, husbandry practices and responsible use of livestock genetics.
5. Promote Climate-Resilient Pastoral Production Systems – Strengthen pastoral systems through drought-resilient livestock, improved mobility, fodder security, water access and climate information services.
6. Protect and Restore Grazing Ecosystems and Livestock Mobility Corridors – Safeguard grazing areas, seasonal grazing routes and livestock corridors while supporting ecosystem restoration.

7. Support Indigenous and Locally Adapted Livestock Breeds – Promote conservation, improvement and utilization of indigenous breeds suited to local climatic and production conditions.
8. Promote Integrated Crop–Livestock–Forestry–Wildlife Systems – Encourage production systems that integrate livestock with crops, trees, forestry and wildlife conservation to enhance resource efficiency and ecosystem resilience.
9. Strengthen Livestock Value Chains and Market Competitiveness – Improve aggregation, processing, value addition, standards, market access and producer organization across livestock value chains.
10. Promote Animal Welfare and Environmentally Sustainable Livestock Production – Ensure livestock production systems uphold animal welfare standards while minimizing environmental impacts and promoting responsible resource management.

3.3.4 Strategic Interventions

A. Sustainable Livestock Production

The County Government shall:

• Improve dairy production through sustainable feeding systems.	• Promote climate-resilient beef production.
• Strengthen sheep and goat production systems.	• Promote camel production in suitable ASAL zones.
• Improve indigenous poultry production.	• Expand pig production where ecologically appropriate.
• Promote integrated livestock enterprises.	• Encourage environmentally sustainable intensive production systems.
• Support livestock enterprise diversification.	

B. Livestock Breeding and Genetic Improvement

Priority indigenous breeds shall include cattle, sheep, goats, camels and poultry that demonstrate resilience to drought, diseases and harsh environmental conditions

The County Government shall promote:

• Artificial insemination services.	• Community breeding programmes.
• Conservation of indigenous breeds.	• Climate-adapted livestock genetics.
• Performance recording systems.	• Community breeding associations.
• Livestock registration programmes.	• Genetic improvement centres.
• Embryo transfer technologies where appropriate.	

C. Sustainable Pastoral Development

Recognizing pastoralism as a productive and sustainable livelihood system, the County Government shall:

• Protect pastoral mobility.	• Secure livestock migration corridors.
• Support negotiated grazing agreements.	• Promote community grazing plans.
• Strengthen pastoral institutions.	• Support indigenous pastoral knowledge.
• Improve drought preparedness.	• Establish livestock early warning systems.
• Strengthen peacebuilding initiatives.	• Promote conflict-sensitive resource management.

D. Rangeland Restoration and Management

Priority shall be given to degraded communal grazing areas, wildlife dispersal zones and critical livestock production landscapes. The County Government shall implement integrated rangeland restoration programmes including:

• Rotational grazing.	• Planned grazing systems.
• Grazing management plans.	• Pasture reseeding.
• Bush management.	• Invasive species control.
• Rangeland rehabilitation.	• Soil and water conservation.
• Controlled stocking rates.	• Community rangeland monitoring.

E. Livestock Nutrition and Fodder Development

The County Government shall:

• Promote commercial fodder production.	• Establish community fodder banks.
• Encourage hay production enterprises.	• Promote silage technologies.
• Improve pasture seed multiplication.	• Support fodder conservation.
• Promote drought-tolerant forage species.	• Develop strategic livestock feed reserves.
• Encourage hydroponic fodder technologies where feasible.	

F. Water Infrastructure for Livestock

Strategic investments shall include:

• Livestock water pans.	• Boreholes.
• Earth dams.	• Sand dams.
• Solar-powered water systems.	• Water troughs.
• Water harvesting infrastructure.	• Rehabilitation of livestock watering points.

• Integrated watershed management.	
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G. Animal Health and Biosecurity

Particular emphasis shall be placed on transboundary animal diseases, zoonoses and climate-sensitive livestock diseases.

The County Government shall strengthen:

• Veterinary services.	• Disease surveillance.
• Vaccination programmes.	• Mobile veterinary clinics.
• Livestock laboratories.	• Disease reporting systems.
• One Health surveillance.	• Biosecurity protocols.
• Antimicrobial stewardship.	• Emergency disease preparedness.

H. Wildlife-Livestock Integration

Recognizing the importance of wildlife conservation in Laikipia, the County Government shall:

•Promote coexistence between livestock and wildlife.	• Protect wildlife corridors.
•Support conservancy-based livestock production.	•Develop grazing agreements within conservancies where appropriate.
•Promote biodiversity-friendly livestock systems.	• Reduce human-wildlife conflict.
• Promote ecosystem service payments.	• Encourage eco-livestock certification.

I. Livestock Marketing and Value Chains

The County Government shall strengthen:

• Livestock markets.	• Auction facilities.
• Livestock identification and traceability.	• Cold chain infrastructure.
• Milk collection centres.	• Meat processing facilities.
• Leather value chains.	• Wool and fibre processing.
• Livestock cooperatives.	• Digital livestock markets.
• Export certification systems.	

J. Climate-Smart Livestock Systems

The County Government shall promote:

• Low-emission livestock production.	• Methane reduction strategies.
• Improved feed efficiency.	• Rotational grazing.
• Silvopastoral systems.	• Carbon sequestration in rangelands.
• Climate-smart livestock housing.	• Renewable energy in livestock enterprises.
• Climate risk insurance.	

3.3.5 Expected Outputs

Implementation shall result in:

•Increased livestock productivity.	• Restored rangelands.	•Improved pasture availability.
•Reduced livestock mortality.	• Increased milk and meat production.	•Enhanced resilience of pastoral communities.
• Improved livestock market access.	• Reduced land degradation.	•Increased carbon sequestration.
• Reduced livestock disease outbreaks.	•Strengthened wildlife-livestock coexistence.	•Increased household incomes.

3.3.6 Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	Baseline (2026)	Target (2032)
Rangelands under sustainable management (ha)	TBD	500,000
Community grazing plans developed	TBD	50
Pasture reseeded (ha)	TBD	100,000
Livestock vaccination coverage	TBD	90%
Functional livestock water points constructed/rehabilitated	TBD	250
Community fodder banks established	TBD	60
Milk production	TBD	+40%
Beef off-take	TBD	+30%
Livestock mortality during drought	TBD	Reduced by 50%
Livestock cooperatives strengthened	TBD	30
Households benefiting from pastoral resilience programmes	TBD	25,000

3.3.7 Lead Implementing Institutions

- Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Mechanization, Irrigation and Cooperatives
- County Directorate of Livestock Production
- County Veterinary Services
- State Department for Livestock Development.

3.3.8 Collaborating Institutions

• Community conservancies.	• Grazing associations.	• Livestock cooperatives.
• Pastoral community organizations.	• Water Resources Authority.	• National Drought Management Authority (NDMA).
• Research institutions and universities.	• Development partners.	• Civil society organizations.
• Private livestock processors.	• Financial institutions.	• Insurance providers.

3.3.9 Financing Framework

Implementation shall be financed through:

- County Government development budgets.
- Climate adaptation funds.
- Carbon market initiatives for rangeland restoration.
- Public-Private Partnerships.
- Cooperative financing.
- Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives.
- National Government livestock programmes.
- Green Climate Fund.
- Development partner grants.
- Livestock enterprise investments.
- Community cost-sharing arrangements.

3.3.10 Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Mitigation Measure
Recurrent droughts	Early warning systems, drought contingency plans, strategic fodder reserves
Livestock disease outbreaks	Strengthened surveillance, vaccination campaigns and rapid response teams
Land fragmentation	Participatory land-use planning and protection of grazing corridors
Human–wildlife	Wildlife corridor protection, community compensation mechanisms

conflict	and coexistence programmes
Invasive species	Integrated invasive species management and rangeland restoration
Limited investment	Diversified financing, PPPs and climate finance mobilization

3.3.11 Policy Outcome

By 2032, Laikipia County shall have productive, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable livestock production systems supported by healthy rangelands, secure pastoral livelihoods, improved animal health, competitive value chains and integrated wildlife-livestock landscapes that contribute to food security, economic growth and ecosystem restoration.

THEMATIC AREA 4: Agroforestry, Forestry and Integrated Landscape Restoration

3.4.1 Situation Analysis

Forests, trees and natural landscapes are fundamental to the ecological integrity, agricultural productivity and economic prosperity of Laikipia County. The County hosts diverse ecosystems, including the Mount Kenya forest ecosystem, dryland forests, riverine forests, woodlands, rangelands, wetlands, riparian corridors, commercial ranches and community conservancies. These landscapes provide critical ecosystem services including water regulation, soil protection, biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, pollination, climate regulation and livelihoods for farming and pastoral communities. This thematic area is aligned with the Kenya Forest Conservation and Management Act (2016), the National Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Strategy (2023–2032), the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), the Bonn Challenge, the FAO Agroforestry Guidelines, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) and the National Agroecology Strategy (2024–2033).

Agroforestry is already practiced by many farmers in the high- and medium-potential areas through integration of trees with crops and livestock. Common tree species include *Grevillea robusta*, *Croton megalocarpus*, *Calliandra calothyrsus*, *Sesbania sesban*, *Cordia africana*, *Markhamia lutea*, and indigenous acacias. Trees provide fuelwood, timber, fodder, fruits, medicines, shade, windbreaks and organic matter that improve soil fertility and farm resilience.

Despite these benefits, forest and tree resources continue to face pressure from agricultural expansion, illegal logging, charcoal production, unsustainable fuelwood harvesting, invasive species, encroachment into riparian areas, uncontrolled grazing, forest fires and climate change. These pressures have contributed to declining tree cover, watershed degradation, biodiversity loss and reduced ecosystem resilience.

The County Government recognizes agroforestry and landscape restoration as strategic investments that simultaneously improve agricultural productivity, restore degraded ecosystems, increase household incomes and contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

3.4.2 Policy Objective

To promote agroforestry, sustainable forest management and integrated landscape restoration in order to enhance agricultural productivity, biodiversity conservation, watershed protection, climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods.

3.4.3 Policy Statements

The County Government shall:

1. Mainstream Agroforestry into Agricultural Production Systems – Integrate trees and other perennial vegetation into crop and livestock systems to improve soil health, biodiversity, productivity and climate resilience.
2. Increase County Tree Cover – Promote tree growing and landscape restoration in support of national constitutional targets and county environmental commitments.
3. Restore Degraded Forests and Ecosystems – Prioritize restoration of degraded forests, watersheds, wetlands, riparian ecosystems and other critical landscapes.
4. Conserve Indigenous Tree Species and Forest Biodiversity – Protect, propagate and promote indigenous tree species and associated forest biodiversity.
5. Promote Sustainable Production and Utilization of Forest Products – Support sustainable harvesting, processing, value addition and marketing of timber and non-timber forest products.
6. Strengthen Community Participation in Forest and Landscape Restoration – Empower communities, local institutions and producer organizations to participate in restoration, conservation and sustainable ecosystem management.
7. Integrate Forestry, Agriculture, Livestock and Wildlife Management – Adopt integrated landscape planning approaches that balance agricultural production, livestock development, forestry, wildlife conservation and ecosystem protection.
8. Promote Climate-Resilient Tree Species and Diversified Agroforestry Systems – Encourage the use of locally appropriate, drought-tolerant and climate-resilient tree species within diversified farming systems.
9. Strengthen Forest Governance through Partnerships – Improve Forest governance, accountability and enforcement while strengthening collaboration among communities, government agencies, research institutions, private sector and development partners.
10. Promote Tree-Based Enterprises – Support commercial and community-based tree enterprises, including fruit trees, timber, medicinal plants, fodder and other non-timber forest products, to increase rural incomes and contribute to green economic growth.

3.4.4 Strategic Interventions

A. Agroforestry Development

The County Government shall promote diversified agroforestry systems that integrate trees, crops and livestock to improve productivity and ecosystem services.

Priority interventions include:

• Boundary tree planting.	• Alley cropping.	• Parkland agroforestry.
• Silvopastoral systems.	• Home gardens.	• Fruit tree production.
• Windbreak establishment.	• Shelterbelts.	• Fodder tree development.
• Nitrogen-fixing tree species.	• Tree-crop integration.	• Climate-smart agroforestry technologies.

B. Forest Conservation and Sustainable Management

The County Government shall strengthen conservation and sustainable management of public, community and private forests through:

• Forest rehabilitation.	• Assisted natural regeneration.
• Indigenous forest restoration.	• Forest fire prevention and management.
• Sustainable harvesting systems.	• Forest protection patrols.
• Participatory Forest Management (PFM).	• Community Forest Associations (CFAs).
• Biodiversity monitoring.	• Forest management planning.
• Restoration of degraded forest ecosystems.	

C. Landscape Restoration

Integrated landscape restoration shall be promoted across degraded agricultural lands, rangelands, forests and watersheds. Landscape restoration shall apply ecosystem-based approaches that enhance biodiversity, water security and climate resilience.

Priority interventions include:

• Restoration of degraded hillsides.	• Rehabilitation of gullies.
• Restoration of wetlands.	• Riparian rehabilitation.
• Grassland restoration.	• Rangeland reseeding.
• Restoration of wildlife corridors.	• Community tree planting campaigns.
• Assisted regeneration of natural vegetation.	• Restoration of degraded communal lands.

D. Watershed and Catchment Protection

Special attention shall be given to catchments feeding the Ewaso Nyiro River and other strategic river systems. The County Government shall prioritize conservation of strategic water catchments through:

• Protection of riverbanks.	• Restoration of riparian vegetation.
• Catchment rehabilitation.	• Soil erosion control.
• Spring protection.	• Wetland conservation.
• Community watershed management.	• Forest-water monitoring systems.
• Sustainable upstream land management.	• Integrated catchment planning.

E. Farm Forestry Development

The County Government shall support commercial and community-based farm forestry through:

• Production of certified tree seedlings.	• Farmer tree nurseries.
• Commercial timber production.	• Bamboo development.
• Fruit orchards.	• Fuelwood woodlots.
• Fodder banks.	• Multipurpose tree species.
• Sustainable charcoal alternatives.	• High-value indigenous timber species.

F. Indigenous Tree Conservation

Recognizing the ecological importance of indigenous tree species, the County Government shall:

• Establish indigenous tree nurseries.	• Promote on-farm conservation.
• Protect threatened tree species.	• Encourage indigenous fruit trees.
• Document indigenous knowledge.	• Strengthen seed collection programmes.
• Support restoration using native species.	• Promote culturally important tree species.

G. Urban and Peri-Urban Greening

Urban centres including Nanyuki, Rumuruti and Dol Dol shall promote:

• Urban forestry.	• Public parks.
• Green belts.	• Roadside tree planting.
• Institutional greening.	• School tree programmes.
• Urban biodiversity conservation.	• Green infrastructure development.

H. Tree-Based Enterprises

The County Government shall promote sustainable enterprises including:

• Fruit processing.	• Bamboo products.
• Honey production.	• Essential oils.
• Herbal and medicinal plants.	• Timber processing.
• Eco-tourism.	• Carbon projects.
• Tree seed enterprises.	• Nursery businesses.
• Non-timber forest products.	

I. Climate Change Mitigation through Forestry

The County Government shall strengthen climate mitigation through:

• Forest carbon projects.	• Agroforestry carbon sequestration.
• Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation compatible initiatives.	• Tree cover monitoring.
• Carbon accounting.	• Ecosystem restoration.
• Climate finance mobilization.	• Community carbon enterprises.

J. Community Participation and Environmental Stewardship

The County Government shall strengthen community participation by supporting:

• Community Forest Associations.	• Youth tree planting initiatives.
• Women's environmental groups.	• School environmental clubs.
• Conservancy partnerships.	• Faith-based environmental programmes.
• Private sector restoration partnerships.	• Community environmental education.

3.4.5 Expected Outputs

Implementation shall result in:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| • Increased county tree cover. | • Expanded agroforestry adoption. |
| • Restored degraded landscapes. | • Improved watershed protection. |
| • Enhanced biodiversity conservation. | • Increased carbon sequestration. |
| • Improved soil fertility. | • Increased household incomes from tree products. |
| • Reduced soil erosion. | • Increased resilience to climate change. |

3.4.6 Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	Baseline (2026)	Target (2032)
Farmers adopting agroforestry	TBD	70%
Tree seedlings produced annually	TBD	10 million
Degraded landscapes restored (ha)	TBD	120,000
Riparian areas rehabilitated (km)	TBD	500
Community tree nurseries established	TBD	150
Indigenous tree species propagated	TBD	100 species
Community Forest Associations supported	TBD	20
Farm forestry acreage	TBD	+60%

Forest fire incidence	TBD	Reduced by 70%
Carbon sequestration projects operational	TBD	20

3.4.7 Lead Implementing Institutions

Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Mechanization, Irrigation and Cooperatives	County Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Kenya Forest Service (KFS)	Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)
National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)	Water Resources Authority (WRA)
Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)	

3.4.8 Collaborating Institutions

Community Forest Associations (CFAs).	Conservancies.
Farmer cooperatives.	Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs).
Universities and research institutions.	Civil society organizations.
Development partners.	Faith-based organizations.
Schools and TVET institutions.	Private forestry investors.
Carbon finance organizations.	

3.4.9 Financing Framework

The County Government shall mobilize resources through:

County development budgets.	National Government forestry programmes.
National Climate Change Fund.	Green Climate Fund.
Global Environment Facility (GEF).	REDD+ and voluntary carbon markets.
Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES).	Development partner grants.
Public-Private Partnerships.	Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives.
Community contributions and cooperative investments.	

3.4.10 Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Mitigation Measure
Low tree survival rates	Promote appropriate species selection, aftercare, water harvesting and community stewardship
Forest fires	Establish community fire management plans, early warning systems and firebreaks
Illegal logging and charcoal production	Strengthen enforcement, promote alternative livelihoods and clean energy
Invasive species	Implement integrated invasive species management and restoration with indigenous species
Climate variability	Promote drought-tolerant indigenous trees and resilient agroforestry systems
Inadequate financing	Leverage climate finance, PES schemes and private-sector investment

3.4.11 Policy Outcome

By 2032, Laikipia County shall have resilient agricultural landscapes characterized by expanded agroforestry systems, restored forests and rangelands, protected watersheds, increased tree cover, enhanced biodiversity and sustainable tree-based enterprises that contribute to climate resilience, food security and inclusive green economic growth

THEMATIC AREA 5: Water Resources Management, Irrigation Development and Watershed Conservation

3.5.1 Situation Analysis

Water is a strategic resource that underpins agricultural production, livestock development, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem health, public health and socio-economic development in Laikipia County. The County's water resources comprise rivers, streams, wetlands, springs, groundwater aquifers, dams, water pans and seasonal watercourses, with the Ewaso Nyiro North River Basin serving as the principal drainage system. Key catchment areas include the Mount Kenya Forest Ecosystem, the Aberdare ecosystem, the Marmanet Forest, and numerous community-managed watersheds that sustain agriculture, pastoralism, wildlife and domestic water supply.

Despite these valuable resources, the County continues to experience increasing water stress due to climate variability, prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall, catchment degradation, deforestation, wetland encroachment, declining groundwater recharge, inefficient irrigation practices, growing water demand and competing uses among agriculture, livestock, wildlife, domestic consumers and industry. Water scarcity is particularly acute in the ASAL wards, where communities often travel long distances to access water for domestic and livestock use.

Irrigation remains underdeveloped despite significant potential. Most farmers continue to depend on unreliable rainfall, making agricultural production highly vulnerable to climate change. Existing irrigation schemes often face challenges related to ageing infrastructure, limited storage capacity, inefficient conveyance systems, inadequate operation and maintenance, high energy costs and weak farmer organizations.

The County recognizes that sustainable water management requires an integrated approach combining watershed protection, efficient irrigation technologies, groundwater management, rainwater harvesting, water governance and ecosystem restoration. Expanding climate-smart irrigation while conserving water resources is essential for increasing agricultural productivity, strengthening food security and building resilience to climate change.

3.5.2 Policy Objective

To promote sustainable and equitable management of water resources through integrated watershed management, efficient irrigation development, water harvesting and climate-resilient water governance that supports agroecological transformation, food security and ecosystem sustainability

3.5.3 Policy Statements

The County Government shall:

1. Promote Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) – Adopt IWRM as the guiding framework for sustainable water resource development, allocation, conservation and management.
2. Expand Climate-Smart Irrigation Infrastructure – Increase investment in efficient and climate-resilient irrigation systems to reduce dependence on rain-fed agriculture and strengthen food security.
3. Protect and Restore Critical Water Ecosystems – Safeguard and rehabilitate watersheds, wetlands, riparian areas, springs and groundwater recharge zones.
4. Promote Efficient Water Use and Conservation – Encourage water-efficient technologies, precision irrigation, recycling and conservation practices across agricultural value chains.
5. Strengthen Community Participation in Water Governance – Enhance the role of communities, water user associations and local institutions in water planning, allocation, conservation and conflict resolution.
6. Promote Equitable Access to Water Resources – Ensure fair and sustainable access to water for agriculture, livestock, wildlife, domestic use and other competing needs.
7. Promote Renewable Energy for Water Systems – Encourage the use of solar and other renewable energy technologies for irrigation, water pumping, treatment and supply systems.
8. Strengthen Water Quality Monitoring and Pollution Prevention – Establish effective systems for monitoring water quality and preventing agricultural, industrial and domestic pollution.
9. Promote Water Harvesting and Storage – Support household, community and commercial-scale water harvesting, storage and recharge infrastructure.
10. Strengthen Drought Preparedness and Water Security Planning – Integrate drought risk assessment, early warning systems, contingency planning and water security measures into agricultural and county development programmes.

3.5.4 Strategic Interventions

A. Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

Priority shall be given to irrigation systems that maximize water-use efficiency while minimizing environmental impacts. The County Government shall strengthen coordinated planning and sustainable management of surface water, groundwater and associated ecosystems through:

• Catchment management planning.	• River basin management.
• Groundwater assessment and monitoring.	• Water allocation planning.
• Water quality monitoring.	• Protection of environmental flows.
• Integrated watershed governance.	• Water resource information systems.
• Multi-stakeholder water forums.	• Climate-resilient water planning.

B. Irrigation Development

The County Government shall expand sustainable irrigation through:

• Development of new community irrigation schemes.	• Rehabilitation and modernization of existing schemes.
• Promotion of drip irrigation.	• Promotion of sprinkler irrigation.
• Solar-powered irrigation systems.	• Precision irrigation technologies.
• Smart irrigation scheduling.	• Irrigation water measurement systems.
• Smallholder irrigation development.	• Public-private investment in irrigation infrastructure.

C. Rainwater Harvesting and Water Storage

The County Government shall promote:

• Household rainwater harvesting systems.	• Institutional water harvesting.
• Farm ponds.	• Earth dams.
• Water pans.	• Sand dams.
• Rock catchments.	• Roof water harvesting.
• Underground water storage tanks.	• Community water reservoirs.
• These investments shall enhance water availability during dry periods and reduce vulnerability to drought.	

D. Watershed and Catchment Conservation

The County Government shall prioritize restoration and protection of strategic watersheds through:

• Riparian restoration.	• Wetland conservation.
• Forest rehabilitation.	• Spring protection.
• Soil and water conservation measures.	• Riverbank stabilization.
• Catchment rehabilitation.	• Community watershed management committees.
• Sustainable upstream land management.	• Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes.

E. Water Use Efficiency

The County Government shall promote efficient use of water through:

• Water-saving irrigation technologies.	• Irrigation scheduling based on crop water requirements.
• Soil moisture monitoring.	• Mulching and conservation agriculture.
• Water recycling and reuse where safe and appropriate.	• Leak detection and repair.
• Farmer training on water productivity.	• Efficient conveyance systems.
• Water auditing for irrigation schemes.	

F. Groundwater Management

The County Government shall strengthen sustainable groundwater management by:

• Mapping groundwater resources.	• Monitoring abstraction.
• Protecting recharge areas.	• Promoting managed aquifer recharge where feasible.
• Licensing and regulating groundwater use in collaboration with national authorities.	• Monitoring groundwater quality.
• Establishing groundwater information systems.	

G. Livestock Water Development

Recognizing the importance of livestock in Laikipia, the County Government shall invest in:

• Livestock water pans.	• Boreholes.
• Solar-powered pumping systems.	• Water troughs.
• Rehabilitation of strategic watering points.	• Water storage facilities.
• Drought contingency water infrastructure.	• Integrated livestock-water planning.

H. Water Governance

The County Government shall strengthen governance by:

• Supporting Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs).	• Establishing community water management committees.
• Promoting equitable water allocation.	• Strengthening conflict resolution mechanisms.
• Enhancing stakeholder participation.	• Strengthening compliance with water regulations.
• Building institutional capacity.	

I. Renewable Energy for Water Systems

The County Government shall promote:

• Solar-powered irrigation.	• Solar-powered boreholes.
• Solar for milk cooler.	• Solar water pumping.
• Energy-efficient pumping technologies.	• Hybrid renewable energy systems.
• Community-managed renewable water infrastructure.	

J. Climate Change Adaptation and Water Security

The County Government shall strengthen resilience through:

• Drought preparedness planning.	• Climate forecasting.
• Early warning systems.	• Water security assessments.
• Emergency water supply planning.	• Climate-resilient infrastructure design.
• Nature-based solutions for water conservation.	• Integration of water security into county disaster risk management.

3.5.5 Cross-Cutting Policy Measures

Implementation of this thematic area shall integrate:

• Gender-responsive water governance.	• Youth participation in irrigation enterprises.
• Digital water monitoring technologies.	• Climate finance for water infrastructure.
• Nature-based solutions.	• Circular water economy principles.
• One Health approaches to water quality.	• Inclusive community participation.

3.5.6 Expected Outputs

Implementation shall result in:

• Expanded irrigated agricultural land.	• Improved agricultural water productivity.
• Increased household and livestock water security.	• Restored watersheds and wetlands.
• Improved groundwater management.	• Increased adoption of water-efficient irrigation technologies.
• Enhanced resilience to drought.	• Reduced conflicts over water resources.
• Improved river and groundwater quality.	• Increased renewable energy use in irrigation.

3.5.7 Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	Baseline (2026)	Target (2032)
Additional land under irrigation (ha)	TBD	15,000
Irrigation schemes developed or rehabilitated	TBD	40
Household rainwater harvesting systems installed	TBD	20,000
Water pans and earth dams constructed/rehabilitated	TBD	300
Solar-powered irrigation systems installed	TBD	2,500
Riparian areas restored (km)	TBD	500
Watershed management plans implemented	TBD	20
Functional WRUAs strengthened	TBD	30
Average irrigation water-use efficiency	TBD	+40%
Households benefiting from improved water access	TBD	50,000

3.5.8 Lead Implementing Institutions

• Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Mechanization, Irrigation and Cooperatives.	• County Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources.
• National Irrigation Authority (NIA).	• Water Resources Authority (WRA).
• National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).	• Kenya Forest Service (KFS).
• National Drought Management Authority (NDMA).	

3.5.9 Collaborating Institutions

• Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs).	• Community Water Management Committees.
• Farmer Cooperatives.	• Conservancies.
• Universities and research institutions.	• Development partners.
• Civil society organizations.	• Private irrigation technology providers.
• Financial institutions.	• Community-based organizations.

3.5.10 Financing Framework

The County Government shall mobilize resources through:

• County Government annual budget allocations.	• National Government irrigation and water programmes.
• Equalization and conditional grants.	• Green Climate Fund (GCF).
• Adaptation Fund.	• Global Environment Facility (GEF).
• Development partner grants and concessional financing.	• Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).
• Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES).	• Water user contributions and cooperative financing.
• Carbon finance linked to watershed restoration.	

3.5.11 Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Mitigation Measure
Prolonged droughts	Expand water harvesting, storage, drought contingency planning and efficient irrigation technologies
Catchment degradation	Strengthen watershed restoration, riparian protection and enforcement of land-use regulations
High capital costs	Mobilize blended finance, climate funds, PPPs and phased infrastructure development
Water use conflicts	Strengthen WRUAs, participatory allocation, mediation mechanisms and inter-county coordination
Poor maintenance of infrastructure	Establish operation and maintenance plans, user associations and dedicated maintenance funds
Groundwater depletion	Monitor abstraction, protect recharge zones and promote managed aquifer recharge

3.5.12 Policy Outcome

By 2032, Laikipia County shall have resilient and sustainable water resource management systems characterized by protected watersheds, expanded climate-smart irrigation, improved water-use efficiency, enhanced groundwater security and equitable access to water for agriculture, livestock, ecosystems and communities. These investments will strengthen food and nutrition security, climate resilience, ecosystem integrity and inclusive green economic growth.

THEMATIC AREA 6: Biodiversity Conservation, Ecosystem Services and Sustainable Agricultural Landscapes

3.6.1 Situation Analysis

Laikipia County is one of Kenya's most biologically diverse landscapes, characterized by extensive rangelands, forests, wetlands, river systems, conservancies, agricultural lands and wildlife habitats that collectively support rich biodiversity and ecosystem services. The County hosts globally important populations of elephants, black rhinoceros, Grevy's zebra, African wild dog, lions, leopards, cheetahs, giraffes, antelopes and numerous bird, reptile and pollinator species. The coexistence of wildlife, livestock and agriculture makes Laikipia an internationally recognized model of integrated landscape management. Laikipia's landscape is Recognized for its biodiversity landscapes, hosting internationally significant wildlife populations, community conservancies, forest ecosystems, rangelands and agroecosystems. Laikipia county will focus integrating biodiversity protection with productive farming systems, pollinator conservation, ecosystem service valuation and nature-based solutions. Biodiversity is not only an environmental asset but also a foundation for agriculture, tourism, pastoralism, water security and climate resilience. This thematic area is aligned with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Kenya Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (2013), the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), the National Agroecology Strategy (2024–2033) and the FAO Agroecology Framework

Agricultural biodiversity is equally significant. Farmers cultivate a wide range of crops including cereals, legumes, horticultural crops, indigenous vegetables, fruits and forage species, while pastoral communities maintain indigenous livestock breeds adapted to semi-arid conditions. These biological resources contribute to food security, nutrition, resilience and cultural identity.

However, biodiversity is under increasing pressure from habitat fragmentation, land-use change, agricultural expansion, invasive alien species, climate change, pollution, unsustainable harvesting of natural resources, overgrazing, forest degradation and human–wildlife conflict. Pollinator populations, which are essential for many food crops, are threatened by habitat loss and indiscriminate use of pesticides. Ecosystem degradation has reduced essential services such as water regulation, soil formation, nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration and natural pest control.

The County recognizes that biodiversity conservation and agricultural production are mutually reinforcing. Agroecological systems that promote species diversity, ecological interactions and healthy

ecosystems can simultaneously increase agricultural productivity, strengthen resilience and conserve biodiversity.

3.6.2 Policy Objective

To conserve, restore and sustainably utilize biodiversity and ecosystem services through agroecological landscape management that enhances agricultural productivity, ecological resilience, climate adaptation and sustainable livelihoods.

3.6.3 Policy Statements

The County Government shall:

1. Integrate biodiversity conservation into agricultural planning, production and landscape management.
2. Protect and restore critical ecosystems, habitats and ecological corridors.
3. Promote conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity, including indigenous crops, livestock breeds and pollinators.
4. Reduce biodiversity loss arising from unsustainable agricultural practices.
5. Promote nature-based solutions for climate adaptation, ecosystem restoration and disaster risk reduction.
6. Strengthen conservation of ecosystem services that support agriculture, including pollination, soil formation, water regulation and biological pest control.
7. Promote Human–Wildlife Coexistence – Promote coexistence among agriculture, livestock and wildlife through integrated landscape management, sustainable land-use planning and conflict mitigation measures.
8. Prevent and Control Invasive Alien Species – Strengthen prevention, early detection, control and management of invasive alien species that threaten agricultural productivity, biodiversity and natural ecosystems.
9. Strengthen Community Participation and Benefit Sharing – Enhance community participation in biodiversity conservation and establish equitable mechanisms for sharing benefits derived from conservation and ecosystem services.
10. Promote Biodiversity Research, Monitoring and Awareness – Strengthen biodiversity research, ecological monitoring, environmental education and public awareness to support evidence-based conservation and sustainable resource management.

3.6.4 Strategic Interventions

A. Conservation of Agricultural Biodiversity

The County Government shall promote the conservation and sustainable utilization of crop, livestock and genetic diversity through:

• Conservation of indigenous crop varieties.	• Promotion of traditional food crops.
• Community seed banks.	• Farmer-managed seed systems.
• Conservation of indigenous livestock breeds.	• On-farm conservation of genetic resources.
• Participatory plant breeding.	• Community breeding programmes.
• Documentation of indigenous agricultural knowledge.	• Strengthening access to diverse planting materials.

B. Pollinator Conservation

Recognizing that pollinators are essential for agricultural productivity, the County Government shall:

• Protect pollinator habitats.	• Promote flowering field margins.
• Encourage establishment of pollinator corridors.	• Reduce harmful pesticide use.
• Promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM).	• Expand beekeeping enterprises.
• Restore indigenous flowering vegetation.	• Strengthen pollinator monitoring programmes.
• Promote farmer education on pollinator conservation.	

C. Wildlife–Agriculture Coexistence

The County Government shall strengthen integrated landscape management through:

• Protection of wildlife corridors.	• Conservation-compatible land-use planning.
• Community conservancy support.	• Human–wildlife conflict mitigation.
• Wildlife-friendly fencing where appropriate.	• Livestock–wildlife grazing management.
• Compensation and benefit-sharing mechanisms.	• Promotion of wildlife-compatible farming practices.
• Strengthening collaboration with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and conservancies.	

D. Ecosystem Restoration

Priority interventions shall include:

• Restoration of degraded forests.	• Rehabilitation of wetlands.
• Restoration of riparian ecosystems.	• Rangeland rehabilitation.
• Rehabilitation of degraded agricultural lands.	• Restoration of river catchments.
• Assisted natural regeneration.	• Indigenous tree planting.
• Restoration of biodiversity hotspots.	• Rehabilitation of degraded community lands.

E. Invasive Alien Species Management

The County Government shall develop integrated programmes for prevention, surveillance, control and management of invasive alien species affecting agriculture and natural ecosystems.

Strategic actions include:

• Mapping invasive species.	• Early detection and rapid response.
• Biological control where scientifically validated.	• Mechanical and ecological control methods.
• Public awareness campaigns.	• Restoration of invaded ecosystems with native species.
• Cross-county coordination for invasive species management.	• Monitoring and evaluation of invasive species control programmes.

F. Ecosystem Services Conservation

The County Government shall recognize, protect and enhance ecosystem services through:

• Watershed conservation.	• Soil conservation.
• Carbon sequestration.	• Pollination services.
• Biological pest regulation.	• Water purification.
• Flood regulation.	• Nutrient cycling.
• Landscape connectivity.	• Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes.

G. Nature-Based Solutions

Nature-based solutions shall be promoted to address climate change, land degradation and water scarcity through:

• Agroforestry.	• Wetland restoration.
• Riverbank stabilization.	• Green infrastructure.
• Regenerative agriculture.	• Silvopastoral systems.
• Urban greening.	• Floodplain restoration.
• Conservation agriculture.	• Ecosystem-based adaptation.

H. Community-Based Biodiversity Conservation

The County Government shall strengthen local stewardship through:

• Community conservancies.	• Biodiversity management committees.
• Community environmental education.	• Indigenous knowledge documentation.
• School biodiversity programmes.	• Youth conservation initiatives.
• Women's conservation groups.	• Biodiversity enterprise development.
• Participatory biodiversity monitoring.	

I. Biodiversity Research, Monitoring and Information Management

The County Government shall strengthen evidence-based biodiversity management through:

• Biodiversity inventories.	• Ecosystem mapping.
• Long-term ecological monitoring.	• GIS and remote sensing applications.
• Citizen science programmes.	• Biodiversity databases.
• Research partnerships.	• Periodic ecosystem assessments.
• Biodiversity reporting aligned with national frameworks.	

J. Biodiversity-Based Green Enterprises

The County Government shall promote sustainable enterprises that generate income while conserving biodiversity, including:

• Apiculture and bee products.	• Indigenous seed enterprises.
• Ecotourism.	• Medicinal and aromatic plants.
• Sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products.	• Native tree nurseries.
• Butterfly and pollinator enterprises.	• Nature education centres.
• Carbon and biodiversity credit initiatives where appropriate.	

3.6.5 Cross-Cutting Policy Measures

Implementation of this thematic area shall integrate:

• Climate change adaptation and mitigation.	• One Health principles.
• Gender equality and social inclusion.	• Indigenous knowledge systems.
• Environmental education.	• Digital biodiversity monitoring.
• Youth employment in conservation.	• Green financing and ecosystem service markets.

3.6.6 Expected Outputs

Implementation shall result in:

• Improved conservation of agricultural and wild biodiversity.	• Increased populations of pollinators and beneficial organisms.
• Restored ecosystems and wildlife habitats.	• Reduced impacts of invasive alien species.
• Improved ecosystem services supporting agriculture.	• Enhanced wildlife–livestock–agriculture coexistence.
• Increased community participation in conservation.	• Expanded biodiversity-based enterprises.
• Improved ecological connectivity across landscapes.	• Strengthened biodiversity monitoring and reporting.

3.6.7 Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	Baseline (2026)	Target (2032)
Critical ecosystems restored (ha)	TBD	100,000
Pollinator habitats established or restored	TBD	500
Community biodiversity conservation groups supported	TBD	100
Indigenous crop varieties conserved	TBD	150
Indigenous livestock breeding programmes established	TBD	15
Invasive alien species management plans implemented	TBD	15 wards
Wildlife corridors protected or restored (km)	TBD	300
Biodiversity inventories completed	TBD	County-wide
Community conservancies supported	TBD	All eligible conservancies
Biodiversity-based enterprises established	TBD	200

3.6.8 Lead Implementing Institutions

• Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Mechanization, Irrigation and Cooperatives.	• County Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
• Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).	• Kenya Forest Service (KFS).
• Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI).	• National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).
• Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO).	• Water Resources Authority (WRA).

3.6.9 Collaborating Institutions

- Community conservancies.
- Water Resource Users Associations.
- Universities and research institutions.
- Civil society organizations.
- Indigenous knowledge holders.
- Beekeeping associations and producer organization
- Community Forest Associations.
- Farmer cooperatives.
- National Museums of Kenya.
- Development partners.
- Private sector conservation organizations.

3.6.10 Financing Framework

Implementation shall be financed through:

- County Government budget allocations.
- Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- Biodiversity conservation trust funds.
- Biodiversity and carbon credit mechanisms, where applicable.
- Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs).
- Community investment and cooperative financing.
- National Government biodiversity and conservation programmes.
- Green Climate Fund (GCF).
- Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES).
- Development partner grants.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

3.6.11 Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Mitigation Measure
Habitat loss and fragmentation	Strengthen land-use planning, protect ecological corridors and restore degraded habitats
Human–wildlife conflict	Implement coexistence strategies, compensation mechanisms and community awareness programmes
Invasive alien species	Establish early detection, rapid response and integrated control programmes
Decline in pollinator populations	Protect pollinator habitats, promote IPM and regulate harmful pesticide use
Limited community participation	Strengthen incentives, benefit-sharing and community-led conservation governance
Insufficient financing	Mobilize biodiversity finance, climate funds, PES schemes and private-sector investment

3.6.12 Policy Outcome

By 2032, Laikipia County shall have resilient agricultural landscapes where biodiversity conservation and food production are mutually reinforcing, characterized by restored ecosystems, healthy pollinator populations, protected ecological corridors, sustainable wildlife–livestock–agriculture coexistence, thriving biodiversity-based enterprises and strengthened ecosystem services that support food security, climate resilience and inclusive green economic growth.

This thematic area provides a comprehensive framework for integrating biodiversity conservation into agroecological development while recognizing Laikipia's unique ecological assets and the need to balance conservation with sustainable agricultural production.

THEMATIC AREA 7: Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Management

3.7.1 Situation Analysis

Climate change is one of the most significant threats to sustainable agricultural development in Laikipia County. The County has experienced increasing temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, localized flooding, declining water availability, land degradation, invasive pests and diseases, and reduced agricultural productivity. These climate-related stresses disproportionately affect smallholder farmers, pastoralists, women, youth and vulnerable communities whose livelihoods depend heavily on climate-sensitive agriculture and natural resources.

Agriculture contributes to greenhouse gas emissions through livestock production, land-use change, energy use and poor land management practices. At the same time, the sector offers significant

opportunities for carbon sequestration through agroforestry, regenerative agriculture, improved rangeland management, wetland restoration and sustainable soil management.

Laikipia's diverse landscapes—including forests, rangelands, wetlands, conservancies and agricultural lands—provide important natural buffers against climate impacts. Strengthening ecosystem resilience through agroecological approaches will enhance adaptation while contributing to national and global climate mitigation commitments.

Disaster risks associated with drought, floods, wildfires, pest outbreaks, livestock diseases and crop failures continue to increase. Strengthening preparedness, early warning systems, climate information services and community resilience is therefore essential for sustainable agricultural transformation.

3.7.2 Policy Objective

To strengthen climate resilience, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance disaster preparedness through agroecological approaches that support sustainable agriculture, resilient livelihoods and healthy ecosystems.

3.7.3 Policy Statements

1. The County Government shall:
2. Mainstream Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation – Integrate climate considerations into all agricultural planning, budgeting, investment, implementation and monitoring processes.
3. Promote Climate-Resilient Agroecological Practices – Scale practices that enhance resilience to climate variability, droughts, floods, pests, diseases and other extreme weather events.
4. Strengthen Climate Risk Assessment and Information Services – Enhance climate risk assessments, early warning systems, seasonal forecasts and climate information services for farmers and other agricultural stakeholders.
5. Promote Low-Emission Agriculture and Carbon Sequestration – Support agricultural practices and technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing carbon sequestration in soils, vegetation and agricultural landscapes.
6. Strengthen Agricultural Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness – Integrate disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response, recovery and resilience-building measures into agricultural development programmes.
7. Promote Climate-Resilient Production Systems – Support climate-resilient crops, livestock, fisheries, agroforestry and integrated production systems suited to changing climatic conditions.
8. Enhance Community Climate Adaptation Capacity – Strengthen the capacity of farmers and communities through knowledge, innovation, extension, local adaptation planning and access to appropriate technologies.
9. Mobilize Climate Finance for Agroecological Transformation – Develop mechanisms to access and leverage public, private, development and international climate finance for agroecological investments.
10. Promote Renewable Energy and Resource-Efficient Technologies – Encourage renewable energy, energy-efficient technologies, water-efficient systems and other low-carbon solutions across agricultural value chains.

11. Strengthen Inter-Sectoral Coordination on Climate Resilience – Establish effective coordination among agriculture, environment, water, livestock, forestry, disaster management, research and other relevant sectors to strengthen climate resilience and disaster risk management.

3.7.4 Strategic Interventions

A. Climate Change Adaptation

The County Government shall strengthen adaptation through:

• Climate-resilient farming systems.	• Diversification of crops and livestock.
• Drought-tolerant crop varieties.	• Climate-resilient livestock breeds.
• Agroforestry expansion.	• Conservation agriculture.
• Sustainable irrigation.	• Soil moisture conservation.
• Integrated watershed management.	• Nature-based adaptation solutions.
• Priority shall be given to highly climate-vulnerable wards and communities.	

B. Climate Information Services

The County Government shall strengthen access to timely and reliable climate information by:

• Establishing localized weather advisory services.	• Supporting seasonal climate forecasting.
• Developing ward-level climate risk profiles.	• Promoting mobile-based climate advisories.
• Strengthening agrometeorological services.	• Disseminating early warning information through digital and community platforms.
• Building farmer capacity to interpret and apply climate information.	

C. Greenhouse Gas Mitigation

The County Government shall promote low-emission agricultural systems through:

• Regenerative agriculture.	• Agroforestry.
• Improved livestock feeding and manure management.	• Reduced deforestation.
• Renewable energy technologies.	• Efficient irrigation systems.
• Restoration of degraded lands.	• Sustainable biomass management.
• Climate-smart mechanization.	• Carbon sequestration monitoring.

D. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

The County Government shall strengthen disaster preparedness through:

• County agricultural drought contingency planning.	• Community disaster preparedness committees.
• Flood risk mapping.	• Wildfire prevention and response.
• Pest and disease surveillance.	• Strategic livestock feed reserves.
• Emergency seed reserves.	• Climate-resilient storage facilities.
• Contingency financing mechanisms.	

E. Climate-Resilient Agricultural Infrastructure

Priority investments shall include:

• Climate-proof irrigation infrastructure.	• Water harvesting structures.
• Flood protection works.	• Climate-resilient roads serving agricultural areas.
• Resilient livestock facilities.	• Solar-powered cold storage.
• Climate-resilient market infrastructure.	• Multi-purpose community resilience centres.

F. Climate Finance

The County Government shall establish mechanisms to mobilize and coordinate climate finance through:

• County Climate Change Fund.	• Green Climate Fund proposals.
• Adaptation Fund projects.	• Carbon finance initiatives.
• Payment for Ecosystem Services.	• Blended finance mechanisms.
• Green bonds where feasible.	• Public–Private Partnerships.
• Private investment in climate-smart agriculture.	• Agroecology fund

G. Renewable Energy for Climate Action

The County Government shall promote:

• Solar-powered irrigation.	• Biogas systems.
• Solar-powered milk cooling.	• Renewable energy for agro-processing.
• Energy-efficient drying technologies.	• Clean cooking technologies.
• Solar-powered water pumping.	• Renewable energy training programmes.

H. Climate Research and Innovation

The County Government shall strengthen:

• Climate vulnerability assessments.	• Greenhouse gas inventories for agriculture.
• Climate adaptation research.	• Digital climate monitoring.
• Climate innovation hubs.	• Farmer participatory research.
• Partnerships with universities and research institutions.	• Knowledge exchange platforms.

I. Community Resilience and Social Protection

The County Government shall strengthen resilience by:

• Supporting community adaptation planning.	• Promoting climate-resilient livelihoods.
• Expanding agricultural insurance.	• Strengthening savings and credit groups.
• Promoting livelihood diversification.	• Supporting vulnerable households during climate shocks.
• Enhancing gender-responsive adaptation programmes.	

J. Inter-County and Regional Climate Coordination

Recognizing shared ecosystems and climate risks, the County Government shall:

• Collaborate with neighbouring counties on watershed management.	• Coordinate drought preparedness.
• Share climate information.	• Harmonize transboundary natural resource management.
• Strengthen regional pest and disease surveillance.	• Promote joint ecosystem restoration programmes.

3.7.5 Cross-Cutting Policy Measures

Implementation shall integrate:

- Gender equality.
- Indigenous knowledge systems.
- Digital agriculture.
- Food and nutrition security.
- Inclusive governance.
- Youth empowerment.
- One Health.
- Biodiversity conservation.
- Green enterprise development.

3.7.6 Expected Outputs

Implementation shall result in:

Increased climate resilience of farming and pastoral communities.	Reduced agricultural losses from climate-related disasters.
Expanded adoption of climate-smart and agroecological practices.	Increased carbon sequestration.
Improved access to climate information services.	Enhanced disaster preparedness and response.
Increased investment in climate-resilient infrastructure.	Improved household adaptive capacity.
Increased access to climate finance.	Reduced greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture.

3.7.7 Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	Baseline (2026)	Target (2032)
Farmers receiving climate advisory services	TBD	80,000
Ward climate adaptation plans developed	0	15
Agricultural land under climate-smart practices (ha)	TBD	200,000
Solar-powered irrigation systems installed	TBD	2,500
Climate-resilient community water projects completed	TBD	300
Households covered by agricultural insurance	TBD	30,000
Functional early warning systems established	TBD	County-wide
Greenhouse gas emissions intensity from agriculture	Baseline to be established	Reduced by 20%
Climate finance mobilized (KES)	Baseline to be established	KES 2 billion (cumulative)
Disaster response time for emergencies	To be established	Reduced by 50%

3.7.8 Lead Implementing Institutions

Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Mechanization, Irrigation and Cooperatives.	County Department of Environment and Climate Change.
County Disaster Risk Management Unit.	National Drought Management Authority (NDMA).
Kenya Meteorological Department.	National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).

• Water Resources Authority (WRA).	• Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI).
• Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO).	

3.7.9 Collaborating Institutions

• Community-based organizations.	• Farmer cooperatives.
• Conservancies.	• Universities and research institutions.
• Civil society organizations.	• Development partners.
• Financial institutions and agricultural insurers.	• Private renewable energy companies.
• Youth and women-led organizations.	• Neighbouring county governments.

3.7.10 Financing Framework

Implementation shall be financed through:

• County Government annual budget allocations.	• County Climate Change Fund.
• National Government climate programmes.	• Green Climate Fund (GCF).
• Adaptation Fund.	• Global Environment Facility (GEF).
• Carbon finance and voluntary carbon markets.	• Development partner grants and concessional financing.
• Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs).	• Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) investments.
• Community cost-sharing and cooperative financing where appropriate.	

3.7.11 Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Mitigation Measure
Increasing frequency and severity of droughts	Strengthen drought preparedness, diversify livelihoods, expand water harvesting and climate-resilient agriculture
Limited uptake of climate-resilient technologies	Enhance extension services, demonstration farms and financial incentives
Inadequate climate finance	Develop bankable projects, strengthen resource mobilization and leverage blended finance
Weak institutional coordination	Establish interdepartmental climate coordination mechanisms and regular joint planning
Climate information not reaching farmers	Expand digital platforms, radio programmes and community extension networks

Emerging pests and diseases	Strengthen surveillance, early warning systems and rapid response capacity
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3.7.12 Policy Outcome

By 2032, Laikipia County shall have climate-resilient agricultural and food systems that are capable of adapting to climate variability, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, minimizing disaster risks and safeguarding livelihoods through integrated agroecological practices, resilient infrastructure, effective climate governance and sustainable financing.

THEMATIC AREA 8: Food and Nutrition Security, Healthy Diets and Sustainable Food Systems

3.8.1 Situation Analysis

Food and nutrition security remains a strategic priority for Laikipia County despite its considerable agricultural potential. Agriculture provides the primary source of food and income for most households, yet climate variability, declining natural resources, post-harvest losses, poverty, market instability and changing dietary patterns continue to undermine access to adequate, safe and nutritious food. Food and Nutrition Security, Healthy Diets and Sustainable Food Systems, will focus on transforming food systems to ensure that increased agricultural production translates into improved nutrition, public health and household food security across all fifteen wards of Laikipia County. This chapter aligns with the Constitution of Kenya (Article 43(1)(c)), the Food and Nutrition Security Policy (2011), the National Agroecology Strategy (2024–2033), the Kenya Health Policy (2014–2030), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2 and 3), the African Union Malabo Declaration, and the FAO Framework for Sustainable Food Systems.

The County exhibits considerable diversity in food production systems. The high-potential wards produce cereals, potatoes, vegetables, dairy products and fruits, while the ASAL wards depend largely on livestock, drought-tolerant cereals, legumes and indigenous food resources. Although food is produced in many parts of the County, seasonal shortages, unequal food distribution and limited dietary diversity contribute to persistent food and nutrition insecurity among vulnerable households.

Malnutrition remains a concern, particularly among children under five years, pregnant and lactating women, older persons and vulnerable populations. Micronutrient deficiencies, child stunting, wasting and the increasing prevalence of overweight and diet-related non-communicable diseases highlight the need for integrated food systems that promote both food availability and healthy diets.

Food losses occur throughout the value chain due to inadequate harvesting practices, poor storage facilities, weak cold-chain systems, limited processing capacity and inefficient marketing. Traditional and indigenous foods that are rich in nutrients are increasingly being replaced by less diverse diets, resulting in erosion of indigenous food knowledge and dietary diversity.

Agroecology provides an opportunity to transform food systems by promoting diversified production, local food markets, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, indigenous crops, resilient livestock systems, sustainable fisheries, agro-processing and equitable access to nutritious foods. Strengthening local food

systems will improve household resilience, enhance nutrition and stimulate inclusive economic development.

By 2032, Laikipia County shall have resilient, inclusive and nutrition-sensitive food systems that ensure year-round access to safe, affordable and nutritious food for all residents, reduce malnutrition in all its forms, strengthen local food economies, minimize food loss and waste, and enhance resilience to climate, economic and public health shocks through agroecological approaches.

3.8.2 Policy Objective

To achieve sustainable food and nutrition security through diversified agroecological food systems that ensure the availability, accessibility, affordability, safety and utilization of nutritious food for all residents of Laikipia County.

3.8.3 Policy Statements

The County Government shall:

Promote food and nutrition security as a fundamental objective of agroecological development.

- Mainstream nutrition-sensitive agriculture into all agricultural programmes and investments.
- Promote diversified food production systems that improve dietary diversity and household resilience.
- Support conservation and utilization of indigenous and underutilized food crops, livestock breeds and aquatic resources.
- Reduce food loss and waste throughout agricultural value chains.
- Strengthen food safety and quality assurance systems.
- Promote local food markets and short food supply chains.
- Improve access to nutritious food for vulnerable populations.
- Strengthen community nutrition education and behaviour change communication.
- Promote resilient local food systems capable of withstanding climate and economic shocks.

3.8.4 Strategic Interventions

A. Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture

The County Government shall integrate nutrition objectives into agricultural planning by promoting:

• Diversified farming systems.	• Nutrition-sensitive extension services.	• Household kitchen gardens.
• School gardens.	• Fruit tree production.	• Indigenous vegetables.

• Biofortified crops where appropriate.	• Small livestock and poultry.	• Aquaculture.
• Dairy development.	• Integrated crop–livestock systems.	• Nutrition indicators shall be incorporated into agricultural programme monitoring and evaluation.

B. Diversified Food Production Systems

The County Government shall promote diversified production through:

• Cereals and legumes.	• Horticultural crops.	• Fruits.
• Indigenous vegetables.	• Roots and tubers.	• Oilseed crops.
• Livestock.	• Poultry.	• Fisheries and aquaculture.
• Apiculture.	• Agroforestry food products.	• Priority shall be given to climate-resilient and nutrient-dense food systems adapted to each agroecological zone.

C. Indigenous Foods and Traditional Knowledge

The County Government shall conserve and promote indigenous food systems by:

• Documenting traditional food knowledge.	• Promoting indigenous vegetables.
• Conserving indigenous fruit trees.	• Supporting traditional livestock breeds.
• Promoting traditional food processing methods that meet food safety standards.	• Supporting indigenous seed systems.
• Organizing indigenous food fairs and exhibitions.	• Integrating indigenous foods into school and institutional feeding programmes where feasible.

D. Household Food Security

The County Government shall strengthen household resilience through:

• Climate-resilient food production.	• Home gardens.
• Water harvesting.	• Livestock diversification.
• Community seed banks.	• Food storage technologies.
• Nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes.	• Farmer savings groups.
• Income diversification.	

E. Food Safety and Quality Assurance

The County Government shall strengthen food safety systems through:

• Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).	• Good Hygienic Practices (GHP).
• Food safety inspections.	• Safe pesticide use.
• Post-harvest handling standards.	• Food quality testing.
• Traceability systems.	• Public awareness on food safety.
• Strengthened market surveillance.	

F. Post-Harvest Management

The County Government shall reduce food losses by promoting:

• Improved harvesting technologies.	• Hermetic storage systems.
• Solar drying technologies.	• Cold storage facilities.
• Packhouses.	• Milk cooling centres.
• Grain aggregation centres.	• Community warehouses.
• Post-harvest mechanization.	• Farmer training on post-harvest management.

G. Local Food Markets and Territorial Food Systems

The County Government shall strengthen resilient local food systems through:

• Farmers' markets.	• Local procurement programmes.
• Cooperative marketing.	• Community aggregation centres.
• Digital marketing platforms.	• Urban and peri-urban agriculture.
• Farm-to-school initiatives.	• Institutional procurement from local farmers.

H. Nutrition Education and Behavior Change

The County Government shall strengthen public awareness through:

• Community nutrition campaigns.	• School nutrition programmes.
• Maternal and child nutrition education.	• Healthy diet promotion.
• Food preparation demonstrations.	• Community health volunteers.
• Media campaigns.	• Nutrition-sensitive extension.

I. Emergency Food and Nutrition Preparedness

The County Government shall strengthen resilience through:

• Strategic food reserves.	• Emergency seed reserves.
• Livestock feed reserves.	• Nutrition surveillance.
• Early warning systems.	• Drought contingency planning.
• Emergency response coordination.	• Community resilience planning.

J. Food System Governance

The County Government shall strengthen coordination through:

• County Food and Nutrition Security Steering Committee.	• Multi-sectoral planning.
• Integrated food systems monitoring.	• Community participation.
• Food systems data management.	• Policy harmonization.
• Private sector engagement.	• Research partnerships.

3.8.5 Cross-Cutting Policy Measures

Implementation shall integrate:

- Gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Indigenous knowledge systems.
- Biodiversity conservation.
- Digital agriculture.
- Social protection for vulnerable households.
- Youth participation in food enterprises.
- Climate change adaptation.
- One Health approaches.
- Circular bioeconomy.

3.8.6 Expected Outputs

Implementation shall result in:

• Increased household food security.	• Improved dietary diversity.
• Reduced child malnutrition.	• Increased production and consumption of indigenous foods.
• Reduced post-harvest losses.	• Expanded local food markets.
• Improved food safety compliance.	• Increased household resilience to food shocks.

•Strengthened community nutrition knowledge.	• Enhanced integration of agriculture and nutrition policies.
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3.8.7 Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	Baseline (2026)	Target (2032)
Households classified as food secure	To be established	Increase by 40%
Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)	To be established	Increase by 30%
Children under five who are stunted	To be established	Reduce by 30%
Households with kitchen gardens	To be established	50,000
Schools with nutrition gardens	To be established	250
Post-harvest losses for priority crops	To be established	Reduce by 50%
Functional community food aggregation centres	To be established	30
Farmers trained in nutrition-sensitive agriculture	To be established	60,000
Indigenous food enterprises supported	To be established	300
Institutional procurement from local producers	To be established	50% of eligible county institutions

3.8.8 Lead Implementing Institutions

• Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Mechanization, Irrigation and Cooperatives.	• County Department of Health Services.
• County Department of Education.	• County Department of Trade, Cooperatives and Enterprise Development.
• National Ministry responsible for Agriculture.	• National Ministry responsible for Health.
• Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO).	• Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS).

3.8.9 Collaborating Institutions

Farmer cooperatives and producer organizations.	Community health volunteers.
Schools and Early Childhood Development Centres.	Universities and research institutions.
Civil society organizations.	Faith-based organizations.
Development partners.	Private food processors and retailers.

Women's and youth organizations.	Nutrition professional associations.
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3.8.10 Financing Framework

Implementation shall be financed through:

County Government budget allocations.	National Government food and nutrition programmes.
Equalization and conditional grants.	Development partner support.
Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund projects supporting resilient food systems.	Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs).
Cooperative investment.	Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.
Community contributions for locally managed food security projects.	

3.8.11 Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Mitigation Measure
Recurrent droughts and climate shocks	Promote diversified production, irrigation, water harvesting and strategic food reserves
Poor dietary practices	Expand nutrition education, behaviour change communication and school nutrition programmes
High post-harvest losses	Invest in storage, cold chains, processing facilities and farmer training
Food price volatility	Strengthen local markets, farmer cooperatives and market information systems
Weak inter-sectoral coordination	Establish a County Food and Nutrition Security Steering Committee with clear mandates and reporting mechanisms
Limited funding	Mainstream nutrition into sector budgets and mobilize donor, private-sector and climate finance

THEMATIC AREA 9: Agricultural Markets, Cooperatives, Value Addition and Agro-processing

3.9.1 Situation Analysis

Agriculture is the backbone of Laikipia County's economy, supporting thousands of households engaged in crop production, livestock keeping, apiculture, fisheries and agroforestry. However, much of the County's agricultural output is marketed as raw produce with limited processing and value addition. This constrains farmer incomes, reduces employment opportunities and limits the County's competitiveness in domestic, regional and international markets. This Thematic Area will provide the policy framework for transforming agricultural production into competitive, market-driven and value-added enterprises that create employment, increase farmer incomes and stimulate inclusive green economic growth.

provides the economic transformation pillar of the Laikipia County Agroecology Policy. While agroecology promotes sustainable production, long-term adoption depends on whether farmers and pastoralists can generate profitable incomes, access markets, reduce post-harvest losses and participate competitively in value chains. This chapter is aligned with the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS 2019–2029), the Kenya Cooperative Policy, the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), the National Agroecology Strategy (2024–2033), the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) framework and FAO guidance on sustainable value chains.

Most smallholder farmers face challenges including fragmented production, weak bargaining power, inadequate aggregation systems, limited access to quality market information, poor rural infrastructure, insufficient cold-chain facilities, inadequate packaging and branding, high transportation costs, limited compliance with food safety and quality standards, and restricted access to affordable finance. Cooperatives and farmer producer organizations remain uneven in performance, with varying levels of governance, capitalization and business management capacity.

The County possesses significant opportunities for agro-processing based on dairy, beef, sheep and goat products, poultry, honey, cereals, pulses, potatoes, horticultural crops, pyrethrum, medicinal plants, indigenous foods and forest products. Strengthening agroecological value chains through value addition, market development, cooperative enterprises and inclusive agribusiness will increase incomes, create employment, reduce food loss and stimulate green economic growth.

The County Government recognizes that competitive, inclusive and environmentally sustainable agricultural markets are essential for achieving the objectives of agroecological transformation.

3.9.2 Policy Objective

To develop competitive, inclusive and sustainable agricultural markets, strengthen farmer organizations, promote value addition and agro-processing, and increase incomes and employment through agroecological value chains.

3.9.3 Policy Statements

The County Government shall:

- Promote market-oriented agroecological production while maintaining environmental sustainability.
- Strengthen farmer cooperatives, producer organizations and aggregation centres.
- Promote value addition and agro-processing for priority agricultural commodities.
- Improve market access through infrastructure, digital platforms and market intelligence.
- Promote compliance with food safety, quality and traceability standards.
- Strengthen inclusive participation of women, youth and marginalized groups in agricultural enterprises.
- Encourage private sector investment in agro-processing and agricultural value chains.
- Promote local procurement and regional trade in agroecological products.
- Support innovation, branding and certification of sustainably produced products.
- Facilitate access to affordable finance, insurance and investment for agricultural enterprises.

3.9.4 Strategic Interventions

A. Agricultural Market Development

The County Government shall strengthen agricultural markets through:

• Modernization of produce markets.	• Market information systems.
• Digital marketing platforms.	• Commodity aggregation centres.
• Rural collection centres.	• Market infrastructure improvement.
• Market linkage forums.	• Export market promotion.
• Contract farming frameworks.	• Regional and cross-border market development.
• Priority attention shall be given to linking producers with institutional buyers, processors, supermarkets and export markets.	

B. Strengthening Cooperatives and Producer Organizations

The County Government shall strengthen farmer institutions through:

• Cooperative governance reforms.	• Business management training.
• Financial management systems.	• Cooperative digitization.
• Membership expansion.	• Cooperative capitalization.
• Collective marketing.	• Bulk procurement of farm inputs.

• Business planning.	• Youth and women-led cooperatives.
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Special support shall be provided to dairy, livestock, potato, horticulture, pyrethrum, apiculture and indigenous seed cooperatives.

C. Agro-processing and Value Addition

The County Government shall promote investment in:

• Dairy processing.	• Meat processing.	• Leather and hides industries.
• Honey processing.	• Potato processing.	• Cereal milling.
• Oilseed processing.	• Fruit processing.	• Vegetable processing.
• Medicinal and herbal products.	• Pyrethrum processing.	• Essential oils.
• Bamboo products.	• Indigenous food products.	• Processing facilities shall prioritize energy efficiency, food safety and environmentally sustainable technologies.

D. Post-Harvest Infrastructure

The County Government shall invest in:

• Cold storage facilities.	• Milk cooling centres.
• Grain warehouses.	• Packhouses.
• Collection centres.	• Refrigerated transport.
• Commodity drying facilities.	• Community processing centres.
• Warehouse receipt systems.	• Quality testing laboratories.

E. Agricultural Quality Assurance and Certification

The County Government shall strengthen:

• Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).	• Organic certification.
• Agroecology certification mechanisms.	• Food safety standards.
• Traceability systems.	• Laboratory services.
• Product grading.	• Packaging standards.
• Branding.	• Geographic indication opportunities for unique county products

F. Enterprise Development and Agribusiness

The County Government shall support:

• Agribusiness incubation.	• Enterprise development services.
• Business mentorship.	• Investment promotion.
• Agribusiness innovation hubs.	• Start-up financing.
• Youth agripreneurship.	• Women-owned enterprises.
• Green enterprise development.	• Public-private business partnerships.

G. Agricultural Finance and Investment

The County Government shall facilitate access to:

• Affordable agricultural credit.	• Cooperative financing.
• Agricultural insurance.	• Climate finance.
• Green investment funds.	• Blended finance.
• Revolving loan funds.	• Venture capital for agribusiness.
• Public-private investment partnerships.	

H. Market Infrastructure

Priority investments shall include:

• Rural access roads serving production areas.	• Modern livestock markets.
• Auction yards.	• Fish markets.
• Wholesale produce markets.	• Digital trading centres.
• Storage facilities.	• Market sanitation infrastructure.
• Renewable energy systems for market facilities.	

I. Branding and Promotion of Laikipia Agroecological Products

The County Government shall promote:

• "Laikipia Agroecology" product branding.	• Sustainable production labels.
• Eco-certification.	• County trade fairs.
• National and international exhibitions.	• Tourism-agriculture linkages.
• Indigenous product promotion.	• Digital marketing campaigns.
• Export promotion strategies.	

J. Regional and International Trade

The County Government shall facilitate:

• Cross-county trade coordination.	• Compliance with national and international market standards.
• Participation in AfCFTA opportunities.	• Export readiness programmes.
• Trade missions.	• Investment forums.
• Public-private export partnerships.	• Regional commodity value chains.

3.9.5 Cross-Cutting Policy Measures

Implementation shall integrate:

- Gender-responsive enterprise development.
- Digital transformation.
- Renewable energy.
- Inclusive financing.
- Environmental compliance.
- Youth employment and entrepreneurship.
- Climate-smart agro-processing.
- Circular economy approaches.
- Innovation and research.

3.9.6 Expected Outputs

Implementation shall result in:

• Increased value addition to agricultural products.	• Higher farmer incomes.
• Stronger cooperatives and producer organizations.	• Reduced post-harvest losses.
• Expanded agro-processing industries.	• Increased agricultural exports.
• Improved market access.	• Enhanced food safety compliance.
• Increased employment opportunities.	• Stronger private-sector investment in agriculture.

3.9.7 Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	Baseline (2026)	Target (2032)
Functional farmer cooperatives strengthened	To be established	100
Commodity aggregation centres established	To be established	30
New agro-processing enterprises established	To be established	100
Agricultural products undergoing value	To be established	60%

addition		
Post-harvest losses for priority value chains	To be established	Reduced by 50%
Farmers accessing digital market platforms	To be established	75,000
Agricultural enterprises accessing finance	To be established	15,000
Agroecological products certified and branded	To be established	500 enterprises
Jobs created through agro-processing	To be established	20,000
Increase in average household agricultural income	To be established	50%

3.9.8 Lead Implementing Institutions

Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Mechanization, Irrigation and Cooperatives.	County Department of Trade, Cooperatives and Enterprise Development.
Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS).	Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS).
Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI).	Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI).
Export Promotion and Branding Agency (EPZA).	

3.9.9 Collaborating Institutions

Farmer cooperatives and producer organizations.	Financial institutions and SACCOs.
Private agro-processors.	Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA).
Universities and TVET institutions.	Development partners.
Civil society organizations.	Youth and women enterprise groups.
County Investment Promotion Unit.	

3.9.10 Financing Framework

Implementation shall be financed through:

County Government development budgets.	National Government programmes.
Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs).	Cooperative equity and member contributions.
Commercial banks and agricultural finance institutions.	Development finance institutions.

• Climate finance for green agro-processing.	• Development partner grants and concessional loans.
• Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) investments.	• Impact investment and blended finance mechanisms.

3.9.11 Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Mitigation Measure
Price volatility	Promote contract farming, market diversification, commodity aggregation and market information systems
Weak cooperative governance	Strengthen governance training, audits and performance monitoring
Limited processing infrastructure	Incentivize private investment, develop PPPs and establish shared processing facilities
Limited access to finance	Expand guarantee schemes, blended finance and tailored agricultural credit products
Failure to meet quality standards	Strengthen extension, certification, laboratory services and traceability systems
High energy costs	Promote renewable energy technologies and energy-efficient processing equipment

3.9.12 Policy Outcome

By 2032, Laikipia County shall have competitive, inclusive and environmentally sustainable agricultural markets characterized by strong farmer cooperatives, modern aggregation systems, thriving agro-processing industries, increased value addition, enhanced market access, higher household incomes and expanded employment opportunities. Agroecological products from Laikipia will be recognized for their quality, sustainability and market competitiveness at county, national, regional and international levels.

THEMATIC AREA 10: Research, Innovation, Extension Services, Digital Agriculture and Knowledge Management

3.10.1 Situation Analysis

The successful transition to agroecology depends on the generation, dissemination and application of knowledge, innovation and appropriate technologies. In Laikipia County, agricultural research institutions, universities, extension services, development partners, private sector actors and farming communities have generated valuable knowledge and technologies that support sustainable agricultural production. However, access to research findings, extension services and innovation remains uneven across the County.

This thematic area provides the economic engine for agroecological transformation. The next chapter. A modern agroecology policy must be driven by science, innovation, indigenous knowledge and digital transformation. This thematic area aligns with the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Act (2013), the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS 2019–2029), the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), the National Agroecology Strategy (2024–2033), the FAO Agroecology Knowledge Hub, the CGIAR Innovation Framework, and the African Union Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024).

The ratio of agricultural extension officers to farmers remains low, limiting timely advisory services and reducing adoption of improved agroecological practices. Many smallholder farmers, pastoralists and youth have limited access to digital information, climate advisories, market intelligence and technical support. In addition, research findings are often not translated into practical solutions for farmers, while indigenous knowledge systems remain under-documented and underutilized.

Rapid advances in digital technologies—including mobile applications, artificial intelligence (AI), geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, drones, precision agriculture, Internet of Things (IoT) devices and digital financial services—provide new opportunities to improve agricultural productivity, natural resource management and market access. Integrating these technologies with participatory research, farmer field schools and indigenous knowledge systems will accelerate agroecological transformation.

The County Government recognizes that a strong agricultural knowledge and innovation system is essential for evidence-based policymaking, continuous learning and sustainable agricultural development.

3.10.2 Policy Objective

To strengthen agricultural research, innovation, extension services, digital transformation and knowledge management in order to accelerate the adoption of agroecological practices, improve productivity and support evidence-based decision-making.

3.10.3 Policy Statements

The County Government shall:

- Strengthen an integrated Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) that links research, extension, education, farmers and the private sector.
- Promote participatory and demand-driven agricultural research addressing county priorities.
- Modernize agricultural extension services through digital technologies and farmer-centred approaches.
- Strengthen documentation, protection and application of indigenous and local knowledge.
- Promote digital agriculture, precision farming and climate information services.
- Establish county agricultural information and knowledge management systems.
- Encourage innovation, entrepreneurship and technology commercialization in agriculture.
- Strengthen partnerships among research institutions, universities, development partners and farming communities.
- Promote open access to agricultural information while respecting intellectual property rights.
- Strengthen monitoring, evaluation, learning and adaptive management within agroecology programmes.

3.10.4 Strategic Interventions

A. Agricultural Research and Technology Development

The County Government shall support research on:

• Agroecological production systems.	• Climate-resilient crops and livestock.	• Soil health restoration.
• Organic nutrient management.	• Biological pest and disease management.	• Water-efficient farming systems.
• Indigenous crops and livestock.	• Sustainable rangeland management.	• Agroforestry technologies.
• Renewable energy applications in agriculture.	• Circular bioeconomy innovations.	• Research priorities shall be reviewed periodically in consultation with farmers, researchers and the private sector.

B. Strengthening Agricultural Extension Services

The County Government shall modernize extension services through:

• Recruitment and continuous professional development of extension officers.	• Ward-based extension service delivery.
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• Farmer Field Schools (FFS).	• Farmer demonstration plots.
• Farmer learning exchanges.	• Community-based extension volunteers.
• Digital extension platforms.	• Mobile advisory services.
• Radio and community media programmes.	• Public-private extension partnerships.
• Extension shall promote participatory learning, farmer innovation and inclusion of women, youth and pastoral communities.	

C. Farmer Field Schools and Participatory Learning

The County Government shall establish and strengthen Farmer Field Schools as centres for experiential learning, innovation and knowledge exchange by:

• Establishing demonstration farms in all wards.	• Supporting farmer-led experimentation.
• Facilitating peer-to-peer learning.	• Organizing exchange visits.
• Promoting participatory technology development.	• Strengthening community innovation platforms.

D. Digital Agriculture and Precision Farming

The County Government shall promote the adoption of digital technologies including:

• Mobile-based extension applications.	• Artificial intelligence (AI)-supported advisory systems.	• Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
• Remote sensing.	• Drone technologies for crop and rangeland monitoring.	• Precision irrigation systems.
• Soil sensors.	• Weather stations.	• Livestock identification and traceability systems.
• Digital farm records.	• E-commerce platforms for agricultural products.	• Priority shall be given to affordable and user-friendly technologies accessible to smallholder farmers and pastoralists.

E. Indigenous Knowledge Systems

Recognizing the value of indigenous knowledge, the County Government shall:

• Document traditional farming practices.	• Promote indigenous weather forecasting.
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• Support traditional seed conservation.	• Preserve indigenous livestock management practices.
• Integrate indigenous knowledge with scientific research.	• Protect community intellectual property rights.
• Promote intergenerational knowledge transfer.	

F. Agricultural Data, Knowledge Management and Decision Support

The County Government shall establish an integrated Agricultural Information and Knowledge Management System (AIKMS) to:

• Collect agricultural production data.	• Monitor natural resource conditions.
• Track climate information.	• Maintain digital farmer registries.
• Develop GIS-based agricultural maps.	• Support policy planning and budgeting.
• Generate annual agricultural statistics.	• Provide open-access agricultural information where appropriate.

G. Agricultural Innovation and Enterprise Development

The County Government shall promote innovation through:

• Agribusiness incubation centres.	• Innovation grants.
• Start-up competitions.	• Youth innovation programmes.
• Technology commercialization.	• Innovation hubs.
• Public-private innovation partnerships.	• Research commercialization platforms.

H. Partnerships and Collaboration

The County Government shall strengthen collaboration with:

• Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO).	• Universities and TVET institutions.
• Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI).	• Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (where relevant).
• International research organizations.	• CGIAR centres.
• Civil society organizations.	• Development partners.
• Farmer organizations.	• Private technology companies.

I. Capacity Building and Human Resource Development

The County Government shall strengthen technical capacity through:

• Continuous training of extension officers.	• Scholarships and professional development.
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• Farmer training programmes.	• Youth skills development.
• Gender-responsive training.	• Digital literacy programmes.
• Leadership development for farmer organizations.	

J. Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Adaptive Management

The County Government shall establish a robust Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Adaptive Management (MELAM) system by:

• Conducting annual performance reviews.	• Publishing agroecology progress reports.
• Undertaking impact evaluations.	• Supporting learning forums.
• Promoting adaptive management based on evidence.	• Facilitating policy reviews informed by monitoring results.

3.10.5 Cross-Cutting Policy Measures

Implementation shall integrate:

- Climate-smart agriculture.
- Youth innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Digital transformation.
- One Health.
- Open science and innovation.
- Gender equality and social inclusion.
- Indigenous knowledge.
- Biodiversity conservation.
- Circular bioeconomy.

3.10.6 Expected Outputs

Implementation shall result in:

• A strengthened county agricultural research and innovation system.	• Increased farmer access to quality extension services.
• Expanded use of digital agriculture technologies.	• Improved documentation and use of indigenous knowledge.
• Enhanced research–policy–practice linkages.	• Increased adoption of agroecological innovations.
• Better agricultural data for planning and decision-making.	• Improved technical capacity of extension personnel and farmers.
• Increased youth participation in agricultural innovation.	• A culture of continuous learning and adaptive management.

3.10.7 Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	Baseline (2026)	Target (2032)
Functional Farmer Field Schools established	To be established	150
Farmers receiving extension services annually	To be established	100,000
Extension officers trained in agroecology	To be established	100%
Digital agriculture users registered	To be established	80,000
Demonstration farms established	To be established	60
Agricultural innovations piloted and scaled	To be established	100
Indigenous knowledge documentation initiatives completed	To be established	15
Annual agricultural data reports published	To be established	7
Research partnerships formalized	To be established	20
Farmers adopting recommended agroecological technologies	To be established	70%

3.10.8 Lead Implementing Institutions

Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Mechanization, Irrigation and Cooperatives.	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO).
County Agricultural Training Centres.	Universities and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions.
Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI).	Kenya Meteorological Department.

3.10.9 Collaborating Institutions

Farmer organizations and cooperatives.	Community-based organizations.
Civil society organizations.	Development partners.
CGIAR research centres.	ICT companies and agri-tech innovators.
Financial institutions.	Youth innovation hubs.
Private agricultural service providers.	

3.10.10 Financing Framework

Implementation shall be financed through:

County Government budget allocations.	National Government research and extension programmes.
Competitive research grants.	Development partner support.
Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs).	Innovation challenge funds.

• Climate finance supporting digital and climate-smart agriculture.	• University and research institution partnerships.
• Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.	

3.10.11 Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Mitigation Measure
Inadequate extension staffing	Recruit additional officers, strengthen community extension models and leverage digital advisory services
Low digital literacy	Provide digital skills training and develop user-friendly multilingual platforms
Limited research funding	Diversify funding sources, establish research partnerships and pursue competitive grants
Weak adoption of innovations	Promote participatory research, demonstration farms and farmer-to-farmer learning
Poor coordination among research institutions	Establish a County Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Platform with regular coordination meetings
Data quality and interoperability challenges	Adopt standardized data collection tools, strengthen GIS systems and establish data governance protocols

3.10.12 Policy Outcome

By 2032, Laikipia County shall have a dynamic, inclusive and technology-enabled Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System that delivers responsive research, modern extension services, robust digital agriculture solutions, strong research–farmer partnerships and evidence-based policymaking. Farmers, pastoralists and agribusinesses will have timely access to knowledge, technologies and innovation that improve productivity, resilience, profitability and environmental sustainability, positioning Laikipia as a national leader in agroecological innovation.

THEMATIC AREA 11: Institutional Governance, Partnerships, Coordination and Resource Mobilization

3.11.1 Situation Analysis

Implementation of agroecology requires coordinated action across multiple sectors, including agriculture, livestock, irrigation, environment, forestry, water, trade, cooperatives, health, education, finance, lands, climate change and county planning. In Laikipia County, these sectors often operate independently, leading to duplication of effort, fragmented investments and reduced impact. This section provides the institutional foundation required for successful implementation of the Laikipia County Agroecology Policy. International experience shows that many agricultural policies fail not because of weak technical content, but because of weak governance, fragmented institutional coordination, inadequate financing, poor accountability and insufficient stakeholder participation. This thematic area therefore establishes the governance architecture needed to implement the Policy effectively. It aligns with the Constitution of Kenya (2010), the County Governments Act (2012), the Public Finance Management Act (2012), the Intergovernmental Relations Act (2012), the National Agroecology Strategy (2024–2033) and FAO guidance on governance of sustainable food systems

Numerous development partners, research institutions, private sector organizations, farmer organizations, conservancies, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations and national government agencies are implementing programmes that contribute to agroecological development. However, coordination mechanisms remain inadequate, limiting opportunities for synergy, joint planning, knowledge sharing and resource mobilization.

Implementation is also constrained by inadequate financing, weak institutional capacities, insufficient monitoring systems and limited policy integration. Sustainable financing mechanisms are needed to complement county budget allocations and leverage national government resources, climate finance, private investment and development partner support.

The County Government recognizes that successful implementation of this Policy requires strong institutions, inclusive governance, strategic partnerships, effective coordination mechanisms and diversified financing.

3.11.2 Policy Objective

To establish effective governance, institutional coordination, partnerships and sustainable financing mechanisms that support efficient implementation, accountability and long-term sustainability of the Laikipia County Agroecology Policy.

3.11.3 Policy Statements

The County Government shall:

1. Establish effective institutional arrangements for coordinating agroecology across all relevant sectors.

2. Promote whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to agroecological transformation.
3. Strengthen partnerships with national government, research institutions, development partners, civil society and the private sector.
4. Mobilize adequate financial resources for implementation of agroecology programmes.
5. Promote transparency, accountability and evidence-based decision-making.
6. Strengthen participation of farmers, pastoralists, women, youth, indigenous communities and vulnerable groups in policy implementation.
7. Promote Inter-County and Regional Collaboration – Strengthen cooperation among counties and neighbouring jurisdictions in managing shared agroecological resources, ecosystems, markets and cross-border challenges.
8. Strengthen Institutional Capacity – Enhance the technical, financial, human resource and operational capacity of institutions at county, sub-county and ward levels to effectively implement the Agroecology Policy.
9. Promote Policy and Legislative Coherence – Ensure alignment and consistency across county legislation, policies, strategies, programmes, budgets and development plans relating to agriculture, environment, climate change, water, livestock, forestry and natural resource management.
10. Establish Effective Monitoring, Reporting and Accountability Mechanisms – Develop robust systems for tracking implementation, measuring results, reporting progress and ensuring accountability among responsible institutions and stakeholders.

3.11.4 Institutional Framework

A. County Executive Committee

The County Executive Committee shall provide overall policy direction, approve strategic priorities, mobilize resources and ensure integration of agroecology into county development planning and budgeting.

B. Directorate of Agroecology, Policy, Value Chain, and Strategic Partnership

The Department shall serve as the lead implementing agency and shall:

• Coordinate implementation of the Policy.	• Prepare annual work plans and budgets.
• Coordinate stakeholder engagement.	• Mobilize technical and financial resources.
• Lead monitoring and reporting.	• Integrate agroecology into agricultural programmes.
• Facilitate county and national collaboration.	

C. County Agroecology Steering Committee

The County Government shall establish a County Agroecology Steering Committee (CASC) to provide strategic oversight.

The Committee shall comprise representatives from:

• Agriculture.	• Livestock.	• Irrigation.
• Environment.	• Water.	• Forestry.
• Health.	• Trade.	• Cooperatives.
• Education.	• Lands.	• Finance.
• County Assembly.	• National Government agencies.	• Farmer organizations.
• Women and youth organizations.	• Community conservancies.	• Civil society.
• Research institutions.	• Development partners.	• Private sector.
• The Committee shall meet at least quarterly.		

D. County Agroecology Technical Working Group

A multidisciplinary Technical Working Group shall provide technical advice and coordinate implementation.

Responsibilities shall include:

• Technical review of programmes.	• Development of implementation guidelines.
• Monitoring technical standards.	• Knowledge management.
• Annual technical reporting.	• Research coordination.
• Policy review.	

E. Ward Agroecology Committees

Ward-level committees shall be established to:

• Coordinate local implementation.	• Identify community priorities.
• Monitor progress.	• Mobilize community participation.
• Support Farmer Field Schools.	• Coordinate ward planning.
• Facilitate extension activities.	

3.11.5 Strategic Partnerships

The County Government shall strengthen collaboration with:

• National Government	• Ministry responsible for Agriculture.	• Ministry responsible for Livestock.
• Ministry responsible for Environment.	• Ministry responsible for Water.	• Ministry responsible for Cooperatives.
• National Treasury.	• National Irrigation Authority.	• Kenya Forest Service.
• Kenya Wildlife Service.	• Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization	• Development Partners

The County Government shall establish strategic partnerships with bilateral and multilateral organizations, including:

• FAO.	• IFAD.	• UNEP.
• UNDP.	• World Bank.	• African Development Bank.
• AGRA.	• Biovision Africa Trust.	• PELUM Kenya.
• APHRC.	• GIZ.	• Farm Africa.
• Practical Action.	• SNV.	• Hivos.
• Other organizations supporting agroecology and climate-resilient agriculture.	• Private Sector	

Partnerships shall be promoted with:

• Financial institutions.	• Agri-business companies.
• Input suppliers.	• ICT providers.
• Renewable energy companies.	• Agro-processors.
• Carbon market developers.	• Insurance providers.
• Cooperatives.	• Commodity buyers.

3.11.6 Resource Mobilization Strategy

The County Government shall develop a comprehensive Agroecology Resource Mobilization Strategy based on:

• County Government budget allocations.	• National Government grants.	• Conditional grants.
• Climate finance.	• Green Climate Fund.	• Adaptation Fund.

• Carbon financing.	• Payment for Ecosystem Services.	• Development partner grants.
• Public–Private Partnerships.	• Cooperative investments.	• Corporate Social Responsibility.
• Philanthropic foundations.	• Community contributions where appropriate.	

3.11.7 Inter-County Coordination

Recognizing shared ecosystems, the County Government shall strengthen collaboration with neighbouring counties on:

• Watershed management.	• Livestock mobility.
• Disease surveillance.	• Cross-border agricultural trade.
• Wildlife corridor management.	• Invasive species control.
• Climate adaptation.	• Shared irrigation systems.
• Emergency response.	• Joint natural resource planning.

3.11.8 Public Participation and Stakeholder Engagement

The County Government shall ensure meaningful participation through:

• Annual stakeholder forums.	• Ward public consultations.
• Farmer organizations.	• Youth engagement platforms.
• Women's participation.	• Indigenous community representation.
• Digital participation platforms.	• Public awareness campaigns.
• Citizen feedback mechanisms.	

3.11.9 Capacity Development

Institutional strengthening shall include:

• Staff training.	• Leadership development.
• Governance training.	• Financial management.
• Procurement.	• Monitoring and evaluation.
• Digital skills.	• Climate finance.
• Policy implementation.	• Partnership management.

3.11.10 Expected Outputs

Implementation shall result in:

• Functional county agroecology governance structures.	• Improved coordination among institutions.
• Increased stakeholder participation.	• Stronger inter-county collaboration.
• Increased resource mobilization.	• Enhanced institutional capacity.
• Improved policy implementation.	• Greater accountability and transparency.

3.11.11 Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	Baseline (2026)	Target (2032)
County Agroecology Steering Committee established and operational	0	1
Technical Working Group meetings held annually	0	4
Ward Agroecology Committees established	0	15
Annual stakeholder forums conducted	0	7
Resource mobilized for policy implementation	Baseline to be established	KES 5 billion (cumulative)
Formal partnership agreements signed	Baseline to be established	50
County departments integrating agroecology into annual plans	Baseline to be established	100%
Public participation forums conducted annually	Baseline to be established	30
Staff trained on agroecology implementation	Baseline to be established	500
Annual implementation reports published	0	7

3.11.12 Lead Implementing Institutions

• County Executive Committee.	• Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Mechanization, Irrigation and Cooperatives.
• County Treasury.	• County Department of Environment and Climate Change.
• County Department of Water.	• County Department of Trade and Cooperatives.
• County Public Service Board.	• County Assembly.

3.11.13 Collaborating Institutions

• National Government Ministries and Agencies.	• Development partners.
• Universities and research institutions.	• Farmer organizations and cooperatives.
• Conservancies.	• Civil society organizations.
• Faith-based organizations.	• Private sector organizations.
• Financial institutions.	• Community-based organizations.

3.11.14 Financing Framework

The implementation of this thematic area shall be supported through:

- County Government recurrent and development budgets.
- Climate finance.
- Public–Private Partnerships.
- Philanthropic organizations.
- Revolving funds.
- National Government transfers.
- Development partner grants.
- Corporate Social Responsibility.
- Cooperative financing.
- Innovative financing instruments.

3.11.15 Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Mitigation Measure
Weak institutional coordination	Establish clear governance structures, defined mandates and regular coordination meetings
Inadequate financing	Develop a resource mobilization strategy, prepare bankable projects and diversify funding sources
Low stakeholder participation	Institutionalize public participation, strengthen communication and ensure inclusive representation
Policy implementation delays	Prepare annual implementation plans, assign responsibilities and monitor performance
Political and administrative changes	Embed agroecology in county legislation, CIDPs and annual development plans to ensure continuity
Limited technical capacity	Implement continuous capacity-building programmes, recruit technical staff and strengthen partnerships

3.11.16 Policy Outcome

By 2032, Laikipia County shall have a well-coordinated, adequately financed and accountable institutional framework for agroecological transformation, characterized by strong partnerships, effective public participation, sustainable financing, inter-county collaboration and evidence-based governance. This institutional architecture will enable the successful implementation of the Policy and contribute to resilient food systems, sustainable natural resource management and inclusive green economic growth.

THEMATIC AREA 12: Social Inclusion, Gender Equality, Youth Empowerment and Decent Green Jobs

3.12.1 Situation Analysis

Agriculture remains the largest employer in Laikipia County and provides livelihoods for the majority of rural households. Women contribute substantially to crop production, livestock management, food processing, marketing and household nutrition, while youth represent a significant proportion of the County's labour force. Pastoralists, indigenous communities, persons with disabilities (PWDs), older persons and other marginalized groups also play critical roles in agricultural production and natural resource management. This chapter ensures that the benefits of agroecological transformation are equitable and inclusive, with deliberate attention to women, youth, persons with disabilities, pastoralists, indigenous communities and other marginalized groups. It aligns with the Constitution of Kenya (2010), the County Governments Act (2012), the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act (2015) (on preference and reservation), the Employment Act (2007), the National Gender and Development Policy, the National Youth Development Policy, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), ILO Decent Work Agenda, Agenda 2063, and the National Agroecology Strategy (2024–2033).

Despite their contribution, these groups continue to face significant barriers to equitable participation and benefit from agricultural development. Women often experience limited access to land ownership, credit, agricultural inputs, extension services, technologies and decision-making processes. Young people encounter challenges related to unemployment, limited access to productive resources, inadequate entrepreneurial support and perceptions that agriculture offers limited economic opportunities. Persons with disabilities face accessibility barriers to agricultural training, technologies, finance and markets.

Agroecology presents an opportunity to create inclusive green economies by generating decent employment, supporting entrepreneurship, strengthening community enterprises and promoting equitable access to resources and services. Deliberate measures are therefore required to ensure that all residents benefit from agroecological transformation.

3.12.2 Policy Objective

To promote inclusive, equitable and gender-responsive agroecological development that empowers women, youth, persons with disabilities, pastoralists, indigenous communities and vulnerable groups while creating decent green employment and sustainable livelihoods.

3.12.3 Policy Statements

The County Government shall:

- Promote gender equality and women's economic empowerment in agroecological development.
- Increase youth participation in agriculture through innovation, entrepreneurship and employment creation.
- Ensure equitable participation of persons with disabilities and marginalized groups in agricultural programmes.
- Promote inclusive access to productive resources, technologies, finance and markets.
- Support decent work, occupational safety and social protection within agricultural value chains.
- Promote leadership and participation of women and youth in farmer organizations and decision-making structures.
- Strengthen social inclusion in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of agroecology programmes.
- Promote equitable benefit-sharing from agroecological investments.
- Strengthen community resilience through inclusive livelihood diversification.
- Eliminate discrimination and promote equal opportunities across all agroecological interventions

3.12.4 Strategic Interventions

A. Women's Economic Empowerment

The County Government shall:

• Promote women's access to productive land through lawful and equitable arrangements.	• Strengthen women's farmer organizations and cooperatives.
• Improve access to agricultural finance, savings and credit.	• Support women-led agro-processing enterprises.
• Increase access to labour-saving technologies.	• Strengthen leadership and governance skills.
• Promote equal participation in agricultural decision-making.	• Facilitate women's participation in county procurement opportunities.
• Promote financial literacy and enterprise development.	

B. Youth Empowerment and Agripreneurship

The County Government shall promote youth participation by:

• Establishing youth agribusiness incubation centres.	• Supporting agri-tech innovation.
• Facilitating start-up financing.	• Promoting digital agriculture.
• Supporting mechanization service enterprises.	• Encouraging renewable energy businesses.
• Developing youth-led agro-processing enterprises.	• Supporting climate-smart enterprises.
• Creating internship and apprenticeship programmes.	• Promoting youth participation in Farmer Field Schools.

C. Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

The County Government shall ensure inclusion by:

• Providing accessible extension services.	• Promoting disability-friendly agricultural technologies.
• Supporting inclusive farmer groups.	• Facilitating access to finance.
• Ensuring accessible training facilities.	• Supporting adaptive farm equipment.
• Promoting disability-inclusive value chains.	• Integrating disability-responsive planning into agricultural programmes.

D. Indigenous Communities and Pastoralists

The County Government shall:

• Recognize and promote indigenous knowledge systems.	• Strengthen pastoral livelihoods.
• Support community land governance.	• Promote sustainable livestock mobility.
• Protect indigenous genetic resources.	• Support traditional seed systems.
• Promote equitable benefit-sharing from natural resources.	• Strengthen participation in county planning and decision-making.

E. Green Jobs and Employment Creation

The County Government shall promote employment opportunities in:

• Organic agriculture.	• Agroforestry.	• Seed production.
• Compost and bio-input enterprises.	• Renewable energy installation and maintenance.	• Irrigation development.
• Beekeeping.	• Agro-processing.	• Ecotourism.

• Carbon project development.	• Digital agriculture services.	• Agricultural mechanization.
• Environmental restoration.	• Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.	

F. Social Protection and Livelihood Resilience

The County Government shall strengthen resilience through:

• Agricultural insurance.	• Climate risk financing.
• Community savings and credit schemes.	• Public works linked to ecosystem restoration.
• Emergency livelihood support.	• Nutrition-sensitive social protection.
• Livelihood diversification programmes.	• Financial inclusion initiatives.

G. Inclusive Leadership and Governance

The County Government shall ensure representation of women, youth, PWDs and marginalized communities in:

• County Agroecology Steering Committee.	• Technical Working Groups.
• Ward Agroecology Committees.	• Farmer cooperatives.
• Water User Associations.	• Community Forest Associations.
• Conservancy management structures.	• Producer organizations.

H. Capacity Building and Skills Development

Training programmes shall focus on:

• Leadership development.	• Entrepreneurship.
• Financial management.	• Digital literacy.
• Climate-smart agriculture.	• Agroecology.
• Cooperative management.	• Marketing and value addition.
• Occupational safety and health.	• Business planning.

I. Occupational Safety, Health and Decent Work

The County Government shall promote:

• Safe working environments.	• Responsible pesticide handling.
• Use of appropriate protective equipment.	• Elimination of child labour.
• Prevention of forced labour.	• Fair labour practices.
• Occupational health awareness.	• Compliance with national labour laws.

• Social dialogue between employers and workers.	
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J. Monitoring Social Inclusion

The County Government shall:

• Collect sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data.	• Conduct periodic social inclusion assessments.
• Monitor equitable access to programme benefits.	• Publish annual inclusion reports.
• Establish grievance redress mechanisms.	• Strengthen citizen feedback systems.

3.12.5 Cross-Cutting Policy Measures

Implementation shall integrate:

- Human rights-based approaches.
- Youth mainstreaming.
- Climate resilience.
- Indigenous knowledge.
- Conflict sensitivity.
- Gender mainstreaming.
- Disability inclusion.
- Biodiversity conservation.
- Digital inclusion.
- Peacebuilding and social cohesion.

3.12.6 Expected Outputs

Implementation shall result in:

- Increased participation of women and youth in agroecological enterprises.
- Expanded green employment opportunities.
- Stronger farmer organizations.
- Increased leadership by women and youth.
- Reduced inequalities in access to agricultural services.
- Greater inclusion of persons with disabilities.
- Improved household incomes.
- Enhanced financial inclusion.
- Improved occupational safety.
- Stronger community resilience.

3.12.7 Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	Baseline (2026)	Target (2032)
Women participating in agroecology programmes	To be established	At least 50%
Youth participating in agroecology programmes	To be established	At least 40%
Persons with disabilities benefiting from county agricultural programmes	To be established	5,000
Green jobs created	To be established	25,000
Women-led agricultural enterprises supported	To be established	2,000
Youth-led agribusiness enterprises established	To be established	1,500
Inclusive farmer cooperatives strengthened	To be established	100
Beneficiaries trained in entrepreneurship and financial literacy	To be established	50,000
County governance structures meeting inclusion requirements	To be established	100%
Annual social inclusion reports published	To be established	7

3.12.8 Lead Implementing Institutions

• Department of Agroecology, Policy, Value Chain, and Strategic Partnership.	• County Department of Gender, Youth, Culture and Social Services.
• County Department of Trade, Cooperatives and Enterprise Development.	• County Department of Education and Vocational Training.
• County Public Service Board.	

3.12.9 Collaborating Institutions

• National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC).	• Youth Enterprise Development Fund.
• Women Enterprise Fund.	• Uwezo Fund.
• National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD).	• Farmer cooperatives and producer organizations.
• Civil society organizations.	• Faith-based organizations.
• Development partners.	• Financial institutions.
• Universities and TVET institutions.	

3.12.10 Financing Framework

Implementation shall be financed through:

• County Government annual budgets.	• National Government affirmative action funds.
• Development partner grants.	• Climate finance supporting green jobs.
• Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs).	• Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes.
• Cooperative financing.	• Impact investment funds.
• Community contributions where appropriate.	

3.12.11 Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Mitigation Measure
Persistent gender inequality	Mainstream gender across programmes, enforce equal participation targets and strengthen women's leadership
Youth disengagement from agriculture	Promote profitable agribusiness models, innovation hubs, start-up financing and mentorship
Exclusion of persons with disabilities	Ensure accessible infrastructure, inclusive programme design and disability-responsive budgeting
Limited access to finance	Expand partnerships with financial institutions, guarantee schemes and targeted enterprise funds
Social conflict over resources	Strengthen participatory planning, conflict resolution mechanisms and equitable benefit-sharing
Weak implementation of inclusion policies	Establish monitoring indicators, annual inclusion audits and accountability mechanisms

3.12.12 Policy Outcome

By 2032, Laikipia County shall have an inclusive and equitable agroecological economy where women, youth, persons with disabilities, pastoralists, indigenous communities and other vulnerable groups participate meaningfully in decision-making, access productive resources and markets, benefit from decent green jobs and contribute to resilient, prosperous and sustainable food systems.

CHAPTER FOUR: IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK AND ACTION PLAN (2026–2032)

4.1 Introduction

The successful implementation of the Laikipia County Agroecology Policy (2026–2032) requires coordinated action by county departments, national government agencies, development partners, research institutions, private sector actors, civil society organizations, farmer organizations and local communities. This Implementation Framework provides the roadmap for translating policy commitments into practical actions over the seven-year implementation period. This chapter operationalizes the policy by translating each thematic area into measurable actions, assigning responsibilities, defining timelines, estimating budgets and establishing performance indicators. It is designed to align with the Laikipia County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP), the Annual Development Plans (ADPs), the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) and the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

The framework adopts a results-based management approach that defines clear outcomes, outputs, activities, responsibilities, timelines, performance indicators, means of verification and indicative financing requirements. It also promotes adaptive management, ensuring that implementation can respond to emerging challenges, technological advances and changing climatic conditions.

Implementation shall be guided by the following principles:

- County ownership and leadership.
- Participatory planning and implementation.
- Evidence-based decision-making.
- Environmental sustainability.
- Partnerships and resource mobilization.
- Multi-sectoral coordination.
- Equity and social inclusion.
- Climate resilience.
- Accountability and transparency.
- Continuous learning and innovation.

4.2 Institutional Implementation Framework

Implementation shall be coordinated through a multi-tier institutional structure.

Level	Institution	Primary Responsibility
Policy Oversight	County Executive Committee	Overall policy direction, approval of annual priorities and resource allocation
Legislative Oversight	County Assembly	Enactment of legislation, budget approval and oversight
Lead Implementer	Department of Agroecology, Policy, Value chain and Strategic Partnership	Overall coordination, planning, implementation, reporting and monitoring
Coordination	County Agroecology Steering Committee	Inter-sectoral coordination and

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		strategic guidance
Technical Support	County Agroecology Technical Working Group	Technical advice, standards and annual implementation reviews
Local Coordination	Ward Agroecology Committees	Community mobilization, implementation and monitoring
Community Level	Farmer organizations, cooperatives, conservancies, Water Resource User Associations (WRUAs), Community Forest Associations (CFAs)	Local implementation, knowledge exchange and community participation

4.3 Implementation Phases

Implementation shall be undertaken in four sequential phases.

Phase I: Foundation Phase (2026–2027)

Priority interventions include:

- Establish governance structures.
- Develop implementation guidelines.
- Establish county agroecology database.
- Mobilize resources and partnerships.
- Enact supporting legislation and regulations.
- Conduct baseline surveys.
- Recruit and train extension personnel.
- Pilot priority agroecology interventions.

Phase II: Scaling-Up Phase (2027–2029)

Focus areas include:

- Expand Farmer Field Schools.
- Establish irrigation projects.
- Strengthen cooperatives.
- Strengthen digital agriculture.
- Scale climate-smart agriculture.
- Restore degraded landscapes.
- Expand agro-processing.
- Increase county-wide extension coverage.

Phase III: Consolidation Phase (2029–2031)

Priority actions include:

- Strengthen markets.
- Strengthen climate financing.
- Improve institutional coordination.
- Promote export-oriented agroecological products.
- Expand value addition.
- Scale ecosystem restoration.
- Strengthen monitoring systems.

Phase IV: Sustainability Phase (2031–2032)

Priority actions include:

- Institutionalize successful interventions.
- Review policy performance.
- Scale best practices.
- Conduct end-term evaluation.
- Prepare successor policy (2033–2039).
- Strengthen long-term financing mechanisms.

4.4 County Implementation Matrix

Strategic Objective	Description
1	Strengthen Sustainable Agroecological Production Systems
2	Improve Water Security and Climate Resilience
3	Sustainable Livestock and Rangeland Management
4	Food and Nutrition Security
5	Agricultural Markets and Value Addition
6	Research, Extension and Innovation
7	Biodiversity and Landscape Restoration
8	Institutional Strengthening and Governance

Strategic Intervention	Lead Institution	Supporting Institutions	Timeline	Key Performance Indicator	Indicative Budget (KES Million)
Promote regenerative agriculture	Agriculture	KALRO, NGOs	2026–2032	120,000 farmers adopting agroecology	450
Improve soil health	Agriculture	KALRO, KEFRI	2026–2032	200,000 ha restored	350
Expand agroforestry	Agriculture & Environment	KFS, KEFRI	2026–2032	15 million trees planted	500
Promote organic nutrient management	Agriculture	Private sector	2026–2032	60% of farmers using bio-inputs	180
Scale integrated pest management	Agriculture	KEPHIS	2026–2032	Pesticide use reduced by 30%	120

Strategic Intervention	Lead Institution	Timeline	KPI	Budget (KES Million)
Community irrigation development	Irrigation	2026–2032	8,000 new irrigated hectares	1,500
Water harvesting	Water Department	2026–2032	600 water structures	900
Watershed restoration	Environment	2026–2032	50 catchments restored	700
Climate information services	Agriculture	2026–2032	80,000 farmers reached	150
Drought preparedness	NDMA	Annual	County contingency plans implemented	120

Intervention	Lead	KPI	Budget (KES Million)
Rangeland restoration	Livestock	300,000 ha rehabilitated	1,000
Fodder production	Agriculture	20,000 ha established	300
Livestock breeding improvement	Livestock	25 breeding centres supported	250
Veterinary service strengthening	Livestock	Vaccination coverage >90%	400
Livestock markets modernization	Trade	10 modern livestock markets	500

Intervention	KPI	Budget (KES Million)
Kitchen gardens	50,000 households	200
School nutrition gardens	250 schools	120
Nutrition-sensitive extension	60,000 households	180
Indigenous food promotion	150 community initiatives	100
Food storage facilities	30 community centres	350

Intervention	KPI	Budget (KES Million)
Aggregation centres	30 centres	750
Agro-processing facilities	100 enterprises	1,200
Cooperative strengthening	100 cooperatives	250
Digital marketing	75,000 farmers	180
Product branding	20 county brands	100

Intervention	KPI	Budget (KES Million)
Farmer Field Schools	150 schools	300
Demonstration farms	60 farms	200
Digital extension	80,000 users	250
Agricultural innovation grants	100 innovations	180
County agricultural database	Functional system	120

Intervention	KPI	Budget (KES Million)
Landscape restoration	100,000 ha	900
Pollinator conservation	500 habitats	100
Community conservancies support	All eligible conservancies	250
Wetland restoration	50 wetlands	300
Wildlife corridor protection	300 km	250

Intervention	KPI	Budget (KES Million)
County Directorate of agroecology	Functional	50
County Steering Committee operational	Functional	50
Ward Committees established	15 wards	80
Staff capacity building	500 staff	150
Annual stakeholder forums	7 forums	40
Monitoring system	Functional MERL system	120

4.5 Annual Work Planning

Each implementing institution shall prepare Annual Work Plans that include:

- Annual targets.
- Budget requirements.
- Procurement plans.
- Monitoring schedules.
- Planned activities.
- Responsible officers.
- Risk mitigation measures.
- Expected outputs.

Annual Work Plans shall be aligned with the County Annual Development Plan (ADP), departmental strategic plans and approved budgets.

4.6 Estimated Overall Investment Framework (2026–2032)

Investment Area	Indicative Budget (KES Billion)
Sustainable crop production	2.50
Livestock and rangelands	2.45
Water and irrigation	3.20
Agroforestry and landscape restoration	1.80
Biodiversity conservation	1.20
Climate resilience	1.60
Food and nutrition security	1.10
Markets and agro-processing	2.30
Research and digital agriculture	1.40
Governance and capacity development	0.75
Social inclusion and green jobs	0.70
Total Indicative Investment (2026–2032)	19.00

Note: These are indicative planning figures. Annual allocations shall be determined through the County budgeting process, partner contributions and resource mobilization.

4.7 Guiding Implementation Principles

Implementation of the Policy shall be guided by:

- Results-based management.
- Equity and inclusion.
- Climate resilience.
- Continuous learning and innovation.
- Public–private partnerships.
- Accountability and transparency.
- Environmental sustainability.
- Evidence-based planning.
- Participatory governance.
- Fiscal sustainability
- This implementation framework provides the operational roadmap for achieving the policy's objectives

CHAPTER FIVE: MONITORING, EVALUATION, REPORTING, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY (MERLA) FRAMEWORK

5.1 Introduction

The Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, Learning and Accountability (MERLA) Framework provides a structured system for assessing the implementation, performance and impact of the Laikipia County Agroecology Policy (2026–2032). It establishes mechanisms for measuring progress towards policy objectives, promoting evidence-based decision-making, strengthening institutional learning and ensuring accountability to citizens, partners and stakeholders. Chapter 5: Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, Learning and Accountability (MERLA) Framework, establish the indicators, reporting schedules, evaluation methods, learning mechanisms and accountability arrangements needed to track progress and support adaptive management throughout the 2026–2032 implementation period. This chapter is designed in accordance with international best practice, including the OECD-DAC Results Framework, FAO Results-Based Management Framework, UN Results-Based Management Guidelines, the Kenya National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (NIMES), and the County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (CIMES).

The Framework recognizes that agroecological transformation is a long-term and adaptive process requiring continuous monitoring, periodic evaluation and responsive management. It therefore integrates monitoring, evaluation, knowledge management, reporting, learning and accountability into one coherent system that supports continuous improvement throughout implementation.

5.2 Purpose of the MERLA Framework

The Framework aims to:

- Track implementation of policy interventions.
- Measure progress towards intended outcomes and impacts.
- Provide timely information for decision-making.
- Strengthen transparency and accountability.
- Improve allocation of financial and technical resources.
- Promote adaptive management.
- Facilitate continuous learning.
- Strengthen stakeholder participation.
- Demonstrate value for money.
- Support policy review and future planning.

5.3 Guiding Principles

Implementation of the MERLA Framework shall be guided by the following principles:

• Results-based management.	• Transparency.	• Accountability.
• Participation.	• Learning and continuous improvement.	• Evidence-based decision-making.
• Data quality and integrity.	• Gender responsiveness.	• Inclusion and equity.
• Digital innovation.	• Cost-effectiveness.	• Timeliness.

5.4 Results Framework

Implementation shall follow four levels of results.

Results Level	Description	Example
Impact	Long-term changes in livelihoods, ecosystems and resilience	Increased food security and climate resilience
Outcome	Medium-term changes resulting from policy interventions	Increased adoption of agroecological practices
Output	Goods and services delivered	Farmers trained, irrigation schemes established
Activity	Actions undertaken	Training sessions, tree planting, policy development

5.5 Monitoring Framework

Monitoring shall be undertaken at five levels.

A. Activity Monitoring

Focus:

- Activities completed.
- Procurement.
- Participation.
- Budget utilization.
- Timelines.

Frequency:

Monthly.

B. Output Monitoring

Focus:

- Infrastructure completed.
- Trees planted.
- Irrigation developed.
- Farmers trained.
- Cooperatives strengthened.

Frequency:

Quarterly.

C. Outcome Monitoring

Focus:

- Adoption of technologies.
- Improved soil health.
- Climate resilience.
- Improved yields.
- Household income.
- Food security.

Frequency:

Annually.

D. Impact Monitoring

Focus:

- Poverty reduction.
- Biodiversity recovery.
- Nutrition improvement.
- Ecosystem restoration.
- Carbon sequestration.
- Employment.

Frequency:

Mid-term and End-term.

E. Financial Monitoring

Focus:

- Budget absorption.
- Procurement compliance.
- Cost effectiveness.
- Resource utilization.
- Value for money.

Frequency:

Quarterly.

5.6 Key Performance Indicators

County-level indicators shall include:

- Agricultural Production
- Irrigated area.
- Livestock productivity.
- Tree survival rate.
- Biodiversity index.
- Carbon sequestration.
- Renewable energy adoption.
- Household agricultural income.
- Agro-processing enterprises.
- Social Development
- PWD inclusion.
- Poverty reduction.
- Stakeholder participation.
- Partnership agreements.
- Agricultural productivity.
- Soil fertility improvement.
- Natural Resources
- Watersheds restored.
- Pollinator abundance.
- Climate finance mobilized.
- Drought resilience.
- Cooperatives strengthened.
- Export earnings.
- Women participation.
- Household dietary diversity.
- Governance
- Annual work plans completed.
- Citizen satisfaction.
- Land under agroecology.
- Crop diversification.
- Forest cover.
- Wetlands rehabilitated.
- Climate Change
- Farmers accessing climate advisories.
- Economic Development
- Jobs created.
- Value-added products.
- Youth participation.
- Child nutrition.
- Policy implementation rate.
- Budget utilization.

5.7 Data Collection Methods

Data shall be collected through:

- Household surveys.
- GIS mapping.
- Extension reports.
- Financial reports.
- Digital data collection systems shall be promoted to improve efficiency, timeliness and data quality.
- Administrative records.
- Remote sensing.
- Community scorecards.
- Research studies.
- Farmer registers.
- Mobile data collection.
- Citizen feedback platforms.
- Independent assessments.

5.8 Data Quality Assurance

The County Government shall ensure:

- Standardized data collection tools.
- Regular data verification.
- Quality audits.
- Secure data storage.
- Capacity building for data collectors.
- Indicator reference sheets.
- Data validation workshops.
- Digital data management.
- Confidentiality and ethical standards.

5.9 Reporting Framework

Report	Frequency	Responsible Institution
Monthly implementation reports	Monthly	Departments
Quarterly performance reports	Quarterly	Lead Department
Annual Agroecology Status Report	Annually	County Agroecology Steering Committee
Financial reports	Quarterly	County Treasury
Mid-Term Review Report	2029	Independent Evaluation Team
End-Term Evaluation Report	2032	Independent Evaluation Team
Policy Review Report	2032	County Government

5.10 Evaluation Framework

The County Government shall undertake:

Baseline Assessment (2026)

Purpose:

- Establish baseline indicators.
- Determine investment gaps.
- Establish benchmarks.
- Identify implementation priorities.
- Map stakeholders.
- Mid-Term Evaluation (2029)

Objectives:

- Assess implementation progress.
- Identify emerging challenges.
- Review financing.
- End-Term Evaluation (2032)
- Evaluate effectiveness.
- Recommend policy adjustments.
- Assess stakeholder participation.

Objectives:

- Measure policy impact.
- Assess return on investment.
- Inform preparation of the next policy.
- Evaluate sustainability.
- Document lessons learned.

5.11 Learning and Knowledge Management

The County Government shall establish a County Agroecology Learning System comprising:

- Annual learning forums.
- Farmer innovation fairs.
- Policy dialogues.
- Best practice documentation.
- Innovation awards.
- Lessons learned shall inform annual planning and future policy revisions.
- Knowledge-sharing workshops.
- Learning exchange visits.
- Digital knowledge platforms.
- Case studies.
- Annual research conferences.

5.12 Accountability Framework

Accountability shall be strengthened through:

- Institutional Accountability
- Annual performance contracts.
- Departmental reporting.
- Internal audits.
- Performance reviews.
- Budget accountability.
- Public Accountability
- Public participation forums.
- Citizen report cards.
- Community scorecards.
- Public expenditure tracking.
- Social audits.
- Public disclosure of annual progress reports.
- Partner Accountability

Development partners shall:

- Align investments with the Policy.
- Participate in joint reviews.
- Support independent evaluations.
- Submit annual progress reports.
- Share implementation data.

5.13 Digital Monitoring System

The County Government shall establish an Integrated Agroecology Information Management System (IAIMS) incorporating:

- Farmer registry.
- Mobile monitoring applications.
- Financial tracking.
- Irrigation database.
- Tree monitoring.
- AI-supported analytics where appropriate.
- GIS dashboard.
- Climate data.
- Extension database.
- Livestock database.
- Dashboard reporting.

5.14 Risk Monitoring

Risks shall be reviewed annually.

Priority risks include:

- Climate shocks.
- Policy implementation delays.
- Pest and disease outbreaks.
- Institutional capacity gaps.
- Social conflict.
- Each risk shall have mitigation measures incorporated into annual work plans.
- Budget constraints.
- Market disruptions.
- Political changes.
- Emerging technologies.
- Environmental degradation.

5.15 Annual Policy Review Process

Every financial year the County Government shall:

- Review implementation progress.
- Review budgets.
- Identify implementation bottlenecks.
- Publish the Annual Agroecology Performance Report.
- Assess indicator performance.
- Evaluate stakeholder feedback.
- Update annual priorities.

5.16 Communication and Transparency

The County Government shall disseminate implementation information through:

- County website.
- Annual reports.

- Social media platforms.
- Farmer forums.
- Print publications.
- Policy briefs.
- Community barazas.
- Radio programmes.
- Digital dashboards.
- Media engagement.

5.17 Estimated MERLA Budget (2026–2032)

Activity	Indicative Budget (KES Million)
Baseline survey	60
Annual monitoring	140
Mid-term evaluation	45
End-term evaluation	55
Digital monitoring system	120
GIS and remote sensing	80
Data quality assurance	30
Learning forums	35
Knowledge management	40
Communication and reporting	45
Capacity building	50
Total	700

5.18 Policy Outcome

By 2032, Laikipia County shall have an integrated, transparent and results-oriented Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, Learning and Accountability system that provides high-quality data, supports evidence-based decision-making, promotes institutional learning, strengthens accountability and ensures effective implementation of the Laikipia County Agroecology Policy (2026–2032)

CHAPTER SIX: FINANCING STRATEGY AND INVESTMENT PLAN

6.1 Introduction

Successful implementation of the Laikipia County Agroecology Policy (2026–2032) requires adequate, predictable and sustainable financing. The transition towards agroecological food systems will require investments in sustainable agricultural production, climate resilience, natural resource restoration, research and innovation, market development, infrastructure, institutional strengthening and social inclusion. Chapter Six: Financing Strategy and Investment Plan, which will provide a comprehensive resource mobilization framework, investment priorities, financing instruments, annual financing projections, public–private partnership models, climate finance mechanisms and an investment matrix. This chapter will position the policy as an investment-ready document for county budgeting and engagement with development partners, climate funds and private investors. This chapter transforms the Policy from a planning document into an investment framework capable of attracting financing from the County Government, National Government, development partners, climate funds, philanthropic organizations and private investors. It aligns with the Public Finance Management Act (2012), the County Governments Act (2012), the Kenya Climate Change Act (2016), the National Treasury Public Investment Guidelines, the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) and international financing frameworks including the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Adaptation Fund.

This Financing Strategy provides a comprehensive framework for mobilizing, coordinating and efficiently utilizing financial resources from both public and private sources. It aims to diversify financing beyond traditional government allocations by leveraging climate finance, green investments, blended finance, development assistance and private sector participation.

The Financing Strategy adopts the principles of efficiency, transparency, accountability, sustainability, equity and value for money while ensuring that investments generate measurable economic, social and environmental returns.

6.2 Financing Objective

To mobilize adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources for effective implementation of the Laikipia County Agroecology Policy (2026–2032) through coordinated public, private, community and development partner investments.

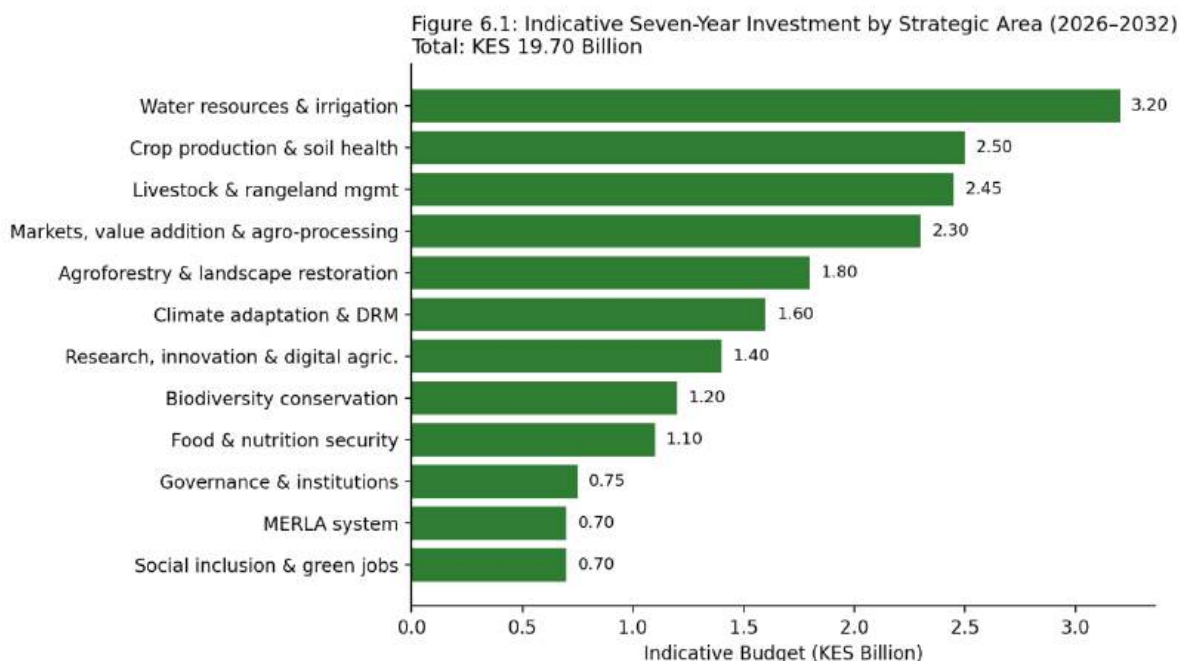
6.3 Guiding Principles

Financing of the Policy shall be guided by:

- Sustainability.
- Value for money.
- Results-based financing.
- Transparency and accountability.
- Equity and inclusion.
- Climate resilience.

- Environmental sustainability.
- Innovation.
- Partnership and co-financing.
- Fiscal responsibility.

6.4 Estimated Investment Requirement



The estimated investment requirement for implementation of the Policy over the seven-year period is KES 19.70 billion.

Investment Area	Indicative Budget (KES Billion)	Share (%)
Sustainable crop production and soil health	2.50	13.2
Livestock and rangeland management	2.45	12.9
Water resources and irrigation	3.20	16.8
Agroforestry and landscape restoration	1.80	9.5
Biodiversity conservation	1.20	6.3
Climate change adaptation and disaster risk management	1.60	8.4
Food and nutrition security	1.10	5.8
Markets, value addition and agro-processing	2.30	12.1
Research, innovation and digital agriculture	1.40	7.4
Governance, partnerships and institutional strengthening	0.75	3.9
Social inclusion and green jobs	0.70	3.7
MERLA system	0.70	3.7
Total	19.70	100

The total investment requirement should be reviewed periodically during implementation to reflect inflation, emerging priorities and resource availability.

6.5 Sources of Financing

A. County Government

The County Government shall remain the principal financier through:

• Annual development budgets.	• Recurrent budgets.
• County Climate Change Fund.	• Special agricultural programmes.
• Emergency and contingency funds.	• The County Government shall progressively increase annual allocations for agroecology to ensure sustainable implementation.

B. National Government

Resources shall be mobilized through:

• Conditional grants.	• Agricultural Sector Development Programmes.
• Climate change programmes.	• Irrigation development programmes.
• Livestock development initiatives.	• Forestry and environmental restoration programmes.
• National food security initiatives.	• Equalization and other intergovernmental transfers.

C. Development Partners

Strategic partnerships shall be strengthened with bilateral and multilateral agencies including:

• FAO.	• IFAD.	• World Bank.
• African Development Bank.	• UNEP.	• UNDP.
• GEF.	• Green Climate Fund.	• Adaptation Fund.
• AGRA.	• GIZ.	• Biovision Africa Trust.
• PELUM Kenya.	• APHRC.	• Farm Africa.
• Hivos.	• SNV.	• Practical Action.

D. Climate Finance

The County Government shall establish a Climate Finance Facility to mobilize resources through:

• Green Climate Fund.	• Adaptation Fund.
• Global Environment Facility.	• Loss and Damage financing mechanisms where applicable.

• Voluntary carbon markets.	• Compliance carbon markets where applicable.
• Climate investment funds.	• Nature-based solution financing.

Priority projects shall include:

• Landscape restoration.	• Water harvesting.
• Climate-smart agriculture.	• Agroforestry.
• Renewable energy.	• Rangeland restoration.
• Biodiversity conservation.	

E. Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs)

The County Government shall promote PPPs in:

• Irrigation development.	• Agro-processing.
• Cold-chain infrastructure.	• Renewable energy.
• Digital agriculture.	• Storage infrastructure.
• Livestock markets.	• Value addition.
• Agricultural logistics.	• Mechanization services.

F. Cooperative and Community Financing

Farmer organizations shall contribute through:

• Cooperative investments.	• Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations (SACCOs).
• Revolving funds.	• Community investment groups.
• Village savings and loan associations.	• Producer organizations.

G. Commercial Finance

The County Government shall facilitate access to:

• Commercial banks.	• Agricultural Development Corporation financing.
• Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC).	• Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) agricultural products.
• Cooperative Bank agricultural financing.	• Equity Bank agricultural finance.
• Microfinance institutions.	• Green investment funds.

H. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Private sector organizations shall be encouraged to invest in:

• Tree planting.	• Water infrastructure.
• Farmer training.	• Youth entrepreneurship.
• Innovation hubs.	• Community resilience projects.
• Renewable energy.	• School nutrition gardens.

6.6 Investment Priority Areas

Priority investment shall focus on:

- Natural Resource Management
- Soil restoration.
- Agricultural Production
- Seed systems.
- Horticulture.
- Water harvesting.
- Cold-chain systems.
- Markets
- Cooperatives.
- Product branding.
- Farmer Field Schools.
- Digital agriculture.
- Watershed restoration.
- Rangeland rehabilitation.
- Climate-smart agriculture.
- Livestock improvement.
- Infrastructure
- Rural roads.
- Processing centres.
- Aggregation centres.
- Digital markets.
- Human Capital
- Research.
- Youth entrepreneurship.
- Forest rehabilitation.
- Wetland conservation.
- Organic production.
- Fisheries and aquaculture.
- Irrigation.
- Storage facilities.
- Renewable energy.
- Agro-processing.
- Export promotion.
- Extension.
- Innovation.

6.7 Resource Mobilization Strategy

The County Government shall:

- Prepare bankable investment proposals.
- Develop donor engagement strategies.
- Strengthen PPP frameworks.
- Maintain a partner coordination database.
- Promote blended finance initiatives.
- Establish an Agroecology Investment Desk.
- Organize annual investment forums.
- Prepare climate finance proposals.
- Monitor financing commitments.

6.8 Annual Financing Plan

Annual financing shall be integrated into:

• County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP).	• Annual Development Plan (ADP).
• County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP).	• Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).
• Annual departmental budgets.	• Programme-Based Budgeting (PBB).

6.9 Financial Accountability

Financial management shall comply with:

- Public Finance Management Act.
- County financial regulations.
- External audit by the Office of the Auditor-General.
- Value-for-money assessments.
- Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act.
- Internal audit procedures.
- Annual financial reporting.

6.10 Investment Incentives

The County Government shall encourage investment through:

- Streamlined investment approval processes.
- Technical support for investors.
- Support for green enterprises.
- Business incubation.
- Investment promotion services.
- Facilitation of land-use planning in accordance with applicable laws.
- Innovation grants.
- Recognition awards for sustainable enterprises.

6.11 Financing Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Mitigation Measure
Inadequate County budget allocations	Mainstream agroecology across sector budgets, strengthen budget advocacy and prioritize high-impact investments
Dependence on donor funding	Diversify financing sources, increase county revenue allocation and promote private investment
Delayed fund disbursement	Strengthen annual planning, cash-flow management and intergovernmental coordination
Limited capacity to access climate finance	Build proposal development capacity and establish a dedicated climate finance unit
Weak financial	Strengthen internal controls, audits, procurement oversight and public

accountability	financial reporting
Low private-sector investment	Improve the investment climate, develop PPP projects and provide investment promotion services

6.12 Financing Performance Indicators

Indicator	Baseline (2026)	Target (2032)
Total resources mobilized for policy implementation	Baseline to be established	KES 19.7 billion
County budget allocated to agroecology	Baseline to be established	Increase by at least 50%
Climate finance mobilized	Baseline to be established	KES 5 billion
Public-Private Partnership projects implemented	0	20
Bankable investment proposals developed	0	50
Development partner financing agreements signed	Baseline to be established	30
Financial absorption rate	Baseline to be established	Above 90% annually
Annual financial reports produced	0	7
Value-for-money assessments completed	0	7
Independent financial audits completed	0	Annual

6.13 Policy Outcome

By 2032, Laikipia County shall have a diversified, sustainable and accountable financing system that mobilizes adequate public and private investment to implement agroecological transformation, strengthen climate resilience, improve food systems, restore ecosystems, enhance livelihoods and stimulate inclusive green economic growth.

CHAPTER SEVEN: POLICY REVIEW, AMENDMENT AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

7.1 Policy Review

The County Government shall undertake a Mid-Term Review in 2029 and a Comprehensive End-Term Review in 2032. Reviews shall assess relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability, and inform revisions based on emerging evidence, technological advances, climate trends and stakeholder feedback.

7.2 Policy Amendment

Amendments to the Policy may be proposed by the County Executive Committee Member responsible for Agriculture or through other lawful county processes. Proposed amendments shall undergo stakeholder consultation and approval in accordance with applicable county legislation and governance procedures.

7.3 Transitional Provisions and Commitment by County Government

Upon adoption of this Policy:

- Existing county agricultural programmes shall be progressively aligned with the Policy.
- The County Director of Agroecology, Policy, Value Chains Development and Strategic Partnership should be advertised and position filled within six months.
- Supporting Bills, regulations, guidelines and operational manuals shall be developed within twelve months.
- The County Government shall prioritize and set aside at least 10% of the annual budget allocation to support agroecology.
- The County Agroecology Steering Committee and Technical Working Group shall be formally constituted.
- The first County Agroecology Implementation and Strategic Plan (2026–2032) shall be prepared and approved.
- Baseline studies and the MERLA system shall be operationalized within the first year of implementation.
- Ward-level agroecology action plans shall be developed and implemented.

The policy shall be reviewed after every seven year or as need arises. The policy review shall be guided by M&E Reports, input from stakeholders' engagement, continuous environmental scanning, and overall government policy changes.

7.4 Effective Date

This Policy shall take effect upon approval by the Laikipia County Executive Committee and adoption by the Laikipia County Assembly, and shall remain in force until 31 December 2032, unless reviewed or replaced earlier in accordance with applicable laws.

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