

Evidence-based policy formulation around agroecology in Kiambu County

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.....participation of food insecure groups in the policies that affect them should become a crucial element of all food security policies”

Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food



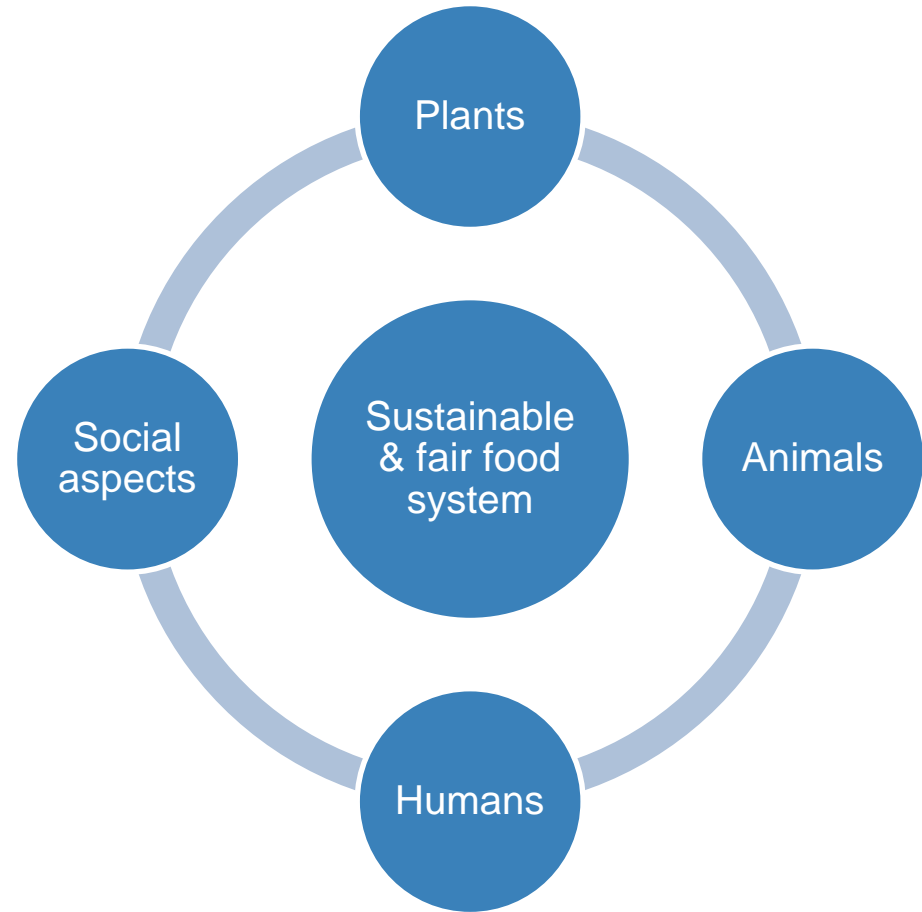
The presentation

- Understanding agro-ecology
- Policy situation in Kenya re agro-ecology
- Effective legislating and challenges

What is agro-ecology?

An integrated approach that simultaneously applies ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of food and agricultural systems

It optimizes interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment while taking into consideration the social aspects that need to be addressed for sustainable and fair food systems



Agro-ecology policy situation in Kenya

No specific policy on agro-ecology...thus little attention

- Many national and international players recommending formulation of policy to support agro-ecology given its massive uptake and practice across the country

- Five international certification bodies working in Kenya showing the strategic importance of the sector

- Organic desk at Min of Agric to lead in devt of an organic policy

- Organic agric incorporated in the drafts of food security policy and soil fertility policy

- Very weak mention of aspects of agro-ecology in County CIDPs

- Mention of aspects of agro-ecology in biodiversity and climate change policies for some counties

- Motions and draft policies around agro-ecology in some counties

Official policy formulation process

Technocrats identify need mostly unrelated to wishes and practices of the public affected



Public is informed about policy and requested to give comments - which mostly turn out to be against the policy



Implementation or shelving depending on the weight of the public comments

Ideal and effective policy formulation process at county level



Legislating at county level

Motion:

Is a formal proposal for certain action to be taken

Policy: a set of ideas or plans used as a basis for making decisions

Government sponsored or private members bill leading to an Act or law

Key impediments to effective legislation around agro-ecology

Inadequate understanding of the farming system by technocrats and legislators.

Having allies in the system helps

Vicious push and support for chemical driven farming from chemical manufacturers and seed companies. In official government policy, agro-ecology is an orphaned system

The fear of losing control by government and agro-input suppliers since agro-ecology is driven largely by locally available materials and knowledge including knowledge of practitioners.









Thanks!

ANY QUESTIONS?

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