



# KENYA'S PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

National Position Paper



## ECONOMIC BLOCS



## PARTNERS



# Kenyan Food Systems – A Call to Action

## Vision Statement

Together, we will build prosperity for our youth fuelled by food systems that are **inclusive, innovative, collaborative and dynamic**. Based on **data-driven decisions**, we will ensure Kenya's food system nourishes our people with a **diverse diet** that builds **climate resilient livelihoods** in every region of our country.

## Aspirations

The Food Systems Dialogue process throughout our country reinforced the actions needed to reach our **Vision 2030** of 100% food and nutrition security.

We will add aspirations to:

- Increase the number of young people receiving school based agricultural education.
- Increase the uptake of digital agricultural solutions.
- Improve the diversity of diets including fruits, vegetables, dairy, meat and fish, as well as grains.
- Heighten climate action to build the resilience of our people.

### Our ASTGS furthers our Big 4 aspirations by 2022 which are:

- 34% increase in the average daily income of farmers
- 27% reduction in malnutrition among children under 5 years of age
- Create 1,000 Agro-processing SMEs & 600,000 new jobs
- 50% reduction in the number of food insecure Kenyans
- 48% increase in Agriculture sector contribution to GDP
- 47% reduction in the cost of food as a percentage of income

## Leading Actions

### Youth

We will do this first and foremost with our youth in mind. Kenya's youth will be educated, nourished, and thriving in our food system. This includes a future in which our young people are helping to transform our sector with urban agriculture, agribusinesses, frontier technologies and innovations.

- Our **4K Clubs** and **Young Farmers Clubs** will shape the skills of our youth and ignite their passion for agriculture, preparing them for a future of opportunities and finance possibilities in the agriculture sector.
- We will facilitate their **access to productive resources including land, capital, and agripreneurship skills**, to ensure the full participation of our youth in food systems. Through the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, and creation of incentives for investors and financial institutions, we will provide affordable financing to bolster their agricultural ventures.



- We have a technologically agile youth population. We will **digitize our value chain activities** and equip our youth with the **digital technologies and tools** they need to engage in these value chain activities.

### Digital Innovation

Further, we must harness the power of innovation and digital technologies for our entire system. Our agricultural transformation will be based on digitization. We will foster an environment that allows our innovators to thrive and contribute to this agricultural transformation.

- Using **mobile technologies**, including **mobile applications**, we will equip our farmers with information on markets, and productive resources such as inputs. We will further use these apps in the **deployment of extension services and education** and **foster value added production** of innovative new food products to nourish our communities well.
- We will further boost our agricultural productivity by investing in **irrigation technologies**, particularly for our ASALs.
- To support the efforts of our farmers, we will invest in **Early Warning Systems** deploying the latest technologies **including aerial solutions and geospatial technologies** that will also enhance our ability to effectively plan for the sector.

### Diverse Diets

We will nourish our people with diverse diets, moving from a carbohydrate-based diet, to one with the protein, vitamins and minerals that will promote the health and wealth of our people.

- **Nutrition Action Plans** will be developed to ensure diverse diets including meat, dairy, fish, fruits, vegetables, cereals, and bio-fortified foods are reaching Kenya's people and improving food safety behaviours to **ensure a healthy population**.
- We will diversity our diets by **bringing back forgotten and neglected traditional foods**, and investing in **fisheries, aquaculture, livestock, fruits and vegetables farming**.
- **Diversified production** will make us more **resilient to climate change, reduce resource conflicts** and **support biodiversity and healthy soils** with production that will fuel our bodies with the nutrition we need.

### Climate Change

We will mitigate the impacts of climate change by building the resilience of our people and communities particularly the vulnerable populations in the arid and semi-arid lands.

- We will expedite our ecosystems restoration efforts through agroforestry, reforestation and afforestation and ensure sustainable use of our natural resources.
- Conservation education and awareness will be disseminated at every level from the farms to schools unto the general population.
- We will commission research to inform the diversification of crops to drought- and pests- and disease-resistant varieties.
- We will deploy technology to monitor land use changes, and to map and monitor natural resources use, including water resources.



## Priority Actions by FSS Action Tracks

### AT1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all

Through Nutrition Education, ensure our children, youth and mothers have access to nutrition information to inform their diet choices.

### AT2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns

Dramatically increase school meal programs to bring nutritious, diverse, and safe food to our young people.

### AT3: Boost nature-positive production

Expedite our ecosystems restoration efforts through agroforestry, reforestation, afforestation, desilting and healing of degraded lands to bring more area under productive agricultural use and ensure sustainable use of our natural resources.

### AT4: Advance equitable livelihoods

Foster a culture of entrepreneurship, facilitating a shift from predominantly subsistence farming mentality to a more profitable agriculture outlook by commercialization of agriculture, ensuring access to markets through organized cooperatives and outgrower groups, value addition, and harnessing the power of mobile technologies.

### AT5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

We will empower our women smallholders, breaking down cultural barriers and norms that hinder their full and equal participation in food systems, thus enhancing their resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses in food systems.

## Action Areas

Our ambitions and aspirations will only be achieved by all of us working together. Here are some of the key action areas for all partners in our food systems.

Actors	Pathways
County Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upscale urban agriculture</li> <li>Plan with Geospatial tools and technologies</li> <li>Accelerate extension services provision to the last mile</li> <li>Strengthen zoning plans to secure agricultural lands</li> <li>Support farmers with inputs</li> </ul>
Regional Economic Blocs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase and share resources</li> <li>Build Agricities</li> <li>Develop Data Hubs</li> <li>Implement Information Management Systems e.g. Electronic Fisheries Management Information Systems (EFMIS)</li> <li>Utilize County Development Information Systems (CDIS)</li> </ul>
National Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate trade</li> <li>Enhance food safety standards</li> <li>Promote consumer education</li> <li>Fast-track legal titles clearance</li> <li>Collation of data to support evidence-based decisions</li> </ul>



<b>Private sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversify investments into Agri-enterprises</li> <li>• Boost innovations</li> <li>• Increase value-addition</li> <li>• Be inclusive</li> <li>• Invest in solutions to pest and climate challenges</li> </ul>
<b>Farmers, fisherfolk and livestock communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leverage technology</li> <li>• Cooperatives, outgrower groups</li> <li>• Diversify production including traditional crops</li> </ul>
<b>Finance Institutions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate access to capital</li> <li>• Provide interest friendly loans</li> <li>• Support youth with innovative finance solutions</li> </ul>
<b>Academia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct Research</li> <li>• Share data</li> <li>• Innovate for sustainability and resilience</li> </ul>
<b>Civil Society</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote consumer education</li> <li>• Boost extension services and education</li> </ul>
<b>Development partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support youth initiatives</li> <li>• Invest in digital solutions</li> <li>• Foster nutritional programming including biofortification</li> <li>• Support gender equity programs</li> </ul>
<b>UN agencies in Kenya</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist with Early Warning Systems</li> <li>• Support crop diversification</li> <li>• Further gender equity</li> <li>• Invest in value chains to build decent livelihoods</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School health</li> <li>• 4K</li> <li>• Nutrition</li> <li>• School meals</li> <li>• Directorate of policy and partnerships</li> </ul>
<b>Pathways for resilience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early warning, drones, geospatial databases, GIS, GPS, Remote Sensing</li> </ul>
<b>Pathways for Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrition action plans</li> <li>• Nutrition education</li> </ul>
<b>Pathways for Gender</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revamp the Women Enterprise Development Fund to ensure women in agriculture have access to financial resources to boost their agri enterprises and facilitate the establishment of new women-owned and women-led agri enterprises.</li> <li>• Enhance women voices by bringing more women on the decision-making table in our public and private sectors board rooms, allowing them to drive agriculture policy processes ensuring gender issues are represented.</li> <li>• Enhance and scale extension services ensuring rural women smallholders have access to these services to boost their agricultural productivity.</li> </ul>

**Building on Existing Commitments**

The actions identified build on the country’s already strong foundations and commitments to transforming food systems:



- The Government’s Big Four Agenda places food and nutrition security for all Kenyans as a national priority through new and innovative initiatives to: reduce cost of food; enhance large scale production; and drive smallholder productivity.
- Vision 2030 sets the agenda for inclusive growth and people-driven sustainable development, particularly under the economic and macro pillar which prioritizes agriculture.
- The Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASGTS) presents the GoK’s commitment to reforming the sector by increasing output and productivity, boosting incomes in agribusiness and ensuring household resilience and food security.

### **The Big 4 Agenda – 100% Food and Nutrition Security<sup>1</sup>**

Kenya has an ambitious plan towards 2030 including the food and nutrition security pillar of the Big 4. The objectives of the food Security and nutrition pillar are to **enhance large scale food production, drive smallholder productivity, and to reduce the cost of food to improve accessibility to all**. The government’s efforts to make food cheap and available to all Kenyans are bearing fruit with various initiatives aimed at supporting farming, livestock rearing and fish production initiated. More farmers are accessing subsidized inputs to lower their cost of production and boost earnings.

#### **These supplement the opportunities identified in the Big 4 on:**

##### **Large scale commercial agriculture production**

- Fisheries (aquaculture, inland and ocean)
- Crop production (maize, rice and potatoes)
- Orchards (fruits, oil and nuts)
- Animal production (dairy and meat)

##### **Agriculture mechanical equipment**

- Leasing, direct sales and operation of warehousing, cold store chains, driers, storage and handling equipment
- Leasing and direct sales of tractors, transplanters, combined harvesters, weeders and irrigation equipment

##### **Agriculture Production inputs**

- Local manufacture, distribution and direct sales of certified crop seeds, livestock feed mills and animal brood stock
- Local manufacture, distribution and direct sales of fertilisers, high quality animal feeds, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and certified livestock vaccinations

##### **Agriculture support services**

- Dairy processing and cold chain development
- Provision of crops and animal insurance services

Combined these measures will ensure Kenya reaches 100% Food and Nutrition Security.

<sup>1</sup> <https://big4.delivery.go.ke/>



## Vision 2030

Under the Economic and Macro Pillar, agriculture has been identified as one of six priority sectors that promise to raise GDP growth rate to the region of 10% in a number of years. Five priority action areas in agriculture were identified and commitments made include:

**ASAL development – Irrigation:** Increase irrigated land by million acres. 404,800 hectares will be put under irrigation by 2017 especially in the Arid and Semi-Arid area in Turkana and Tana Delta.

**Fisheries Development and Management:** Increase fish production from capture and culture fisheries; reduce fish post-harvest losses per annum and increase exports of marine products by expanding the area of fish farming from the current high potential areas to Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) and developing fisheries related infrastructure and strengthening of monitoring, control and surveillance systems.

**Establishment of Disease-Free Zones (DFZ):** Increase volume of beef exports and other animal products by establishing four DFZ to facilitate access of Kenyan meat, leather and leather products to local, regional and international markets. The first zone will be established at the Coast, covering the counties of Kwale, Mombasa, Kilifi, Tana River, Lamu and parts of Taita-Taveta outside the Tsavo National Park. The other three zones will be established in the Laikipia-Isiolo complex and Uasin Gishu and Garissa Counties.

**Fertilizer Cost Reduction Strategy:** Increase use of fertilizer by smallholder farmers to boost yield/output by improving access and affordability of fertilizer through establishing a local fertilizer plant and working with investors for blending.

**Implementation of the Consolidated Agricultural Reform Legislations:** preparation of necessary regulations to actualize implementation of the Acts and setting up institutions such as the Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Authority (AFFA); and the Kenya Agricultural Research Organization (KARO) proposed in the new Acts. Additionally, efforts will be made to fast track passing of the Livestock and Fisheries Bills in Parliament.

## Agricultural Sector Growth and Transformation Strategy (ASGTS)<sup>2</sup>

The 10-year ASGTS developed nine bold and ambitious flagships that will help to transform our agriculture sector in Kenya and make it a regional powerhouse, drive 100% food and nutrition security, and ensure food is affordable, especially for those most in need.

The ASGTS prioritizes three anchors to drive the 10-year transformation, with specific targets set for the first five years:

**Anchor 1: Increase small-scale farmer, pastoralist and fisherfolk incomes:** – Raise average annual small-scale farmer incomes by ~40% from KES 465/day to 625/day (~35% increase); Directly benefit ~3.3 million Kenyan farming households.

**Anchor 2: Increase agricultural output and value add:** Expand agricultural GDP from KES 2.9 trillion to KES ~3.9 trillion (~6% CAGR); Grow contribution of agro-processing to GDP by KES ~130 billion over 5 years (~50% from KES 261 billion today).

**Anchor 3: Increase household food resilience:** Reduce the number of food-insecure Kenyans in the ASAL regions from 2.7 million on average to zero, while reducing the cost of food and improving nutrition; Protect households against shocks: environmental and fiscal.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.agck.or.ke/Downloads/ASTGS-Full-Version-1.pdf>



Nine big ideas (“flagships”) underpin these anchors to define the strategy in the context of devolution: two flagships to increase small-scale farmer, pastoralist and fisherfolk incomes; two flagships to increase agricultural output and value-add; two flagships to boost household food resilience; and finally three enablers that run across the transformation:

Based on the feedback from the regional dialogues, there are evolving opportunities that should be incorporated into future strategies in each of the Action Tracks of the Food Systems Summit.

### Status towards 2030<sup>3</sup>

The work to transform the food system must be grounded in careful monitoring and data. Kenya has prioritized the implementation of the agenda 2030 and is committed to sustainable development. The principles of Kenya’s national Development Agenda are aligned with the SDGs.

Here is where we stand on progress on Goal 2: Zero Hunger

- 30% prevalence of undernourishment
- 56.5% prevalence of moderate of severe food insecurity
- 19.1% prevalence of severe food insecurity
- The agriculture orientation index for Government expenditures was 0.06 in 2016 and has remained at 0.05 since 2017.
- The indicator of food price anomalies was 13.4% in 2017; 1.37% in 2018; and 6.43% in 2019.
- Rural households purchase around 76 per cent of their food consumption days, with people in semi-arid areas contributing most to this hence their low dietary diversity.

Current interventions to End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture

- Fertiliser subsidy programme to make fertilisers affordable for farmers
- Enhancing strategic Food Reserves
- Promotion of large efficient commercial farming
- Increased agricultural mechanisation
- Enhancing grain drying and storage facilities
- Revitalisation of Industrial crops that provide forward and backward linkages
- Kenya Cereal Enhancement Programme. This is an e-voucher scheme to facilitate access to agricultural inputs to vulnerable subsistence cereal farmers
- Crop Insurance Project meant to enhanced mitigate risks and losses
- Climate smart agriculture

Challenges to End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture

- High population growth rates exerting pressure onto the limited productive arable land, leading to land fragmentation into uneconomical farming units.
- The adverse effects of climate change on long established productive system leading to severe droughts.
- Increase in crops and livestock diseases and pests.
- Underdeveloped rural infrastructure has led to high transport costs for agricultural produce and farm inputs

<sup>3</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26360VNR\\_2020\\_Kenya\\_Report.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26360VNR_2020_Kenya_Report.pdf)



- Low uptake and adoption of modern technology and declining soil fertility
- Disinterest of lenders to fund agricultural activities
- High post-harvest losses

#### Emerging issues

- Re-emerging transboundary crop diseases and pests like the fall army worms which compromised maize necrosis disease and desert locusts which compromise food production.
- Emerging and re-emerging livestock diseases that hinder trade in livestock and livestock products.

