

Report on the EARAF Learning and Sharing Event held in Nairobi on 22 July 2026.

Attended by Jacinta Nekesa (Environmental Alert/Prolinnova Uganda) and Jacob Wanyama (Prolinnova ESA SR).

Introduction.

African Regional Agroecology Fund (ARAF) organised an Eastern Africa Regional Agroecology Learning and Sharing Event on 22 July 2026 at the Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, on the sidelines of the PELUM Kenya National Agroecology Symposium. This hybrid event brought together in-person and online partners in the region, donors, and global grantees to strengthen regional teamwork and cross-learning. The event aimed to help partners share achievements and lessons learned from implementing EARAF-supported projects, explore emerging regional priorities, and promote cross-learning. It was hoped that, in the end, this would align the partners' approaches to regional and global agroecology resource mobilisation and produce evidence-based insights to strengthen future EARAF learning, collaboration and strategic management.

Jacinta Nekesa (Prolinnova Uganda) and Jacob Wanyama (Prolinnova ESA Subregion) participated in person. They presented a poster on the project “Strengthening Grassroots-led Agroecology Practitioners for Climate Resilience & Policy Dialogue in Kenya and Uganda,” implemented by Prolinnova ESA and hosted by Environmental Alert.

1. Event Proceedings.

The event opened with remarks from the ARAF Team, Tabara Ndiaye and Rutendo Zendah-Chirape. This was followed by an exchange of experiences and lessons from partners funded by ARAF in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Ethiopia, as well as the ARAF team. The session confirmed the partners' strong engagement with smallholder farmers, including women and youth, in the region. It provided key learning for the partners on ARAF-supported agroecology activities in the region.



The partners showcased diverse agroecology initiatives across East Africa as follows:

Uganda – Land Rights & Agroecology

Jeff Wokulira Ssebagala of Witness Radio – Uganda noted the displacement of over 2 million landless peasants and efforts to secure land access through seasonal land hires, seed multiplication, and six demonstration farms. He noted that government-backed large-scale agriculture has displaced many small farmers.

Kenya – Community Land Rights

The Grappa Women Group¹ shared the successful registration of El Molo community land and empowerment of women and youth through kitchen gardening, fishing, and basketry.

¹ Gabriel Road Area Project Association (GRAPA), also referred to as the Grappa Women

Pastoralist Agroecology (Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia)

Pastoralist Alliance for Resilience and Adaptations Across Nations (PARAAN) presented cross-county pastoralist agroecology work in Baringo, Isiolo, Samburu, and Kajiado, involving 37 organisations and centring on policy engagement and food systems localisation.

Technology Assessment (Kenya)

The African Technology Assessment Platform (AfriTAP) showed how farmer-led digital innovation can support online data privacy, cybersecurity, and digital loan risk management. Farmers across diverse regions reported similar issues with digital loans and data theft.

Organic Agriculture (Kenya).

The RISACI Green Consortium demonstrated their organic farming training, distribution of 3,000-litre water tanks, and market development for crops like lemongrass, chia, and garlic.

Regional Innovations.

Ethiopia and Uganda partners shared their experiences in ecological restoration, composting, beekeeping, seed saving, and agroforestry initiatives.

2. Our input at the event

2.1. Presentation of Prolinnova ESA & Uganda Poster

Jacinta and Jacob presented a poster summarising achievements and lessons from the ongoing project “*Strengthening Grassroots-led Agroecology Practitioners for Climate Resilience along with Policy Dialogue in Kenya and Uganda.*”

The poster demonstrated Prolinnova’s approach and lessons learned in identifying and documenting farmer-led agroecological innovations, strengthening community seed systems and agroecology learning groups. It facilitated policy dialogue with county and national institutions, built climate resilience through Participatory Innovation Development (PID) and promoted cross-country exchange between Uganda and Kenya. The poster helped Prol



innova highlight PID's role in strengthening agroecology by emphasising grassroots agroecological innovation, policy engagement, and regional partnership.

2.2. Participation in Discussions.

Jacob contributed to the collaboration dialogue, emphasising: “*Interest-driven collaboration as a sustainable way to build partnerships among groups with common goals.*”

Jacinta engaged in discussions on Certification, value addition, and institutionalisation of farmer-led innovations—reflected in the tasks: “*Support certification procedures and value addition and engaging government institutions for policy institutionalisation.*”

3. Our Key Takeaways from the event

3.1. Agroecology transformation momentum at regional level.

The region is advancing agroecology through land rights advocacy, pastoralist food systems localisation, organic farming and market development, governance of Digital technology, and restoration of natural resources, plus adaptation to the effects of climate change.



3.2. Importance of peer-learning and networking.

Partners emphasised cross-visits, shared innovations, and regional exchanges as critical for scaling agroecology.

3.3. The importance of Policy engagement.

Agroecology Policies at the county level and land registration efforts indicate growing political will despite the challenges.

3.4. Grassroots Innovations Need Certification & Market Access

Many innovations by small-scale farmers and pastoralists require product certification, packaging improvements, cooperative registration and market linkage support.

3.5. Addressing digitalisation risks to farmers.

Technology pitching highlighted data privacy risks, digital loan exploitation, and the need for better farmer-led tech governance.

4. Recommendations (EARAF, Prolinnova and Participating Partners).

- 1) Mainstream regional learning and exchange by embedding EARAF learning exchanges into annual programming and establishing thematic learning clusters such as pastoralism, digitalisation, seed systems, etc.
- 2) Advance policy influence by supporting countries to formulate and implement agroecology policies, strengthening farmer-government-NGO interface mechanisms, and documenting successful policy advocacy experiences (such as the case with El Molo land registration and PARAN Advocacy initiative).
- 3) Invest in Market system development (including certification) by providing technical support for product certification, strengthening packaging, branding, digitalisation training, as well as growing market linkage platforms for grassroots innovations.
- 4) Optimise Blended Learning and Collaboration platforms by improving the quality and dependability of blended learning events by upgrading virtual participation tools, enhancing internet connectivity and providing technical support.
- 5) Scale climate resilience farmer-led innovations, including syntropic agroforestry, composting, water harvesting and farmer-managed seed saving systems, to enhance capacity and food security.
- 6) Expand Cross-Country Learning through facilitating Kenya–Uganda–Ethiopia exchange visits (both in-country and across countries) and document and share farmer-led innovations regionally.
- 7) The EARAF team will share the contacts of various partners at each country level to facilitate in-country interaction and learning exchange,

5. Conclusion

The event highlighted the strength of Kenya's and East Africa's agroecology movement, rooted in grassroots innovations, community resilience, and regional solidarity. It facilitated interactions among EARAF partners and showed that learning exchanges occur at the country level. Prolinnova contributed through a poster presentation, experience sharing, and reflection on partnerships. We exchanged ideas on using PID to boost agroecology. Lessons learned will foster local partnerships, guide future events, and set strategic priorities to strengthen agroecology in East Africa.