

Disruptive Seeds for a sustainable and just food system in Kenya



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Introduction: Disruptive Seeds

The global environmental challenges we currently face—environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity, inequity, and climate change in particular—call for significant and radical systemic change, i.e., sustainability transformations. Such transformations inevitably entail a shift from current, unsustainable power structures to new, sustainable ones. We therefore introduce a new scenario approach that allows us to envision sustainability transformations and explore the crucial role of power dynamics: the *Disruptive Seeds* approach. It was developed in response to a need for a novel approach to thinking about the future, which “emphasizes “hopeful” elements and focuses on initiatives that fundamentally challenge current unsustainable structures and practices, to generate creative, bottom-up scenarios” (Rutting et al. 2022:2). *Seeds*, in this regard, refer to “initiatives (social, technological, economic, or social-ecological ways of thinking or doing) that exist, at least in prototype form, and that represent a diversity of worldviews, values, and regions, but are not currently dominant in the world” (Bennett et al. 2016:442). Yet, these *seeds* have the potential to grow in terms of impact and eventually replace unsustainable practices and institutions. This way, they can be regarded as potential instigators of transformative change. Moreover, such *seeds* may represent perspectives and worldviews that fundamentally differ from globally dominant frames that oftentimes originated from the Global North. This is key for two reasons. First, perspectives and worldviews that challenge the dominant frame can offer alternative ways of addressing the global challenges and help to break deadlocks. Second, it helps to make decision-making processes more just and equitable.

The Disruptive Seeds approach is in essence a visioning-and-backcasting approach aimed at envisioning bright futures and subsequently providing guidance to develop policy pathways toward such bright futures. The approach is based on the notion that sustainability transformations are not likely to be smooth transition processes. Incumbent actors who benefit from the current system will exert power in defense of the status quo, and seeds of transformative change will have to challenge these incumbent systems and actors. To this end, we incorporated key insights from the literature on power dynamics and shifts in transitions/transformations (Avelino 2017, Brisbois 2019, van Rijnsoever and Leendertse 2020, Feola et al. 2021, see table 1). The updated approach—which we call the *Disruptive Seeds* approach—is a participatory action research (PAR) approach, in which participants contribute to new insights, and collaborate in small groups representing different sectors, disciplines, stakeholder groups and perspectives (Rutting et al. 2022). It consists of two main working sessions: the first session is aimed at envisioning a future in which a particular disruptive seed has become dominant and thus, part of the new regime. During this session, participants will think of what the seed would look like in its mature form (i.e., when it has become dominant), as well as what this means for the world in which these seeds exist: who are winners and losers of this future world? What

further impacts would this have? We will use the so-called "Future Wheel" to think about such repercussions (see figure 1).

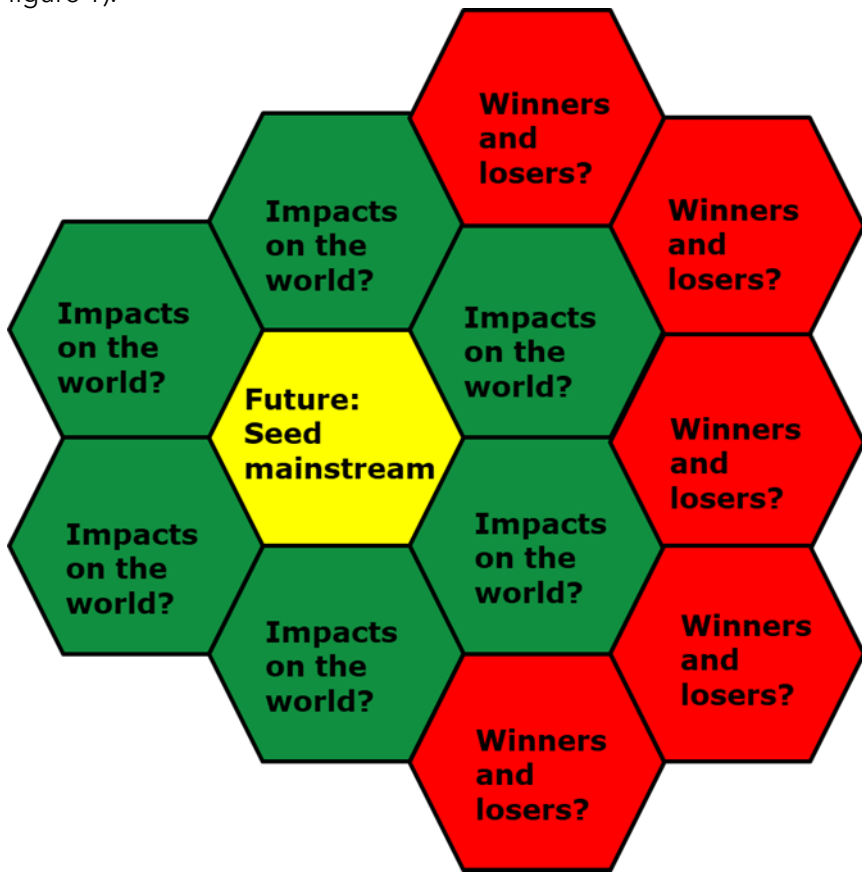


Figure 1. A Future Wheel depicts the Seed in its mature form, its 1st-order impacts and winners and losers of this particular future (after Raudsepp-Hearne et al. [2019](#))

The second session is aimed at exploring and explaining how power shifts will take place that are required for the transformation from the current incumbent regime to the future envisioned during session 1. During this second session, the Three Horizons framework (see figure 2), which is a simple way to visualize transformations, is used to guide deliberations between participating stakeholders. More importantly, we formulated a set of questions based on the literature on power in transitions/transformations, that can help articulate how such transformations may actually unfold. These questions help to make explicit how power shifts happen (see table 1).

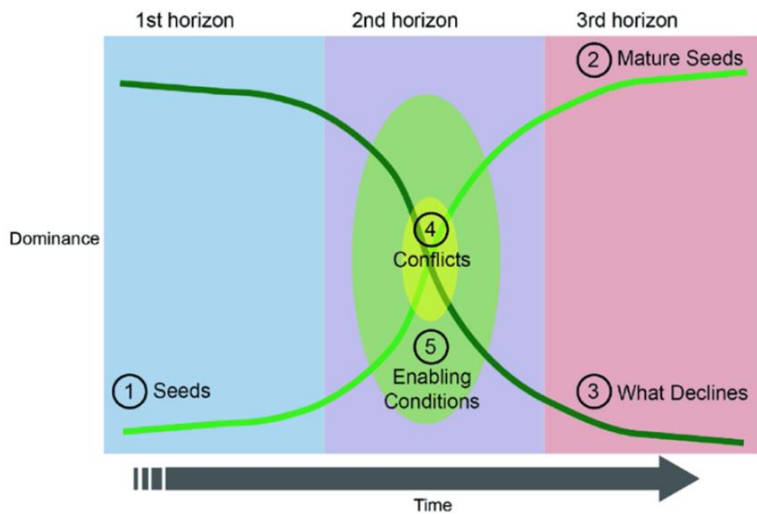


Figure 2. Three Horizons framework (Raudsepp-Hearne et al. 2019, adapted from Sharpe et al. 2016)

Table 1. Guiding questions about power shifts in transformations (from Rutting et al. 2022)

Questions regarding the regime	Questions regarding the seed
1a. What unsustainable parts of the current dominant system (regime) need to go? (based on Feola et al. 2021)	1b. What conflicts need to arise to make these unsustainable parts of the regime go? 1c. How can these elements of and structures associated with the current regime be unmade?
2a. How does the current regime exercise reinforcing power? What strategies does it use to defend itself/its structures?	2b. How does the seed exercise transformative power? Strategies to destabilize the regime? Which resources are needed? 2c. How can this transformative power disrupt current regime structures?
3a. What macrotrends are aligned with the regime?	3b. How does the seed challenge dominant macro-trends? 3c. How does the seed strengthen counter-macro-trends? Synergisms?
4a. Which actor groups are aligned with the regime?	4b. Which actor groups align with the seed?
5a. How does the regime use discursive tools such as the media?	5b. How do actors aligned with the seed use discursive tools?
6a. Does the regime employ coercion or manipulation? Who lobbies for the regime and how?	6b. How can change be brought about through "playing by the rules" of the regime?

Overarching questions:

How does this power shift happen? Describe the power struggles and shifts—how do we go from the current situation to the vision of the world in which the seed is dominant? Are there tipping points?

Addressing these questions provides important building blocks for a future scenario describing the process of transformations from the current system in the present to an alternative, sustainable one in the future. This, in turn, informs the formulation of transformative policy pathways. Combining the Disruptive Seeds approach with explorative scenario planning can help make such policy pathways more robust in the face of future uncertainty.

Background of the project

The Disruptive Seeds project was launched as part of the CGIAR Initiative on Climate Resilience. In this project, we combine the seeds approach—which essentially is a visioning and back-casting approach—with an explorative scenarios approach in an innovative way. It consists of three main phases:

1. Understanding Kenya's food system, including the policy environment, its power dynamics and the challenges it faces, and identifying disruptive seeds that offer sustainable and just alternatives to the current system
2. Developing future visions and pathways for transformation (with a focus on vulnerable groups—especially women, youth, Indigenous people and the rural poor—in agriculture)
3. Translating the pathways into more concrete action plans to guide plans, policies and investments that enable the envisioned transformations

The first workshop—the focus of this report—was the culmination of phase 1. It started with a thorough context analysis to understand the characteristics and history of the food system in Kenya, including the social, environmental, and political challenges it faces. The research team then proceeded to identify small scale initiatives that have developed hopeful alternatives to the unsustainable and unjust elements of the system, disruptive seeds. These "Seeds" were first identified through online searches, as well as through engaging with key Kenyan and regional-level stakeholders and organisations. Selection criteria for disruptive seeds included the following: seeds were to be focused on sustainable agriculture; actively challenging the unsustainable, incumbent agricultural regime (focused on production, monocultures, dominated by multinationals, neglecting local/regional values and practices, and ecological aspects); and have transformative potential. Eventually, a list of disruptive seeds was developed. During the first workshop, which took place during three days in Naivasha, we focused on developing stakeholder-generated transformation pathways based on the identified seeds. A range of stakeholders were invited representing seed initiatives from across the spectrum ranging from organic agriculture and agroecology to land rights, Indigenous rights, human rights and gender equality.

Workshop program and objectives

DAY 1 : Tuesday 24 September	
Time	Activity
08:00-08:30	Registration
08:30-09:30	Introduction (plenary) - Workshop opening - Introduction to workshop objectives and agenda - Introduction of participants
09:30-10:00	Introduction to the Disruptive Seeds approach - a scenario approach to imagining positive, transformative change (plenary) What does it entail and how does it enhance thinking about transformative change?
10:00-10:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:15-12:30	Session 1: Developing a desirable future vision of Kenya's food system (breakout groups) Step 1: Combining the seeds (i.e., the initiatives and organizations represented by the workshop participants) into a "super seed"
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30-15:15	Step 2: What would the super seed would look like in mature form?
15:15-15:30	<i>Tea break</i>
15:30-15:45	Introduction to session 2 (plenary) Lucas will explain session 2
15:45-17:15	Session 2: Developing pathways for transformation of Kenya's food system (breakout groups) In this session, the groups are going to work on the pathway toward the future vision they have envisioned on day 1. What would need to happen and what would need to change to reach this particular future? Step 1: Developing the pathway The groups will think about the road, or <i>pathway</i> , toward their respective future visions, using the guiding questions of the Disruptive Seeds approach.
17:15-17:30	Wrap-up of the day (plenary)
DAY 2: Wednesday 25 September	
8:30-10:30	Continue Session 2: Developing pathways for transformation of Kenya's food system (breakout groups)

	<p>Step 2: Creating a storyline</p> <p>The groups will develop a storyline (a scenario) from the present to their future vision based on the pathway developed during step 1.</p>
10:30-10:45	<i>Tea break</i>
10:45-12:30	Continue Session 2 - step 2 (breakout groups)
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30-15:15	<p>Step 3: Policy objectives (breakout groups)</p> <p>As a last step, the group is going to think about how their vision of a desired future can be translated into policy objectives.</p>
15:15-15:30	<i>Tea break</i>
15:30-17:15	Finalize session 2
17:15-17:30	Wrap-up of the day (plenary)
DAY 3: Thursday 26 September	
8:30-10:00	<p>Session 3: Testing robustness pathways (breakout groups)</p> <p>Now, we will test the robustness of the pathways, by confronting them with a number of key challenges, and strengthening the pathways accordingly.</p>
10:00-10:30	<p>Prepare presentations (breakout groups)</p> <p>The groups will prepare a short presentation (app. 10 minutes) on their super seed, transformation pathways, and the scenario storyline, for which they will use their imagination and creativity.</p>
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00-12:30	Presentations (plenary)
12:30-13:30	Discussing next steps and closing the workshop (plenary)
13:30-14:30	<i>Lunch</i>

Workshop objectives

1. To develop a vision of a just and sustainable future food system in Kenya, inspired by the Seed initiatives represented in the workshop
2. To develop a transformation pathway toward this vision, with a focus on the role of power dynamics between food system actors and power shifts needed to get to a just and sustainable food system
3. To establish a coalition of actors/organizations for policy advocacy for transformative food systems change.

Results

The Results chapter details the collaborative ideation from the Disruptive Seeds workshop, where participants were divided into four focus groups based on key thematic areas: Indigenous rights and practices, human rights and development, sustainable agricultural approaches, and land rights. Guided by facilitators, each group engaged in structured discussions across two sessions. These sessions were designed to map out a desired future through steps that explored historical contexts, envisioned ideal scenarios, and identified practical actions for achieving these visions. The insights presented in this chapter capture each group's unique perspective, highlighting the significant themes and approaches that emerged from their explorations.

Group 1: Indigenous Peoples

Securing community land for sustainable livelihood and holistic health



Protecting the rights of marginalized groups, this image emphasizes the critical importance of community land ownership in fostering a healthy, sustainable food ecosystem. The drawing depicts a man from one of these communities, radiating peace and confidence as he grazes his livestock on ancestral land. His sense of security stems from holding a title deed, a powerful symbol of protection that shields him from external exploitative forces seeking to take away the community's most valuable inheritance—land, the enduring link to their past. This artwork underscores how securing collective land rights not only safeguards livelihoods but also strengthens community resilience and sustainable agriculture for future generations

Figure 3. Illustration by Carl Wiz of pathway 1: Secured community land for secured futures (image credits @mr_carlwiz)

This group was composed of the following Seeds;

1. Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation (IMPACT Kenya)
2. The Ogiek Peoples' Development Program (OPDP)
3. Sengwer Indigenous Community Trust
4. The Program for the Heritage of Ogiek and Mother Earth (PROHOME)
5. Endorois Welfare Council
6. Trust for Indigenous Culture and Health (TICAH)

Session 1: Developing a desirable future vision of Kenya's food system - What would the seeds look like in mature form?

Step 1: Aim of the Seeds in the Group

The Seeds in this group focus on empowering Indigenous Peoples and local communities to reclaim their rights, land, and cultural identity. They emphasize community-led initiatives, the use of indigenous knowledge, and advocacy for land and resource ownership. Their aim is to enable self-determination, sustainable livelihoods, and environmental conservation while challenging external control and commercialization.

The Seeds offer the following of alternatives:

- i. **Community-Led Solutions:** They encourage grassroots involvement in project design and decision-making rather than relying on external or top-down approaches.
- ii. **Land Ownership and Conservation:** They advocate for communal land ownership and restoration from an indigenous perspective, offering alternatives to commercialized conservation practices.
- iii. **Cultural and Indigenous Knowledge:** They promote the use of culture and indigenous knowledge to address health, wellbeing, and community development, moving away from colonial or external frameworks.
- iv. **Legal Advocacy:** They support communities in utilizing national and regional legal frameworks to secure land rights and protect against resource misuse.

The Seeds challenge the status quo through:

- i. **Decentralized Project Design:** Rejecting conventional boardroom-based decision-making in favour of community-led initiative design, empowering local voices.
- ii. **Land and Resource Control:** challenging government or corporate control of land and resources, advocating for communal ownership and indigenous management, as seen with OPDP and PROHOME.
- iii. **Gender Equity:** promoting equal rights for men and women regarding land ownership, directly addressing gender disparities in traditional land-use systems.
- iv. **Cultural Decolonization:** challenging colonial mindsets and cultural systems, encouraging the use of arts and indigenous knowledge to drive transformative change.

What are other interesting notes about the Seeds:

- i. **IMPACT Kenya:** Amplifies grassroots voices to influence policy reforms at multiple levels, offering community-led solutions to local challenges.
- ii. **OPDP:** Advocates for the self-determination of the Ogiek people, focusing on strengthening governance systems and claiming land tenure rights through documentation and legal mechanisms.
- iii. **SICT:** Works on capacity building for communal land ownership and crop diversification, promoting gender equity in land use.
- iv. **PROHOME:** Focuses on land restoration and conservation from an indigenous perspective, aiming for sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity conservation.
- v. **EWC:** Promotes sustainable land use and access to climate justice, leveraging legal frameworks such as the Constitution of Kenya and the Nagoya Protocol to protect community land rights.
- vi. **TICAH:** Uses arts as a tool for discussing difficult topics and driving community-led transformative change, decolonizing mindsets and systems to improve health and wellbeing.

Step 2: Envisioning the Seed in Its Mature Form

The Seeds were tasked with imagining the future of Kenya, focusing on what the "super seed" would look like in its mature form—how it would reshape agriculture, food systems, and communities by 2050. The exercise emphasized healthy, sustainable, and thriving communities built on resilient food systems and equitable resource management.

Vision for 2050:

- i. **Sustainable Food Systems:** By 2050, Kenya is envisioned to produce safe, organically grown food accessible to all citizens. Thriving food systems will drive economic growth, enhancing health and well-being.
- ii. **Climate Resilience:** Communities will be resilient to climate change impacts, with reduced floods, droughts, and soil erosion. Trees and environmental conservation will stabilize ecosystems, benefiting pastoralist communities.
- iii. **Economic Stability:** Kenya will be economically stable, free from poverty, and discrimination. Community-led investments in communal lands will increase, driving growth and prosperity.
- iv. **Self-Determination:** Communities will articulate their priorities and challenges by 2030, securing direct funding for solutions. Land rights and the management of natural resources will be in the hands of communities.
- v. **Cultural and Indigenous Knowledge:** Indigenous cultures and livelihoods will be recognized and respected, with traditional knowledge incorporated into governance and decision-making processes.
- vi. **Peace and Justice:** By 2050, Kenya will denounce injustices, and communities will live in harmony, sharing solutions to common challenges with a common vision for prosperity.

Key Focus Areas for Future Development:

- i. **Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Stability:** Food production will boost economic growth through fair value chains, low inflation, and increased income generation for communities.
- ii. **Just and Inclusive Policies:** Historical land injustices will be addressed, with communities fully engaged in self-determination and governance.
- iii. **Adoption of New Technologies:** Green energy, weather prediction, soil analysis, ICT, and innovative marketing technologies will drive agricultural growth.
- iv. **Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation:** Endangered species will be regenerated, ecosystems restored, and community-driven conservation implemented through sustainable land-use plans.
- v. **Holistic Health and Nutrition:** Agroecological practices will ensure food and nutrition security, fostering healthy communities with zero waste.
- vi. **Climate Disaster Preparedness:** Communities will be prepared for climate calamities, with resilient crops, animal species, and direct climate finance initiatives ensuring food security.

Winners in the Future Vision:

- i. Smallholder farmers
- ii. Beekeepers, fishermen, pastoralists, and traditional medicine practitioners
- iii. Women, youth, children, and the general population of Kenya
- iv. Community resource user groups and people-centered government initiatives

Losers:

- i. Exploitative multinationals and harmful agrochemical industries
- ii. Land grabbers and individuals with selfish government interests
- iii. International development organizations offering conditional grants
- iv. Conservation organizations that disenfranchise local communities

Team Indigenous Peoples Future Wheel



Session 2: Developing pathways for transformation of Kenya's food system

Step 1: Developing the pathway

In this session the group explored how to challenge the current unsustainable food system and create a transformative pathway towards a just and sustainable future for Kenya. This session builds on the vision developed in the first session and focuses on power dynamics, identifying the unsustainable elements of the current dominant system, and determining how to disrupt and replace them with people-centered approaches.

Key points :

1A - What unsustainable parts of the current dominant system need to go?	1B - What conflicts need to arise to make these unsustainable parts of the regime go?	1C - How can these elements of and structures associated with the current regime be unmade?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capitalism - export-oriented markets. Exploitative and unsustainable market systems. Overlooking human rights and safeguards Lack of consultation - regards to people's needs & priorities / focus on profits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boycotting products Farmers/ consumer's vs multinationals conflict 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of counter narrative strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmful technologies Sue of GMOS Over reliance on synthetic Agro chemicals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class wars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic litigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imperialism Devalues (Indigenous Traditional Knowledge) ITK and local systems Conditional aid that is exploitative and promotes oppressive laws and practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market control wars Occupy Sanctions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organising/ movement building
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dictatorial system of governance Lack of transparency Non inclusive systems Impunity/ opaque governance Bureaucracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political paradigm shifts wars/ conflicts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder engagement and strategic dialogues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsustainable energy sources Use of fossil fuel for production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information wars (information vs disinformation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil disobedience - 'Occupy movements' 'Salimia broker'

• Retrogressive laws and policies	Promoting national unity through	Civic education and sensitization
• Restrictive i.e. commercialisation of seeds	community exchange programs that promotes cultural diversity	Policy influencing
• Policy influenced to favour private investors	Using existing platforms	Artivism
• Bureaucratic re-tape	Hunter gatherer forums	Artvocacy
• Unsecure land tenure system	Cultural festivals and weeks	Memeology
		Social media

2A -How does the current regime exercise reinforcive power?

2B - How does the seed exercise transformative power?

2C - How can this transformative power disrupt current regime structures?

• Dictatorship	Promoting cohesion and peaceful	Returning power to the people
• Misuse of power	coexistence of community	Brings accountability
• Defying laws	Unity of purpose and solidarity of	Introduces the politics of ideologies
• Circumventing systems	action	
• Policy		
• Non - transparency		

• Contril of media	Reinforcing accountability (holding	People centred policies and ideologies
• Propagating narratives through social media influencers	public officers accountable)	Enhances transparency
• Censorship		
• Internet shutdown		

• Perpetuating tribalism and nepotism	Use of encrypted communication channels e.g. Signal	Protection of activists
• Divisive politics	Use of alternative media channels -local	Inability to tamper with information and surveillance
• Polarisation that brings disunity	channels	Accurate information
	Target messaging	
	Acquiring our own media platforms	

• Propaganda and disinformation	Strategic litigation	Narrative shifts
	Countering corporate narratives public shaming (through media -m	Accuracy in information delivery
	Civic education	Enhance visibility of the movement / issues being addressed
	Anticorruption activism e.g. activism, use of media campaigns etc.	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate capture • Use of political influences to control laws. Legislature or interfere with processes • Manipulation through bribes / financial incentives • Revolving door and shaping narratives 	<p>Civil discourses</p> <p>Enlightens and brings consciousness to masses</p> <p>Shapes agenda</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State capture • Executive influencing legislature and judiciary through manipulation, threats, politics etc 	<p>Upholding moral values</p> <p>Promoting unity</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threats coercion • State sponsored extra judicial killing • Abduction of activists • Intimidation 	<p>Justice</p> <p>deterrence</p> <p>Upholding human rights and dignity</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corruption • Bribery of govt officials • Financial incentives 	

3A - What macro-trends are aligned with the regime?	3B - How does the seed challenge dominant macro-trends?	3C - How does the seed strengthen counter-macro-trends? Synergisms?
Carbon trading	Inclusive community conservation Integrating ITK in land use plans Training and awareness in carbon markets / trade	Support community land protection and to develop land use plans Synergy with MoLPP, NLC, CSOs, Surveyors cartographers
Monoculture GMO Better productivity, pest resistance GMO is better	Investing in research and innovations (local)	The seed adopting agroecology system to counter monoculture, GMO through organic farming and synergizing with other organisation in organic farming
Global markets Export oriented production	Grow local / regional markets Strengthen regional markets prioritise	Prioritize local and regional markets Trade organisation export company

	local markets	Cooperatives governments
Climate smart	Promotion of indigenous production	Ministry of education learning
Climate conscious production	systems	institutions researchers
Large scale production	Encourage small holder farming for	The seed promote smallholder farming
We need to scale	food security and livelihoods	synergy - women youth groups, rural
Mega investment		farmers groups
Digital consumerisms]	Enforce data protection	Digital inclusion synergy - ICT, data
Misuse of digital data		protection, inert society
	Build local brands	
	Incentivise marketing	
	Social media influencing	
	Authenticate data sources	
	Strengthen early warning systems	
	Community / local and national level)	

4a - Which actor groups are aligned with the regime?

4b - Which actor groups align with the seed?

Market cartels / tenderpreneurs
 Multinational
 Political class
 Conservation organisations
 Development partners

Peasants
 Local markets
 Resource user groups
 CSOs
 Activists- human and environmental defenders
 People centred initiatives
 Champions enthusiasts

5a - How does the regime use discursive tools such as the media?

5b - How do actors aligned with the seed use discursive tools?

Spreading misinformation and disinformation
 Threats
 Influencing policy direction
 Spread false information
 Shape narratives

Education
 Advocacy
 Shape narratives
 Campaign (policy)
 Visibility around issues and raw attention
 To hold public officials accountable
 To shame

6A - Coercion or manipulation? Who lobbies for the regime and how?	6B - How can change be brought about through "playing by the rules" of the regime?
Corporate (multinational) kick backs	Public participation – education, awareness
Financial incentives	Explore / use justice systems - use legal channels
G2G trade agreements	Constructive dialogue
Foreign govt	Research and documentation (use evidence to drive our
Foreign aid	agenda)
International financial institutions	
International financial loans and grants with strings attached	

Step 2: Creating a storyline

All the information generated thus far is used to create a storyline from the present to the desired future. What kind of developments happen on the road to that future?

The Indigenous Peoples Narrative of the Future (AI Generated)

Year: 2050

In the vibrant heart of Kenya, the sun rose over a landscape transformed. The nation had achieved remarkable milestones in sustainability and health, leading the world in innovative agricultural practices and environmental stewardship. The air was fresh, filled with the scent of blooming indigenous plants, as citizens celebrated their status as one of the top ten most food-secure countries globally. With non-communicable diseases at an all-time low, Kenyans enjoyed longer, healthier lives.

The Journey to 2050

The seeds of this transformation were sown years earlier. In 2025, a robust movement of Indigenous people and farmers emerged, advocating for sustainable agricultural systems and addressing policy gaps around land and food. Their voices resonated, culminating in civic campaigns that pushed for community land registration and sustainable practices. By 2026, the country witnessed a surge in civic education, leading to active engagement and a push for the Community Land Act.

In 2028, a significant lobby effort resulted in the mainstreaming of Indigenous Knowledge and Technologies (ITK) into the educational curriculum. Students learned the importance of sustainable farming practices, fostering a new generation of environmentally conscious citizens. This movement gained momentum as corrupt political leaders were ousted, paving the way for people-centered governance by 2027.

By 2030, local markets flourished. Communities took control of their economic destinies, with the Lolkuniyani community famously driving out brokers from their markets, reclaiming the value of their goods. The shift towards local economies set a precedent, allowing farmers to thrive and prioritize organic practices.

As the government set aside USD 30 billion in 2043 to support indigenous food production systems, the landscape

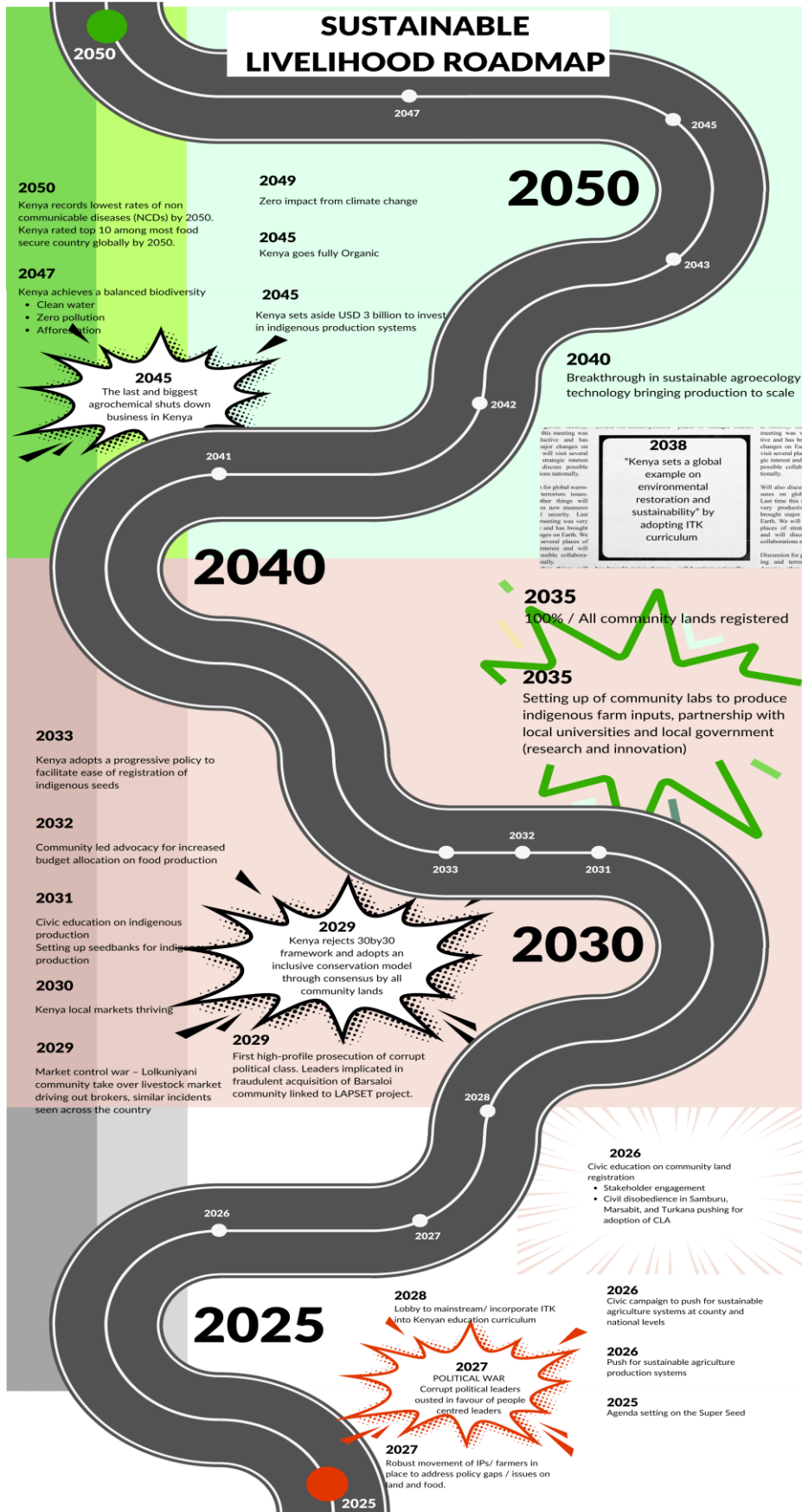
of agriculture changed. This investment fuelled the establishment of laboratories in partnership with local universities to produce indigenous farm inputs. By 2045, Kenya achieved a monumental milestone: the last agrochemical company shut down operations, marking the nation's transition to fully organic farming. A Greener Kenya - By 2047, the government's commitment to environmental restoration bore fruit. Kenya boasted a balanced biodiversity, with clean water, zero pollution, and a 30% forest cover due to extensive reforestation efforts. Communities embraced sustainable agroecology, leading to a breakthrough in technologies that scaled organic farming practices, creating resilient ecosystems.

In 2049, Kenya achieved zero impact on climate change, setting a global benchmark. Citizens participated in community-led initiatives that honoured their land and resources. The harmonious coexistence of nature and community became a model for nations around the world. A Legacy of Knowledge -

In 2050, as Kenyans celebrated their achievements, the nation stood as a beacon of hope. With holistic health and sustainable livelihoods, the country reflected on its journey. The ITK integrated into education not only empowered future generations but also ensured that traditional practices were respected and preserved.

As local markets thrived and food security became a reality, Kenya emerged as a global example of environmental restoration and sustainability. The vision of a healthier, sustainable future was no longer a distant dream but a thriving reality, reminding the world that change is possible through unity, resilience, and respect for nature.

Timeline and Key milestones



Step 3: Policy Objectives

In this step, the Seeds focused on translating their vision of a sustainable and just food system into clear policy objectives. These objectives could be implemented in organizational strategies or through local and national government policies.

Key Themes:

1. **Community Land Registration:** Ensuring that all community lands are registered is crucial for protecting local communities and fostering sustainable land use.
2. **Adoption of Organic/Indigenous Food Systems and Knowledge (ITK):** The integration of organic and indigenous agricultural systems and traditional knowledge is central to creating resilient, sustainable food systems.
3. **Local Markets:** Prioritizing and developing local markets over export-oriented ones strengthens community-based economies and food sovereignty.
4. **Health:** Promoting sustainable agricultural systems that support health through organic production and ITK.
5. **Education:** Mainstreaming ITK into education systems is key to ensuring future generations are equipped to manage land and agriculture sustainably.

Policy Objectives:

1. To ensure all community lands are registered.
2. **To prioritize local markets** by encouraging the development of local and regional food systems.
3. To mainstream adoption of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK) in agriculture, education, and land use planning.

Action Plans

2024-2028:

1. Civic Education on Community Land Registration:
 - **Actions:** Educating communities on the importance of land registration and implementing the Community Land Act of 2016 through civil disobedience if necessary.
 - **Actors:** Communities, national and county governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), and media outlets.
2. Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture Systems:
 - **Actions:** Civic campaigns targeting both county and national levels, engaging ministries of trade, agriculture, and export promotion zones (EPZ) to push for sustainable agriculture.
 - **Actors:** Farmer groups, CSOs, and local governments.
3. Support Community-led Conservation Initiatives Using ITK:
 - **Actions:** Promote and support initiatives that focus on conservation through the use of ITK.
 - **Actors:** Traditional knowledge holders, national and county governments, and the Ministry of Education.
4. Lobby to Integrate ITK into Kenya's Education Curriculum:
 - **Actions:** Conduct situational analyses and policy reviews, engage communities and stakeholders, and lobby for ITK's inclusion in the education system.

- **Actors:** Human rights organizations, the public, artists, and influencers.
5. Campaign Against Corruption in Politics:
- **Actions:** Civic campaigns aimed at holding corrupt political figures accountable.

2028-2035:

1. Develop Local Market Policies/Strategies:
 - **Actions:** Advocate for county-level policy development and strategy for local market prioritization for crops, livestock, and fisheries.
 - **Actors:** Farmers, independent producers, cooperatives, Ministry of Cooperatives, and local governments.
2. Support Indigenous-led Advocacy Against Market Exploiters:
 - **Actions:** Organize stakeholder dialogues and campaigns to protect indigenous producers from exploitation by brokers.
 - **Actors:** Indigenous peoples, farmers, cooperative movements, and governments.
3. Policy Review on Indigenous Seeds and Technologies:
 - **Actions:** Push for policy reviews and advocate for the recognition and registration of indigenous seeds and sustainable technologies.
 - **Actors:** Local universities, county and national governments.
4. Community Labs for Indigenous Food Research:
 - **Actions:** Establish community-led research labs focused on innovation and sustainable production systems.
 - **Actors:** CSOs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, and traditional knowledge holders.
5. Civic Education on Indigenous Foods:
 - **Actions:** Conduct advocacy campaigns focused on the nutritional value, resilience, and biodiversity benefits of indigenous foods.
 - **Actors:** Communities, CSOs, government entities, and advocates for increased budget allocation for food production.

Sustainable, Resilient, Equitable, Inclusive FOOD SYSTEM



"In creating a sustainable food ecosystem, it's essential to involve every layer of society, from young people to those directly working in fields, such as farmers, traders, and even policymakers and legal experts. This drawing highlights the collaborative effort needed, with each character representing a different role in building the big picture: a sustainable, resilient, and equitable food system. Every piece they bring to the table is crucial; if one party is left out, the puzzle remains incomplete, and the vision of a truly inclusive food ecosystem cannot be fully realized."

Figure 4. Illustration by Carl Wiz of pathway 2: To solve the problem of having a sustainable food system, all levels of society must work together (image credits @mr_carlwiz)

This group was composed of the following seeds;

1. Millennium Community Development Initiatives (MCDI) Kenya
2. Haki Nawiri Afrika
3. Centre for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE)
4. Endorois Women Group Community Based
5. Indigenous Young Moms Kenya

Session 1 - Developing a desirable future vision of Kenya's food system - What would the seeds look like in mature form?

Step 1 : Aim of the Seeds in the Group

The Seeds challenge the status quo through;

1. **Sustainable Practices:** By challenging the conventional agricultural practices but instead promoting agroecology and organic farming over chemical-based farming. They also demonstrate how indigenous seeds yield more than modern hybrids.
2. **Governance:** By opposing corrupt or external control of resources, as seen in the example where a community organization reclaimed a grabbed water project.
3. **Gender Equity:** By Promoting gender inclusivity by empowering women through seed banking, organic farming, and economic initiatives, while challenging cultural norms such as excluding women from decision-making
4. **Youth and Adult Empowerment:** They challenge the idea that external help is needed by creating local change agents through adult training programs and youth initiatives like eco-tourism.

What are other interesting notes about the Seeds:

1. **Millennium Community Development Initiatives (MCDI):** Promotes community learning and development in agroecology, water governance, and youth empowerment through projects like ecotourism and bulking centers for organic markets.
2. **Haki Nawiri:** Aims to create a sustainable future by combining organic farming, fruit forestry, and adult training programs to develop local leaders and document indigenous knowledge.
3. **East African Youth Alliance (EAYA):** Gender equity discussions led to a consensus on land ownership, with married couples owning acquired land, while ancestral land remains individually owned.
4. **Endorois Women Group:** Focuses on economic empowerment through organic product sales, seed banks, and demonstrating the benefits of indigenous seeds.
5. **Indigenous Young Moms Kenya:** Advocates for the rights of the Yaaku people, combining agroecology (beekeeping, organic candles) with cultural revival efforts like developing a dictionary for the Yaaku language.

Tamarind Future Wheel



Session 2: Developing Pathways for Transformation of Kenya's Food System

Step 1: Developing the Pathway

The Seeds focused on how to transition from the current state of Kenya's food system to a vision where indigenous seeds and agroecological practices dominate. The Seeds identified key steps and challenges, including power struggles and shifts that need to occur.

The transformation of Kenya's food system is marked by ongoing power struggles between conservative, exploitative regimes supported by multinational seed and fertilizer companies, and communities striving for food sovereignty, indigenous seed preservation, and agroecological practices.

Regime	Seed	Seed
<p>1a What unsustainable parts of the current dominant system need to go?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The conservative exploitative government agents ▪ Multinational seed companies 	<p>1b - What conflicts need to arise to make these unsustainable parts of the regime go?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review laws that empower multinationals seed and fertilizer companies at the expense of local small-scale producers of seeds and fertilizers 	<p>1c - How can these elements of and structures associated with the current regime be unmade?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ by building the capacity of members of the community to connect the dots/ gaps in the system telling all truths of the exploitative systems ▪ Take the power back to the people (decentralize power.)

<p>2a -How does the current regime exercise reinforcing power?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policies ▪ Funding 	<p>2b - How does the seed exercise transformative power?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By empowering communities to create transformative policies to counter exploitative policies ▪ Behavioural change and community transformation 	<p>2c-How can this transformative power disrupt current regime structures?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formation of cooperatives for collective bargain for farmers thus taking power back to the farmers and away from brokers and multinational corporations.
<p>3a- What macro-trends are aligned with the regime?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Corruption ▪ Food slavery (The deliberate effort for multinational corporations and the powers that be to make communities and nations dependent on them for food security. ▪ Food supplement companies 	<p>3b- How does the seed challenge dominant macro-trends?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expanding seed banks and production of indigenous foods • character transformation through personal development models e.g. the 7-d model • Education on nutritional values of indigenous foods 	<p>3c How does the seed strengthen counter-macro-trends? Synergisms?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capacity building ▪ Linkage e.g. linking producers of organic products with consumers of the same
<p>4a - Which actor groups are aligned with the regime?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Multinational corporations monopolizing food production ✓ Food-system brokers and middlemen ✓ Alliance for Green revolution 	<p>4b - Which actor groups align with the seed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • researchers e.g. those developing organic pesticides • Organic farmers • Political allies • NGOs and CBO that are pro-organic farming • Indigenous seed savers and seed banks • Some county governments • Organic certifiers and capacity building organizations e.g. KOAN 	

5a -How does the regime use discursive tools such as the media?

- ✓ they recruit main stream media to become their allies
- ✓ Use of influencers to promote their agenda
- ✓ Use of research institutions to infiltrate the market with harmful products e.g. KALRO
- ✓ Use the education system to enrich their agenda by painting conventional agriculture as the mainstream and lucrative form of agriculture.

5b - How do actors aligned with the seed use discursive tools?

- Public uprising and use of social media that is more accessible
- Breakdown complicated information into simple language and translate it into local languages

6a-Coercion or manipulation? Who lobbies for the regime and how?

Both coercion and manipulation

- ✓ Researchers
- ✓ Legislature

6b- How can change be brought about through "playing by the rules" of the regime?

- Educate and empower mainstream media personalities on the food system
- Use existing tools to review policies
- Advocacy
- Use volunteer energy to drive change on social media and schools.
- Standardization of organic products

How Does This Power Shift Happen?

The shift occurs through the formation of coalitions that link all stakeholders in Kenya's food system, including capacity building, advocacy, and evidence-based interventions. Empowering communities and linking them with policymakers and consumers is crucial in reversing corporate dominance.

Power Struggles and Shifts Toward a Seed-Dominant Vision:

As communities raise their voices against exploitative laws and educate the masses about the harmful effects of pesticides and GMOs, a movement builds. This effort leads to tipping points such as widespread public health

awareness due to the explosion of non-communicable diseases, consumer-led production, and the adoption of agroecology. The regime fights back by sponsoring militia groups and attempting to disrupt this momentum. However, community elders use spiritual power and integrity-driven leadership to expose these acts, leading to policies that mainstream agroecology. Over time, multinational corporations leave, and local farmers, empowered by sustainable practices, become the new custodians of Kenya's food system, driving it towards resilience and equity.

Key Tipping Points:

- Public health awareness and rising demand for healthier food.
- Evidence to support agroecological interventions.
- Consumer-led production models.
- Community-led research on sustainable practices.
- Efficient and accessible information sharing methods.

Key Actions and Factors:

1. **Resource Audit:** Conducting an audit of resources such as land, seeds, and knowledge systems to better understand current conditions and gaps.
2. **Research Sponsored by Seeds:** Shifting the focus to seed-led research that promotes indigenous knowledge and agroecological practices.
3. **Capacity Building and Training:** Training all stakeholders, including farmers, policymakers, and communities, to adopt and support sustainable food systems.

Power Struggles and Shifts:

- The existing regime, which benefits from conventional agriculture and external influences, may resist change through tactics like promoting chaos (e.g., sponsoring conflicts) to retain control over resource-rich areas.
- The shift in power will involve **seeds becoming central** to the agricultural system, both as a symbol and a tool of resistance against these power structures.

Tipping Points:

1. **Evidence-Based Interventions:** Using research and data to justify the shift toward agroecological practices.
2. **Seeds Sponsoring Research:** Indigenous seeds should be at the forefront of agricultural research, guiding innovations that benefit local systems.
3. **Information Sharing:** Leveraging innovative tools to provide accurate information to the public, challenging existing perceptions influenced by corporate-controlled systems.
4. **Land Tenure and Customary Land Rights Recognition:** Recognizing and protecting local land ownership, which is crucial for supporting agroecology and indigenous seed systems.
5. **Adoption of Agroecology:** When farming systems shift from conventional to agroecological practices, focusing on local resources and sustainability.

6. **Consumer-Led Production:** A tipping point occurs when consumers start driving production trends, demanding healthier and sustainably produced food.
7. **Public Health Awareness:** The current rise in non-communicable diseases creates awareness around food and health, pushing for a shift to healthier, agroecological systems.

Step 2: Creating a storyline

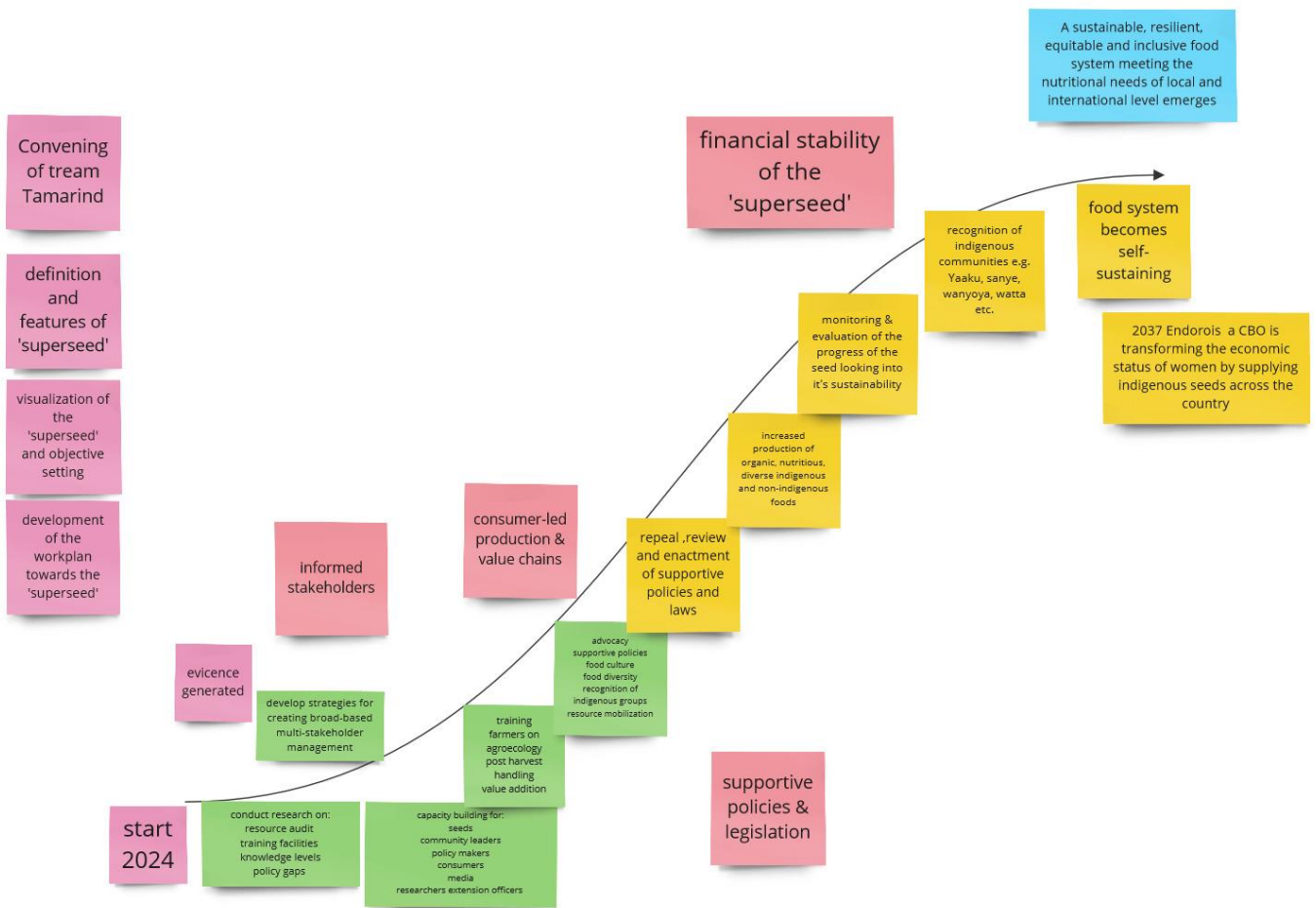
The storyline

Kenya's current food system is characterized by ignorance, corporate dominance in supply chains, inadequate infrastructure, and gender disparities along the supply chain. Weak and exploitative policies further exacerbate the situation promoting the unsustainable agricultural practices. This has resulted in unequal distribution of food and persistent malnutrition, particularly in rural and arid regions.

The transformation is expected to begin by grassroots movements, the emergence of local, small-scale initiatives challenging the unsustainable status quo and innovative policy shifts. Changes in land tenure reforms, involvement of women and Indigenous communities, capacity building & advocacy training of the community /stakeholders, application of regenerative agricultural practices that restore soil health and biodiversity are expected to enable these shifts. Embracing technology and innovation will create profitable, climate-smart businesses, while digital platforms provided smallholder farmers with market access and real-time weather data, helping them adapt to climate change. A tipping point will occur with a national shift in consumer preferences towards organic and locally produced food spur demand for sustainable products. This is expected to result in mainstreaming of regenerative farming, weakening the grip of corporate monopolies on food supply chains. Policy reforms will ensure fair access to resources and financing, allowing marginalized groups, particularly women and youth, to lead the way in shaping a just food system.

Given these tipping points and collaborative coalitions of farmers, civil society organizations, and government bodies, a food system where every Kenyan will have access to nutritious, sustainably produced food is envisioned. Together, they will craft and implement policies promoting agroecology, food sovereignty, and climate resilience. By 2039, Kenya's transformed food system will not only meet the nutritional needs of its people but also protects the environment, enhance community resilience, and promote equity, standing as a model for Africa and beyond.

Timeline and Key Milestones



Step 3: Policy Objectives

Policy objectives (organizational)

1. To be 75% self-sustaining by 2035

Policy objectives (government policies)

1. Adoption of a nutrition sensitive, consumer lead, environmentally sensitive agriculture policy
2. Gender equality mainstreamed along the agricultural value chains

1. Adoption of a nutrition sensitive, consumer lead, environmentally sensitive agriculture policy

Transformative pathway for Capacity building and advocacy

Vision 2040/2050 (in max. 5 sentences):

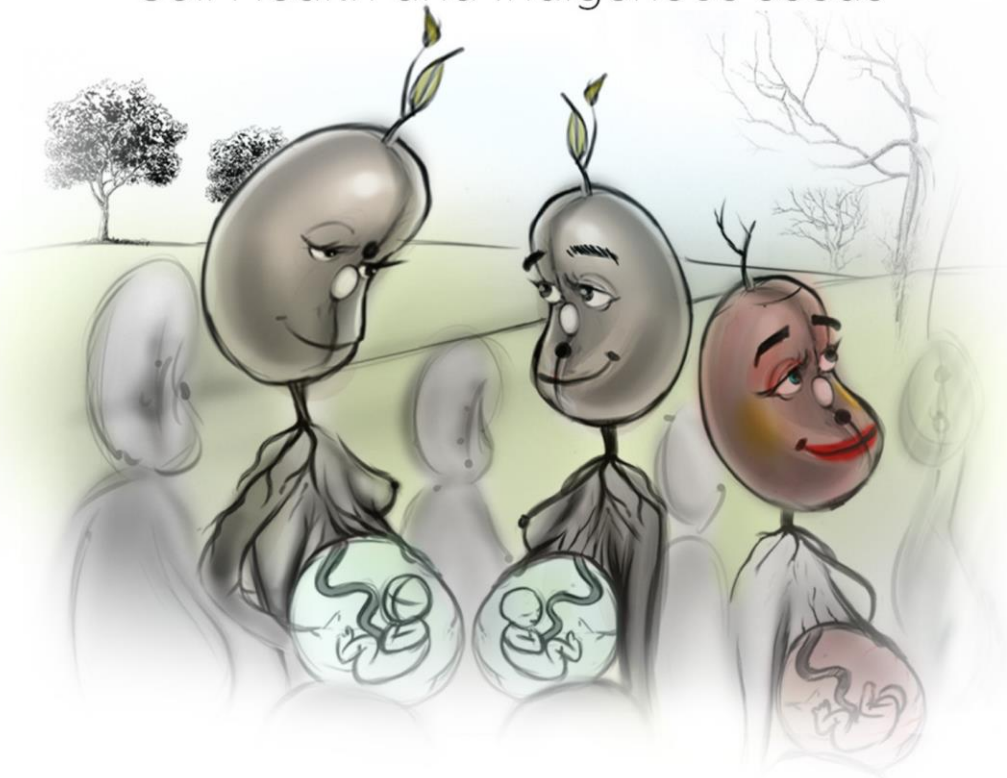
A sustainable resilient, inclusive and equitable food system that meets our nutritional needs at a local and global level

Main objective(s):

(derived from groups' policy objectives)

Phase	Actions/steps to be taken	Actor groups responsible
Phase 4: 2040-2050		
Phase 3: 2035-2030		
Phase 2: 2029-2035	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder management Mobilizations and sensitization of actors along the legislation path evidence based advocacy 	Super seed Consumers Farmers Aggregators Manufactures Religious leader People in the autistic spectrum
Phase 1: 2024-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumer sensitization on consumer rights Draft a bill stipulating different aspects of organic foods including standardization of the same 	Super seed Super seed in collaboration With the legislative bodies

Soil Health and Indigenous seeds



Soil health is fundamental to determining crop yield and sustaining a resilient food ecosystem.

Good soil provides a nurturing environment for indigenous seeds, which are essential for a sustainable and thriving future. In this drawing, the woman is depicted as the custodian of life, embodying the responsibility of preserving natural seeds. The two indigenous seeds are shown as women carrying healthy babies, symbolizing the promise of a vibrant, fruitful future. In contrast, the synthetic seed on the right, carrying an unhealthy baby, represents the threat synthetic seeds pose to our future, underscoring the importance of protecting and prioritizing indigenous seeds for the well-being of generations to come.

Figure 5. Illustration by Carl Wiz of pathway 3: Nourish your body and soil (image credits @mr_carlwiz)

This group was composed of the following seeds ;

1. Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)
2. Seed Savers Network Kenya
3. Kaani Small-scale Farmers Association
4. Gem Sub County Farmers
5. Ginga C Farmers
6. University of Nairobi / Intersectoral Forum on Agrobiodiversity and Agroecology (ISFAA)
7. Gathengera Permaculture Centre

Session 1 - Developing a desirable future vision of Kenya's food system - What would the seeds look like in mature form?

Step 1: Aim of the Seeds in the Group

The Seeds in this group focused on promoting sustainable, just, and ecologically sound alternatives to mainstream agricultural practices. They aim to empower local communities, enhance food sovereignty, and challenge the dominance of multinational corporations and conventional agricultural systems. The seeds prioritize indigenous knowledge, environmental conservation, organic production, and inclusive market systems that benefit small-scale farmers.

The Seeds Offer the Following Alternatives:

The Seeds offer sustainable, community-driven alternatives to conventional agricultural practices. These alternatives emphasize:

- i. **Indigenous and Sustainable Farming:** Focusing on the use of indigenous seeds and traditional knowledge, enhancing biodiversity, and improving soil health through practices like composting and permaculture.
- ii. **Water Conservation and Soil Health:** Employing water harvesting, conservation techniques, and composting as alternatives to synthetic inputs and irrigation-heavy farming systems.
- iii. **Organic Certification and Market Access:** Leveraging organic certification systems like Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) to ensure access to healthy, organic food while empowering local farmers with more affordable and community-based certification methods.
- iv. **Empowerment and Capacity Building:** Encouraging community-driven approaches, such as the formation of cooperatives and peer-review systems, which promote local knowledge and self-reliance over reliance on multinational corporations.

The Seeds Challenge the Status Quo Through:

These initiatives collectively challenge the dominance of industrial agriculture and multinational corporations by:

- i. **Rejecting Pesticides and Synthetic Fertilizers:** Promoting organic manure, indigenous seeds, and agroecological practices that are pesticide-free and non-reliant on chemical fertilizers.
- ii. **Empowering Local Farmers:** Giving power back to farmers through cooperative models, peer-reviewed certification, and participation in market linkages, allowing them to bypass brokers and corporate-controlled systems.
- iii. **Shifting Agricultural Practices:** Moving away from monoculture and intensive irrigation towards biodiverse, rain-fed systems that prioritize soil health and water conservation.
- iv. **Advocating for Policy Change:** Supporting laws and policies that protect smallholder farmers and indigenous practices, challenging the policies that favour multinational seed and fertilizer companies.

Other Interesting Notes about the Seeds:

- i. **KAANI SSF:** Focuses on indigenous seeds and water conservation. Women are key seed custodians, and the initiative highlights the high nutritional value and adaptability of indigenous seeds, making them a

resilient alternative to conventional crops.

- ii. **Gathengera Permaculture:** Focuses on urban waste management and soil health through composting. It promotes the creation of food forests, biodiversity, and organic manure, challenging conventional fertilizers and monoculture systems.
- iii. **KOAN (Kenya Organic Agriculture Network):** Aims to establish organic certification in East Africa through Participatory Guarantee Systems. It emphasizes social media marketing and empowers farmer groups through peer-review systems, linking producers directly to the market and promoting healthy organic products.
- iv. **GEM West farmers group:** Promotes the use and storage of indigenous seeds and their nutritional and medicinal value, as well as practices for sustainable land management.
- v. **Seed Savers Network:** Focus on the sharing of seeds, farmers rights, agrobiodiversity conservation, capacity building and the incubation of agroecology enterprises. They have developed the App 'Seeds Exchange'. They promote food sovereignty, the diversity of seeds and plurality of produce. They support and incentivise farmer led advocacy and new systems of seed registration, as well as practitioner led trainings.
- vi. **GINGA C Farmers Association:** Focus on the use and preservation of indigenous crops and fruits, crop improvement (grafting), and value addition. They also promote local markets and the health benefits of sustainable farming.
- vii. **ISFAA: Intersectoral Forum on Agrobiodiversity and Agroecology:** Their mission is to convene and support multisector actors towards the adoption, upscaling and mainstreaming of agroecology and agrobiodiversity in the agri-food system, mainly through an enabling policy environment. They focus on food system transformation, seed sovereignty, food justice and small-scale empowerment to address power imbalances.

Step 2: Envisioning the Seed in Its Mature Form

Key Characteristics of the Mature Super Seed:

1. Empowered Food Sovereign Communities:
 - Farmers are empowered to demand their rights and have control over their seeds, land, and production processes. They are organized into strong, ethically driven political movements, working in solidarity for shared goals.
 - Indigenous knowledge and modern technologies, such as AI-driven precision agriculture, are harmonized to enhance productivity while conserving nature.
 - Communities have aggregated land ownership, fostering collective responsibility and shared benefits.
2. Global Resilience and Reduced Carbon Footprint:
 - The global food supply chains are more resilient, with a reduced carbon footprint. Circular food systems ensure that no waste is generated, with all organic waste being converted into rich

compost, supporting soil health.

- Local and community-driven food production and consumption are prioritized, reducing dependency on long-distance supply chains and promoting food security.

3. A World Free of Genetically Modified Seeds:

- The mature super seed creates a world free from genetically engineered seeds and food, where the focus is on biodiversity, organic farming, and the preservation of indigenous seeds.
- Farmers and consumers are educated and equipped with knowledge, choosing organic, healthy, and locally grown food options.

4. Universal Access to Nutritious Organic Food:

- Hunger is eradicated, and everyone has access to nutritious and organic food. Healthy foods are grown on all farms, contributing to the reduction of lifestyle diseases.
- Full traceability of food from farm to consumer is guaranteed, with labels or QR codes providing transparency and consumer trust.

5. A Just and Transparent Government:

- Governments become more transparent and responsive, adopting policies through immediate decision-making and online voting systems. Policy frameworks enable farmers to thrive in a supportive environment, encouraging regenerative and organic farming.
- Farmer rights and needs are prioritized, with governments ensuring access to land, seeds, and fair markets.

6. A Solidarity-Driven Society and Economy:

- The concept of **Ubuntu** ("I am because we are") flourishes, creating a society built on solidarity and mutual support.
- Communities operate in circular economies, where resources are shared, and profits from farming are reinvested locally, keeping "money in the pocket" and creating economic resilience.

7. Environmental Harmony and Urban Greening:

- Over 50 million trees are planted globally, cooling urban areas and improving the environment. Urban and vertical gardening becomes a common practice, and fruit trees line the streets, ensuring a green urban future.
- A nature-controlled world is envisioned, where people live in balance with the planet's ecosystems, and nature guides the way for sustainable living.

8. Technological Integration and Knowledge Sharing:

- A digitally informed generation emerges, proficient in agricultural practices and equipped with digital tools for managing farms and markets.
- Research continues to play a key role, identifying what works best in terms of agricultural practices, soil health, and seed performance.
- Farmers and communities utilize AI precision farming techniques, ensuring efficiency while protecting the environment.

9. Consumer Awareness and Confidence:

- Consumers are highly informed and assertive, making conscious decisions about their food based on full traceability, QR codes, and transparency.
- Farmer seed enterprises thrive, with small businesses emerging across communities, supported by local buying trends and consumer preference for indigenous, organic foods.

10. A World of Abundance:

- The super seed fosters a world of abundance where food, knowledge, and resources are shared equitably. Nature flourishes, and people live healthier, more fulfilling lives.
- This abundance is made possible through regenerative farming, soil health, and the restoration of ecosystems, all contributing to a world where hunger and poverty are eradicated.

Baobab Group Future Wheel



Session 2: Developing Pathways for Transformation of Kenya's Food System

Step 1: Developing the Pathway

Overarching question: How could this powershift take place?

- Tipping points: Natural calamities, as well as the Court case on the Plant and Seed Variety Act.
- Sensitization on the value of indigenous food through the media.
- Human right perspective: This is a question of the right to food (not only focus on agriculture)
- Low hanging fruit: to sensitize local governments about the criminalization of the Plant and Seed Variety Act. They need to demand change.

Foreseen power struggles:

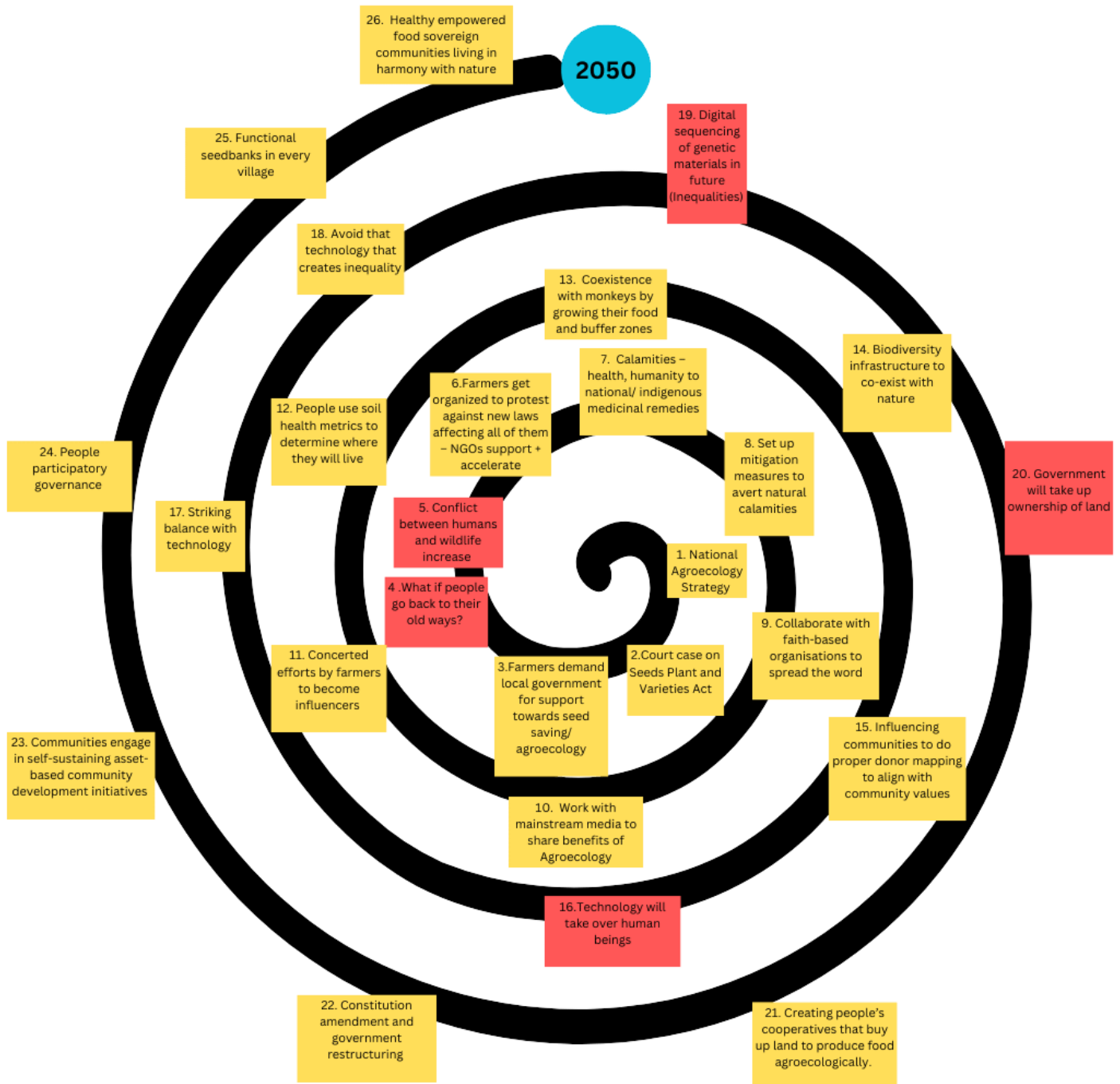
- The government will lose taxes on agricultural inputs
- People in the shops selling inputs will lose their jobs, shops might close
- The formal seed sector versus communities saving seeds
- Multinationals will restructure, include sustainable elements, work with communities, giving way to greenwashing
- The government could lose votes when they take away subsidies for fertilizers
- Universities might not be open to curriculum change
- Struggle: there will be a budget reallocation within governments, donors and others from the conventional seed sector towards sectors with sustainable agriculture practices.

<p>1A. - What unsustainable parts of the current dominant system need to go?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overreliance on synthetic conventional inputs. - Punitive Laws - Cartels / capture of the system 	<p>1B. - What conflicts need to arise to make these unsustainable parts of the regime go?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal petitions against punitive laws - Organised protests by farmers - Farmers stand up for cartels 	<p>1C. - How can these elements of and structures associated with the current regime be unmade?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governments need to be servants to the people - By having strong farmer cooperatives and unions - Direct contact between farmers and consumers
<p>2A.-How does the current regime exercise reinforcing power?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By keeping politicians that favour them. - By publicly reinforcing and endorsing themselves - By saying they know our problems - By keeping farmers poor - By having biased reinforcing support - Blame shifting 	<p>2B. - How does the seed exercise transformative power?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By creating awareness among farmers - By organizing farmer groups 	<p>2C. - How can this transformative power disrupt current regime structures?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By uniting all like-minded actors
<p>3A.- What macro-trends are aligned with the regime?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Taking international trends that are not relevant for Kenya 	<p>3B. - How does the seed challenge dominant macro-trends?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By emphasizing quality over quantity - By increasing food 	<p>3C. - How does the seed strengthen counter-macro-trends? Synergisms?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By promoting a solidarity society economy (UBUNTU)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase production for commercialization and export 	<p>sovereignty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By focussing on soil health, enabling a future for people and nature
<p>4A. - Which actor groups are aligned with the regime?</p>	<p>4B. Which actor groups align with the seed?</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The haves (rich people) - The government aligned with the system - Multinational seed companies / Pharmaceuticals - External funders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rainbow warriors from different colours, backgrounds and creeds - People and communities with environmental consciousness - Human rights defenders and land activists - Environmentalists - Aligned policymakers and aligned donors 	
<p>5A. - How does the regime use discursive tools such as the media?</p>	<p>5B. - How do actors aligned with the seed use discursive tools?</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They use local media and primetime commercials - They present at and finance conferences - They create media such as Shamba Shape-up to influence farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We can use the same 'mainstream media' to tell stories about agroecology - We can use social media platforms and digital media (such as You Tube) to influence the public opinion about the health benefits of agroecology 	
<p>6A. -Coercion or manipulation? Who lobbies for the regime and how?</p>	<p>6B. - How can change be brought about through "playing by the rules" of the regime?</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government extension officers: they abuse farmers vulnerability. They hold farmers field days where they promote products - Companies pay them / sponsor them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After 20 years of registration new varieties are liberated from patent. Farmers could use those that can be reproduced - Farmers can negotiate with local governments for 	

- Politicians support, instead of receiving synthetic fertilizers
- Replicating the food pharmacies of Muranga
- Using the established government structure to advance in our goals.

Timeline and Key Milestones



Key Steps and Pathways to Transformation by 2050:

1. Approval of a National Agroecology Strategy:
 - The approval of a national strategy supporting agroecology would mark the start of transformative change, legitimizing sustainable farming practices at the policy level.
2. Grassroots Advocacy and Legal Challenges:
 - Farmers, activists, and lawyers collaborate to demand government support for agroecology and seed saving, pushing back against harmful legislation. A major court case, challenging the Seed and Plant Varieties Act, is won, protecting farmers' rights to indigenous seeds.
3. Organized Protests and NGO Support:
 - Farmers unite to protest laws that negatively impact agriculture, receiving support from NGOs to accelerate their cause. This creates pressure on the government to support agroecological practices.
4. Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies:
 - In response to potential setbacks (wildcards), like public health calamities, communities revert to indigenous medicinal remedies and nature-based solutions to mitigate natural calamities. These actions strengthen the case for agroecology as a resilient approach.
5. Strategic Partnerships and Media Influence:
 - Collaborations with faith-based organizations and mainstream media (e.g., programs like "Shamba Shape Up") help spread awareness of the benefits of agroecology for health and climate resilience. Farmers themselves become influencers, advocating for the movement.
6. Sustainable Land and Resource Use:
 - Communities use soil health metrics to make informed decisions about farming and living locations. Buffer zones are created to allow co-existence with wildlife, addressing potential human-wildlife conflicts.
7. Technological Balance and Equality:
 - While technology advances, there is a concerted effort to ensure it does not create inequality. Communities strike a balance between traditional practices and modern innovations, protecting food sovereignty and fair access to resources.
8. People Cooperatives and Participatory Governance:
 - People cooperatives are established to buy land for agroecological production, and a participatory governance model emerges, giving communities more control over their resources and development.
9. Establishment of Seedbanks and Biodiversity Infrastructure:
 - Functional seedbanks are set up in every village, ensuring seed sovereignty and biodiversity preservation. Communities also invest in biodiversity infrastructure that fosters harmony between human activity and nature.
10. Potential Wildcards and Responses:
 - Various wildcards, such as government land ownership or environmental degradation due to

climate change, are anticipated. Proactive measures include constitutional amendments, government restructuring, and empowering communities to adopt sustainable, self-reliant initiatives.

Step 2: Creating a storyline

A reflection from our past reflected a solidarity society where food was medicine, people had their seeds to grow, etc. All these efforts are geared towards combating adverse weather patterns and people are looking at going back to old ways to set up mitigation measures to avert natural calamities that are affecting their health, and their livelihoods and plan to revert to using natural and Indigenous medicinal remedies as they see food as medicine.

Fast forward, communities are angry, there are no resilient and diverse seeds to produce food, diseases and health conditions have increased,

A small group of disruptive leaders has come up with a national agroecology strategy that could rescue our food production practices to more sustainable and healthy food production to promote a healthy lifestyle and safe foods. We also have a coalition of grassroots initiatives and lead farmers taking the government to court to be accountable to punitive laws such as the Seed and Plant Varieties Act that has restricted farmers from sharing and exchanging their Indigenous seeds.

The coalition of change-makers has also made efforts to work with local governments to influence change from the grassroots by having the local government invest in seed saving and agroecological practices with support from activists and lawyers. Efforts are also made to collaborate with various other key stakeholders including faith-based organizations to spread the word on farming sustainably and the media to share the benefits of agroecological practices and further use farmers as influencers.

To make a business case for these initiatives, the plan is to use soil health metrics to determine where people will set up their dwellings, to avert human-wildlife conflict by setting up buffer zones to further enhance coexistence with wildlife and further avoid the Government taking ownership of the land. The farmers further hope to influence communities and organizations to do proper donor mapping in alignment with community values to avert donor influence over their mandate and create community-owned cooperatives to buy land to produce food agroecologically.

Due to rising concerns over technology taking over human beings and technological inequality, people have priorities to create a striking balance to avert these concerns for instance there is the digital sequencing of genetic materials in the future which possess a risk of communities losing their genetic materials. Communities have agreed to engage in self-sustaining asset-based community development initiatives such as having functional seed banks in every village and promoting food sovereignty.

They foresee that they will achieve their vision of having healthy, empowered food-sovereign communities living in harmony with nature, by constitutional amendment and government restructuring that will put in place a people-participatory governance that is for the people and by the people.

Step 3: Policy Objectives

Vision for 2025 (up to 2224): Healthy empowered food sovereign communities living in harmony with nature.

Goals:

1. Communities in Kenya have food sovereignty in 2050 (this includes seeds, soil, nature, health, empowered farmers)
2. Kenya has people centered governance 2050 (this includes the solidarity society)
3. Communities enlightened about health benefits of indigenous food and agroecologically produced (communication, sensitization).

Main objectives:

1. Ensure legislation that enables the use and storage of indigenous seeds
2. Agroecology is the main method for food production in 2050
3. Farmers and communities are empowered and involved in decision making

People centered Solutions



People-centered solutions are essential when creating policies for a sustainable food ecosystem. This drawing portrays a collaborative effort where every individual, regardless of their background or role, contributes to the process of making 'ugali'—a metaphor for the food system. Each person has a specific task, from adding water to stoking the fire, symbolizing the need for all voices and actions to be included in the policy-making process.

If even one participant is removed, the process is disrupted, just as excluding any group from decision-making undermines the effectiveness of creating a sustainable and inclusive food system.

Figure 6. Illustration by Carl Wiz of pathway 4: The secret to a thriving food system lies in its people (image credits @mr_carlwiz)

The group was composed of the following Seeds;

1. Kenyan Peasants League (KPL)
2. Kenya Land Alliance
3. Sengwer Indigenous Community Trust (SICT)
4. Enkishon Initiative
5. RECONCILE

Session 1 - Developing a desirable future vision of Kenya's food system - What would the seeds look like in mature form?

Step 1: Aim of the Seeds in the Group

The collective aim of the seeds in this group is to address historical land injustices and advocate for sustainable food production systems rooted in indigenous knowledge. They focused on agroecology, land rights, climate justice, and restoring traditional practices to challenge the modern agricultural systems that rely heavily on chemicals and exploitative land use.

The Seeds offer the following of alternatives -

- i. Indigenous Knowledge and Practices:
 - a. Sustainable land and food management through crop rotation, beekeeping, indigenous tree nurseries, and pastoralism.
 - b. Agroecology as an alternative to modern agriculture that uses chemicals, emphasizing the importance of soil health and ecosystem sustainability.
 - c. Re-establishing customary methods of land use, livestock breeding, and traditional waste management.
- ii. Land Rights and Governance:
 - a. Legal and policy reforms to secure community land rights, with a focus on the recognition of customary practices.
 - b. Participatory rangeland management, which involves the community in decision-making around land and resource use.
 - c. Advocacy for the Community Land Act (2016) and petitions against illegal land grabbing.
- iii. Capacity Building and Climate Adaptation:
 - a. Education and capacity building for farmers, women, and youth on sustainable land use, water management, and managing livestock to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
 - b. Promoting land tenure security and rights to build resilience against environmental and social challenges.

The Seeds Challenge the Status Quo by:

- i. **Challenging Modern Agriculture:** The seeds question the reliance on chemical-based modern agriculture that harms ecosystems, advocating for agroecology and indigenous practices as alternatives.
- ii. **Addressing Land Injustices:** The focus on reclaiming land and challenging past land injustices (like colonial land grabs) through legal battles, petitions, and the Community Land Act aims to return power to indigenous and pastoralist communities.
- iii. **Land Governance and Policy Reform:** By highlighting the gap between existing policies and their implementation, the movement pushes for better land governance, transparency, and inclusion of marginalized voices, especially women and youth.

Other Interesting Notes about the Seeds:

- i. **Wildcards and Land Use Conflict:** The Seeds foresee future conflicts, such as neocolonialism of food systems, technology-driven inequality, and land grabbing linked to global carbon markets, which it seeks to counter by promoting participatory governance and resilient land use systems.
- ii. **Integration of Technology and GIS:** There is an emphasis on incorporating technology and geographic information systems (GIS) to secure land tenure, advocate for climate justice, and inform better decision-making.
- iii. **Women and Youth Participation:** Women’s rights and youth engagement are central to the movement, with the aim of giving them ownership, access, and decision-making power over land and agricultural practices.

Land tenure Future Wheel



Session 2: Developing Pathways for Transformation of Kenya's Food System

Step 1: Developing the Pathway

Regime	Seed	Seed
<p>1a - What unsustainable parts of the current dominant system need to go?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrogressive bureaucracy policies • Centralized decision making • Corruption • Ignorance • External influence • Market oriented land use and planning • Poor land management • Encroachment • The middlemen • Neoliberals • Unsustainable exploitation of natural resources • Elite-captured monopolies • Unaddressed climate change effects • Large scale monoculture production • Agrobusiness oriented land use change • Election cycle dependency • Short-term planning 	<p>1b - What conflicts need to arise to make these unsustainable parts of the regime go?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community agitation • Community empowerment • Mobilize grassroots movements • Small scale farmers offering alternatives to monoculture production • Community awareness on climate change events • Identify and celebrate success stories • Milestones and indicators • Linking producers and consumers • Promoting local markets • Strong community institutions • Promote and celebrate land and environmental champions • Promote dialogues • Locally oriented, participatory land use planning 	
<p>2a -How does the current regime exercise reinforcing power?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intimidation • Police force • Manipulation of public opinion • Illegal evictions • Lack of public participation • Manipulation of public participation • Oppressive legal framework • Trickle-down policies • Land grabbing • Policies that allow for land grabs • Divide and rule • Hindered participation • Bribery • Propaganda • False information • Fake news • Bureaucracies and bottlenecks • Underbudgeting • Policy gaps • Centralization • Coercion • Corruption • Boycotting • Mainstream media • Cartels in every sector 	<p>2b - How does the seed exercise transformative power?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community organization • Peaceful protests • Legal measures • Information • Unity • Free, prior informed consent • Amplification of voices • Platforms • We need to address our values • Boycotting • Embrace other spaces for communication 	<p>2c</p>

<p>3a- What macro-trends are aligned with the regime?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dictatorship • Lobbying • Corruption • IMF, AFCTA, WTO • GMOs • Free trade agreements • Manipulation • Supremacy ideology • Bilateral agreements • Neo colonization • Carbon credits • Commercial sanctions • Movement restrictions 	<p>3b - How does the seed challenge dominant macro-trends?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decentralized power • Hold institutions accountable • Being informed • People's cultural revival • Lobbying • Data, information, documentation • Knowledge • Empowerment (economic, skills) • Education • Mobilization • Protests • Petitions 	<p>3c</p>
<p>4a - Which actor groups are aligned with the regime?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weakened regional institutions • Poorly financed regional institutions • Religious groups • Cartels • Militia • Organized criminal organizations • Land grabbers • Elites • Advertising companies • Kenya Landowners Association • Media • Investors and corporates • Cattle rustlers 	<p>4b - Which actor groups align with the seed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened local funding mechanisms • Religious groups • Councils of elders • Community based organizations • Human Rights organizations • Strategically taking advantage of the legal provisions • Environmental Human Rights defenders • Traditional leaders • Media 	
<p>6a - Coercion or manipulation? Who lobbies for the regime and how?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boycotting • Lobbying • Religious groups • Media • Taking advantage of the legal provisions 	<p>6b - How can change be brought about through "playing by the rules" of the regime?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boycotting • Lobbying • Religious groups • Media • Taking advantage of the legal provisions 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bottom-up • Create awareness • Exposure • Who's voice is louder? • What informs policy and decision making? • Collectiveness • Break the gap between policy and practice • People centered justice system • Action oriented research • Data • Continuous monitoring and evaluation • Networks and coalitions • Innovation hubs • Building strong grassroots movements • Enabling people to engage • Capacity building 		

-
- Issue-based targeted critical questions
 - Applied technology
 - Lobby and advocacy
 - Document indigenous knowledge
 - Identifying and celebrating success stories
-

Step 2: Creating a storyline

Kenya is a land that is highly dependent on Land and Natural resources for her people's sustenance and economic growth. 78% of Kenya's Gross domestic products (GDP) is dependent on agriculture and land dependent livelihoods.

Colonial heritage has had a long-term implication on the governance, management, use of land and natural resources in Kenya. This has led to a myriad of land related issues such as historical land injustices, illegal evictions, land subdivision, exition of ecologically sensitive areas, erosion of indigenous practices, weakening of customary institutions and unsustainable land use practices among others.

Despite Kenya's ushering in a new constitution 2010, effective, progressive, sustainable and inclusive policy and practices are yet to be embraced. This is due to the fact that weak frameworks, cartels, elites in government, corrupt leaders and bureaucracies have been a great impediment to achieving what the constitution envisages.

For instance, the management of land and natural resources is still shortsighted with plans pegged on election cycles and the political status quo, who lack best interest in sustainable use of these resources thereby, leading to degradation, land grabbing, loss of biodiversity, disrupted livelihoods and insecure food systems.

Climate change is another huge threat to food security and people's livelihoods. This is further compounded by weak response mechanisms, inadequate plans, weakened institutions and illiteracy in climate change resilience.

To address these challenges, it is important to empower all stakeholders to address capacity gaps, entrench inclusive and participatory processes, make people centered solutions and deliver on responsive policies that benefit the entire value chain. In addition to this, securing indigenous knowledge and practices, strengthening community institutions and holding the duty bearers accountable to their mandates in is critical.

We strive for a people centered solutions scenario that envisions an enabling policy environment which will build strong institutions, secure land tenure for all and facilitate inclusive and participatory decision-making processes. Such a scenario is characterized by empowered communities, functional, strong networks and coalitions, localized, effective and functional community platforms who will in turn amplify the voice of women, the youth and marginalized groups and indigenous communities in order to secure access to justice, manage conflicts through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, and assure transparent, accountable and efficient institutions, furthermore holding the duty bearers accountable.

In such a scenario, participatory land use and nature resource management plans for climate resilient and adaptive systems lead to healthy and productive ecosystems, secure traditional medicine and practices, and thriving livelihoods for communities.

Integrating access to technology, creativity and innovation hubs allows for the protection of customary and traditional knowledge through documentation, transfer and dissemination, which in turn facilitates evidence-based advocacy. The protection, safeguarding and enhancement of customary and traditional knowledge and resources, leads to the decolonization of food systems, enhanced biodiversity and thriving livelihoods.

AI-Generated Narrative based on what the group wrote

In the year 2024, Kenya's landscape is still marred by centuries-old issues rooted in colonial legacy. Vast tracts of fertile land remain controlled by a few elites, and much of the country's agricultural practices are unsustainable. The people are acutely aware that their natural resources, which they depend on for survival, are being rapidly degraded. As the effects of climate change intensify, small-scale farmers across the country face erratic weather, depleting harvests, and food insecurity.

Communities speak of the land injustices that have haunted them for decades—displacement, loss of access to traditional territories, and the gradual erosion of indigenous practices that once safeguarded the environment. Although Kenya adopted a new constitution in 2010, systemic corruption, weak governance, and the influence of land cartels block meaningful change. Government decisions favor short-term economic gains, often tied to election cycles, at the cost of long-term sustainability.

Despite these challenges, 2024 also marks a year of rising consciousness. Activists, community leaders, and civil society organizations rally around a vision for a just and sustainable food system. Movements advocating for land rights, protection of biodiversity, and climate resilience are gaining momentum. Empowerment is seen as the key to transformation—empowering communities, particularly women, youth, and marginalized groups, to reclaim their voices and participate in decision-making processes. There is a growing call for change, but the road ahead is long.

By 2030, the first major shifts begin to take shape. Years of grassroots mobilization and advocacy have succeeded in holding government officials accountable to the promises of Kenya's constitution. In response to mounting pressure from communities and civil society, participatory land-use planning frameworks are being adopted in certain regions. These frameworks integrate indigenous knowledge and are designed to promote sustainable land management, climate resilience, and food security.

At the heart of these reforms are women and youth who have taken leadership roles within their communities. The inclusion of marginalized voices in decision-making processes has led to land tenure security for many smallholder farmers. Customary practices, which were once on the brink of extinction, are now being revived and protected. The documentation and sharing of indigenous agricultural techniques, from terracing to the use of organic fertilizers, has started to yield tangible benefits. Local communities are becoming more resilient, and their ecosystems, once degraded, are beginning to recover.

However, the journey is far from complete. Climate change continues to pose a serious threat, and although there is progress, many regions still face food insecurity and environmental degradation. But the seeds of resistance have borne fruit, and the movement toward a just food system is now unstoppable.

By 2035, Kenya's food system has undergone a significant transformation. The once-dominant cartels and elites who monopolized land and resources have seen their influence wane, thanks to a robust legal framework that ensures land rights for all, especially indigenous communities. A series of landmark legal cases have restored thousands of acres of land to their rightful owners, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms are effectively managing land conflicts.

Community platforms, once fragmented, are now highly functional and interconnected. Networks of farmers, conservationists, and local leaders regularly collaborate, amplifying the voices of the underrepresented and holding duty bearers accountable. The government, now more transparent and responsive, has aligned its policies with the long-term vision of sustainability. Evidence-based advocacy, powered by data collected through technology and innovation hubs, shapes public discourse and policy direction.

The impact on food security is profound. Agroecology and climate-resilient farming practices are now the norm in many regions. Local food systems, decolonized from corporate control, prioritize biodiversity, sustainability, and the well-being of local communities. People-centered solutions have become embedded in Kenya's agricultural policies. The biodiversity of Kenya's ecosystems flourishes, and traditional medicine, tied closely to indigenous plant knowledge, experiences a renaissance.

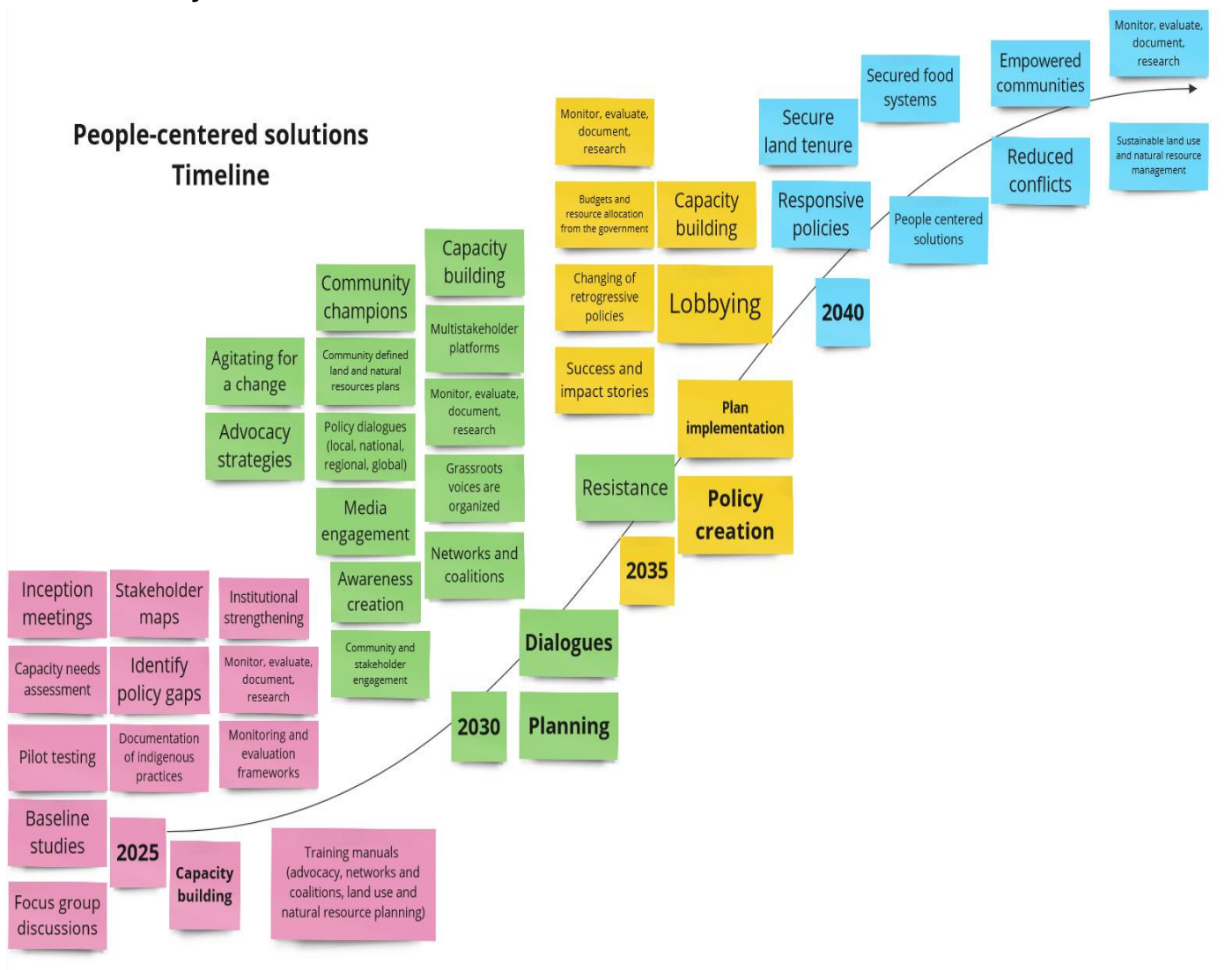
By 2040, Kenya stands as a model of what is possible when communities are empowered and natural resources are managed sustainably. The food system is equitable, inclusive, and resilient. The once-exploited landscapes are now thriving ecosystems, with diverse crops and rich biodiversity. The decolonization of food systems has been fully realized—local farmers are the stewards of the land, practicing techniques passed down through generations while incorporating modern, climate-resilient innovations.

Indigenous knowledge is celebrated and safeguarded. Technological hubs across the country document and disseminate this knowledge, ensuring its preservation for future generations. The voices of women, youth, and marginalized groups are not only heard but central to national discourse. The country's food security is no longer threatened by climate change, as adaptive, nature-based solutions have allowed farmers to thrive even in the face of environmental unpredictability.

Land tenure for all Kenyans is secure, and conflicts over land are rare, resolved through inclusive and transparent mechanisms. Local economies prosper as Kenya's food system becomes more localized and less dependent on global supply chains, making it resilient to external shocks.

The year 2040 marks the culmination of a long struggle. Kenya has achieved a sustainable and just food system, where communities live in harmony with the land. The nation's journey, from the brink of environmental and food security collapse to one of equity and sustainability, is a testament to the power of collective action, indigenous wisdom, and the unrelenting drive of its people for a better future.

Timeline and Key Milestones



Step 3: Policy Objectives

Overarching Objectives

- Having enabled and empowered community institutions actively involved in land, food systems and natural resource management
- Recognized and enhanced role of indigenous and pastoralist communities
- Enhanced voice of women, youth and people living with disabilities
- The decisions around food systems are considerate of the communities
- An empowered youth constituency actively involved in land, food systems and natural resource management
- To promote inclusivity, transparency and participation in relation to decision making
- Localized climate change decisions
- Localized climate change solutions, interventions and strategies
- Holistic, responsive and inclusive land, food systems and natural resource governance
- Well managed and productive ecosystems
- Accessible justice for all
- Protection of customary and traditional knowledge
- Knowledge management and documentation
- Promote the role of women in preserving traditional knowledge

Policy Objectives

1. Institutionalized community driven land, food system and natural resource management governance by 2040
2. Strengthened land tenure security and resource rights by 2040
3. Scale up land and natural resource management community climate change adaptation and restoration plans by 2040
4. Enhanced civic engagement and awareness on land rights, natural resource management, food systems and climate change adaptation

Phase 1: 2025

Actions

- Baseline studies and research
- Mapping natural resources and community land
- Capacity building through training
- Mapping the extent of degradation
- Awareness creation
- Documentation of indigenous practices
- Capacity building
- Mapping of mobility routes

Phase 2: 2030

Actions

- Lobbying, advocating, dialogues
- Building evidence
- Multistakeholder platforms
- Pilot restoration plans
- Documented case studies and success stories

- Established community driven land management committees
- Dialogues, stakeholder mapping
- Negotiation skills
- Benefit sharing frameworks
- Accurate data for purposes of dialogue, planning and decision making

Phase 3: 2035

Actions

- Policy reviews and drafting towards responsive frameworks
- Lobbying, advocacy, dialogues
- Restoration strategies in place
- Established networks and coalitions

Phase 4: 2040

Actions

- Adoption of responsive policies
- Registered, recognized and protected land and resource tenure
- Comprehensive land, natural resource, climate change and restoration plans
- Full awareness and engagement
- Food security
- Climate resilience

Actor groups (Phases 1, 2, 3 and 4)

- Civil society organizations
- Indigenous communities
- Investors
- Research institutions
- Youth
- Traditional spiritual leaders
- Pastoralists
- Faith based organizations
- Media
- Women
- Community based organizations
- County and national government agencies
- Judiciary
- Small scale farmers
- Businessmen community
- Regional bodies
- Global institutions

Summary: Emerging Themes for a Sustainable Food System in Kenya

We explore the future of Kenya's sustainable food systems through multiple lenses, highlighting both shared goals and unique perspectives. Several themes consistently emerged across all the groups as presented by the Seeds in each group, reflecting common aspirations for transforming Kenya's food system:

Shared Perspectives from all the Groups

1. Empowerment of Communities:
 - All groups emphasized empowering local communities, including recognizing indigenous practices, securing land rights, and involving communities in decision-making processes. Community-led development and governance were central to achieving sustainable food systems.
2. Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship:
 - Environmental health was a priority for all groups, with practices like agroecology, regenerative agriculture, and sustainable land use being essential. Harmony with nature and climate adaptation were emphasized to create resilient systems that protect natural resources.
3. Equity and Inclusion:
 - Social justice themes, including gender equality, human rights, and the protection of indigenous rights, were common across the groups. They stressed equitable access to resources like land, food, and decision-making platforms for marginalized communities.
4. Localized Solutions and Sovereignty:
 - The groups highlighted the importance of local markets, indigenous knowledge systems, and food sovereignty. Strengthening local economies and governance systems was prioritized over globalized or external models, reinforcing the need for homegrown solutions.
5. Policy Reform and Legal Frameworks:
 - Each group stressed the need for institutional and legal reforms, focusing on land rights, agricultural practices, and human rights. Advocacy for appropriate legal frameworks to support their objectives and protect indigenous peoples' rights was a shared priority.

While the groups shared similar views on critical issues, unique perspectives emerged in their approaches to framing future policy objectives and the actions that followed. These distinct focal points highlighted the diversity in their priorities:

Unique Focal Points for Each Group:

1. **Organic Agriculture, Regenerative Agriculture, Permaculture, Indigenous Agriculture:** This group focused on agricultural methods and food production systems, with an emphasis on agroecology, indigenous seeds, and farmer empowerment. It uniquely highlighted the need for a shift towards agroecological food production by 2050 and the importance of legislation regulating seed use.
2. **Indigenous Peoples' Rights, Indigenous Culture, Indigenous Practices, and Land Tenure, Land Rights:** These groups shared a unique focus on the rights and recognition of indigenous peoples and their cultural practices, distinct from the other groups. Their priority is the registration of community lands, recognition of indigenous rights, and integration of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK) into broader systems such as

agriculture and education. They also emphasize land tenure security, community-led natural resource governance, and climate adaptation, aiming to institutionalize systems that protect land rights and promote sustainable management.

3. **Human Rights, Gender, Human Development:** This group concentrated on human development, particularly gender equality, human rights, and nutrition-sensitive policies. It advocates for the mainstreaming of gender equality across agricultural value chains and calls for the development of a resilient food system that addresses nutritional needs while safeguarding human rights.

Next steps

Notes from the closing plenary discussion

The final session of the workshop was a plenary discussion on the next steps: how do we take this work forward? Here, we summarize some of the most important issues raised and suggestions made during this discussion.

- It is important to have an overview of the organizations that participate in this project and –potentially- will form a Disruptive Seeds coalition for advocating for food system transformation. We need a brochure that describes all the organizations/initiatives and their main objectives and activities. We also we need to map our movements; anchor our coalition in grassroots movements.
- We need to assess what we can do before the second in-person workshop planned in December. This is not the first time we engage in coalition conversations – we have to find ways to keep this conversation going in the time toward December, to keep momentum. What action points from the Transformative Pathways are feasible within this short timespan? Who would be the actors most suited to take this forward? We need to break down the period till Dec in weeks with clear actions to be taken each week; a roadmap from now till December – Martin Njoroge and Nyang’ori of CEMIRIDE have made a start, which will be shared with the coalition shortly.
- We were working in four breakout groups, but there were lots of synergies across the groups. So, it makes sense to work on a unified vision with clear objectives and pathways before December, bringing the silos together.
- How to connect to the communities? It is our responsibility to communicate to the communities about the transformative pathways. Impact is the holy grail, but if your work is not well-grounded, the ownership at community level isn’t there, which leads to initiatives/organizations to collapse. Instead of us talking about them, why don’t we have sessions with farmers and listen to what they have to say, what their issues are? Some of the organizations in the room have more of a platform to connect to the communities – they have been going to grassroots community places, which works very well. We should utilize this! This adds to the legitimacy of the project. After all, it’s not just us. As the Ubuntu saying goes: “I am because we are.” We need to reach out to the communities about the workshop results in advance of the December workshop. Would it be an idea to identify a case study –a community- to start work with towards the December workshop?
- Next workshop location: Probably the Seed Savers Community Center? This would also provide a space for dialogue with farmers.
- The workshop was perhaps a bit too short for all the work we had to complete. Some groups were a bit rushed coming up with policy objectives, for example.
- Last but not least, we have to appreciate Carl Lewis, the visual artist, brilliant to have him on board!

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