

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THIRD ASSEMBLY

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THE SECTROL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND  
FISHERIES  
REPORT ON THE MURANG'A COUNTY AGRO-ECOLOGY POLICY  
2022 -2032

Clerk's Chambers,  
Murang'a County Assembly Buildings,  
MURANG'A

OCTOBER 2023



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**CHAIRPERSON’S FOREWARD**

**Hon.Speaker**, the Murang’a County Agro-Ecology Policy 2022 -2032 was laid on the table of the House by the Chairperson Agriculture, livestock and fisheries Committee on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>, June, 2023** and thereafter stood committed to the Sectoral Committee on Agriculture, livestock and fisheries. Upon tabling of the policy, the Committee held several meetings within the precincts of the Assembly to study the policy objectives of the Department and the effectiveness of the implementation.

**Hon.Speaker**,Murang’a County is predominantly a key agricultural county especially in cash crops, horticulture and food production. The Agro-ecological zone consists of the highest potential zones where forestry, tea and tourism industry form the most important economic activities. Over 80 per cent of the households in the county depend on agriculture and related activities. The new policy aims at promoting the adoption of sustainable and climate-smart farming practices such as crop diversification, soil conservation, and the use of biofertilizers and biopesticides.

This policy therefore will provide a framework for progressive agricultural growth, development and transform agriculture into a green, sustainable and viable sector within Murang’a County.

The Committee in its sittings held at Nairobi from August 9-11, 2023, considered the Policy and unanimously resolved that it be adopted.

**Hon.Speaker**, May I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Committee Members for their resilience and devotion to duty which made the consideration of the policy document successful. May I also appreciate the Office of the Hon.Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly for always providing guidance and direction to the Committees in the discharge of their mandate. Finally, I commend the Secretariat for exemplary performance in providing technical and logistical support to the Committee.

On behalf of the Sectoral Committee on Agriculture, livestock and fisheries it is my pleasant duty to present to the House the report of the Committee on Murang’a County Agro-Ecology Policy 2022 -2032 for adoption.

SIGN.....DATE.....  
**HON.CAROLINE WAIRIMU NJOROGE**  
**MCA -CHAIRPERSON -AGRICULTURE,LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES**  
**COMMITTEE.**

## **1.0 PREFACE**

### **1.2 Committee Mandate**

The Committee on Agriculture, livestock and fisheries was established under Standing Order No.204 is responsible for all matters related to county Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

The Committee is mandated to do the following: -

- i. Investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
- ii. Study the programme and policy objectives of department of Agriculture and the effectiveness of their implementation;
- iii. Study and review all legislation referred to it;
- iv. Study, assess and analyze the relative success of the department as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
- v. Investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the department Agriculture as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the House;
- vi. To vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the County Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order 198 (Committee on Appointments) and
- vii. Make reports and recommendations to the House as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation.

### **1.2 Members of the Committee**

The Committee as currently constituted, comprises of the following Hon.Members:-

1. Hon. Caroline Wairimu Njoroge (MCA) -Chairperson
2. Hon. Gathe Wa Njeri (MCA) -Vice Chairperson
3. Hon. Hilary Muigai Muchoki (MCA) - Member
4. Hon. Liz Muthoni Mbugua (MCA) “
5. Hon. Moses Gachui Mungai (MCA)
6. Hon. Peter Murigi Ngugi(MCA)
7. Hon. John Kamwaga(MCA)
8. Hon. Simon Mwaura Wamwea (MCA)
9. Hon. Anthony Marubu Chege (MCA)
10. Hon. Charles Machigo Karina(MCA)
11. Hon. Francis Kibe Kamau(MCA)
12. Hon. Elizabeth Wambui (MCA)
13. Hon. Morris Thuku (MCA)

### **1.3 Committee Secretariat**

1. Reuben Maina- Clerk Assistant
2. Evelyn Macharia-Research Officer
3. Nevy Kimani- Hansard Reporter
4. Anne Wanjiku-Sergeant at Arms

## **2.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE MURANG'A COUNTY AGRO-ECOLOGY POLICY 2022 -2032.**

### **2.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**Hon.Speaker,** Devolution in Kenya constitutionally assigned 14 functions under the Schedule IV of the constitution, including agriculture, County health and Transport services, Trade and tourism development and County Planning. Article 174 of the Constitution defines one of the key objectives of devolution as the promotion of social and economic development and provision of proximate, easily accessible services throughout Kenya.

The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya provides for the Agricultural Policy as a function of the National Government. It transfers key components of agriculture including crop and animal husbandry, fisheries development and control of plant and animal diseases amongst others to the County governments.

**Hon.Speaker,** Agriculture forms the basis of food production in the country and significantly contributes to growth of the national economy. National and County Governments need to develop appropriate strategies that will lead to food and nutrition security and safety at their respective levels.

The main challenges in Murang'a County are limited agricultural land and irregular supply of farm inputs particularly for non-cash crop growers who are not members of cooperative societies. Prices of the inputs are high and the distribution network is limiting. Shortages of inputs lead to low productivity in maize, beans, Irish potatoes and cabbages.

**Hon.Speaker,**The Murang'a County Agro-Ecology Policy 2022 -2032 has been formulated in line with the relevant provisions of the Constitution and provides a clear road map to the realization of Vision 2030 agricultural goals and targets. It identifies current challenges

Key to note is that, development of this policy was through collaborative efforts of the stakeholders together with a public consultation process that resulted in valuable feedback that has enhanced quality of the outcome.

### 3.0 POLICY OBJECTIVES AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

#### 3.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE AGRO- ECOLOGY POLICY

##### 3.1.1 Broad objectives

To support productivity and sustainability of agro-ecology production systems in Murang'a County

##### 3.1.2 Specific objectives

###### 3.1.2.1 Objective One

To support sustainable and participatory approaches to introduction of Agro-ecology production systems and practices in the County.

**Policy option I** -Generation of a Murang'a County agro-ecology policy and an agro-ecology strategic plan that also considers mainstreaming gender and youth energy.

**Policy option II:** Accelerated implementation framework on Agro ecology for Murang'a County.

**Policy option III:** Create a legal framework to regulate the agro-ecology production approach in Murang'a County in line with the existing management structure and framework to deliver more value to the farmers.

###### 3.1.2.2 objective two

To support increased awareness on health benefits to life and environment, prioritize marketing strategies, data/information and consumption for agro- ecology products in Murang'a County.

**Policy option I:** Commercialization of agro- ecology production sub sector through support by the County Special program funds voted for promotion of agro-ecology practices.

**Policy option II:** Prioritization of sector and linkages with stakeholders in agro-ecology with possible quick win.

**Policy option III:** Pursue a greening agriculture approach through linking agriculture and human health with food safety awareness and appointment of agro-ecology system Champions.

**Policy option IV:** Establishment of a County department dealing with agro-ecology promotion and or an agro- ecology development board to mainstreaming agro-ecology in government.

**Policy option V:** Ensuring development, packaging and dissemination of appropriate technical information and integration of information communication technology (ICT).

*3.1.2.3 objective three*

To support increased productivity and incomes through collaboration with research, education institutions and technology integration of agro- ecology with conventional agriculture;

**Policy option I:** Strengthening research farmer extension linkage.

**Policy option II:** Institute measures of making farm inputs for use in agro-ecology production affordable for increased productivity.

*3.1.2.4 objective Four*

To promote adoption of agro-ecological approaches for sustainable soil systems and agricultural practices in the county.

**Policy option I:** Embrace a multiplatform that embraces all stakeholders and players and Government to take the lead in regulation and coordination of sub sector.

**Policy option II:** Embrace soil and water conservation with a special consideration to ecosystem conservation within agroecosystem, agroforestry practices review, wastelands, wetlands and riparian areas conservation and other existent ecosystems.

**Policy option III:** Minimum tillage consideration, integrated pest management for vulnerable areas and an Agri- business approach to agriculture.

**Policy option IV:** Composting pits encouraged within households to control quality of manure.

*3.1.2.5 objective Five*

To implement standards of production in the sub-sector that is in line with both national and internationally set market standards.

**Policy option I:** Embrace set production and market standards that are currently in operation.

**Policy option II:** Consider price stabilization including price guarantees' schemes that rewards embracing standards.

### 3.2 THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

- 1) **The Constitution of Kenya 2010** – The Constitution stipulates the distribution of functions between the national and the county governments whereby among the functions and powers of the county is; agriculture, including - crop and animal husbandry, livestock sale yards, county abattoirs, plant and animal disease control; and fisheries. In section 43 (c) under the bill of rights, the Constitution stipulates that “every person has the right to be free from hunger and to have adequate food of acceptable quality”
- 2) **The Vision 2030** -This is the national policy economic development blueprint that entrenches Kenya Vision 2030 as the long-term strategy for Kenya. The Kenya Vision 2030 aims to transform Kenya into a modern, globally competitive, middle-income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens. In the Vision 2030, agriculture is envisioned as a key sector that will contribute overall development agenda under the economic pillar.
- 3) **National agriculture policies review**-After independence the key policy that guided the sector was Sessional Paper No. 10 of 1965 on African socialism and its application to planning in Kenya and other policies that have been used over the years including the district focus for rural development (DFRD), the structural adjustment programs (SAPs), Intergraded agricultural development programme (IADP) and the Poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP).
- 4) **Sustainable development goals (SDGs)**-The Agriculture sector key mandate is primarily covered by SDG goal number 2 which is to end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Specifically, the Murang’a County Agro-ecology sub sector policy seeks to ensure access to safe food by all people and nutritious and sufficient food for all.
- 5) **The Climate Change Act No 11 of 2016** -This is an ACT of Parliament to provide for a regulatory framework for enhanced response to climate change; to provide for mechanism and measures to achieve low carbon climate development, and for connected purposes.
- 6) **Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) 1999 (Rev 2015)** -The Environmental Management and Co Ordination Act (EMCA) 1999 (revised 2015) is the framework for environmental management and conservation in Kenya. Among other things, EMCA provides a legal framework for the establishment of various institutions that are pertinent to environmental governance in Kenya.
- 7) **Water Act, 2016** -The purpose of the Water Act 2016 is to provide for the regulation, management and development of water resources and water and sewerage services in line with the Constitution of Kenya 2010. The agro-ecology policy shall aim to promote the object of the water Act 2016 through ecosystem conservation approach that shall enable development of non-polluted water discharge to water bodies that may be accessed for animal and human usage.



- 8) **Food security and nutrition policy, 2017-2022-** It is the policy of the Government of Kenya that all Kenyans, throughout their life cycle enjoy at all times safe food in sufficient quantity and quality to satisfy their nutritional needs for optimal health.
- 9) **Horticulture policy, 2012-**emphasizes development of the domestic market with regard to production, food safety and post-harvest hand.
- 10) **The crops Act, (No 16) of 2013** -This Act seeks to accelerate the growth and development of agriculture, enhance productivity and incomes of farmers and the rural population, improve investment climate and efficiency of agribusiness and develop agricultural crops as export crops. The agroecology policy shall therefore aim at conforming to the Crops Act in promotion of competitiveness in the crops subsector and development of diversified crop products and market outlet.
- 11) **The Consumer Protection Act No 46, 2012** -An Act of parliament to provide for the protection of the consumers and prevent unfair trade practices. This is an Act to protect consumer transactions and to provide for matters connected with and incident thereto.

### 3.3 INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

#### 3.3.1 Establishment of Agroecology Regulatory Board

**Hon.Speaker**, the County department in-charge of Agriculture has created a unit equivalent of a directorate to deal with matters promotion of organic agriculture, its development and generally agroecology despite the development of this agroecology policy. To strengthen this structure therefore the policy proposes the development of an agroecology regulatory board to help steer and promote food safety production and marketing strategies.

The board shall be constituted through appointments from the sector players and shall be required to carry out the role of policy advisory.

#### 3.3.2 County level agriculture policies and sector plans

**Hon.Speaker**,The County Government has developed two drafts plans being the Murang'a County Agriculture sector policy and a Murang'a county agriculture sector plan. Both of these documents are yet to be enacted and validated

### 3.4 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. **Principle on right to development:** The right to food and right to development under the Bill of rights chapter six of the Kenya Constitution 2010 will be exercised while taking into consideration the harnessing of not only the specific County's economic and social needs but also enhancement of conservation of fragile zones within the County.
2. **Sustainability principle:** The constitution of Kenya Article 69 obligates the Government to ensure sustainable exploitation, utilization, management and conservation of the environment and natural resources. Ensure the equitable sharing of benefits, exploit the environment and the natural resources for the benefit of the people of Kenya.
3. **Principle of inter and intra-generational equity.** The constitution of Kenya 2010 Article 42 guarantees that every person has the right to a clean and healthy environment which

includes the right to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations through legislative and other measures.

4. **Public participation and inclusivity principle:** Article 69 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 Sub section (d) encourages public participation in the management, protection and conservation of the environment.
5. **Principle of good governance:** The principles of rule of law, effective institutions, transparency and acceptability, respect for human rights and the meaningful participation of civil population will be integrated in the target resources management initiative.
6. **Coordination principle:** To promote sustainable management and conservation, the County government shall ensure effective coordination of different sectors, agencies and actors as well as implementation of different policies and laws that have a bearing on the targeted resources.
7. **Ecosystem Based Management Approach:** An integrated ecosystem approach to conserving environmental resources will be adopted and enhanced to ensure that all ecosystems are managed in an integrated manner while also providing a range of benefits to the people.
8. **Devolution principle:** For sustainability of production resources the County Government shall cooperate and consult with National Governments in the management and conservation of all natural resources in accordance with the Constitution
9. **Wise use principle:** Wise use of natural production resources is the maintenance of the ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development.

### 3.1 Challenges that that the policy seeks to address

Among other reasons therefore for this policy are:

1. A weakening and general population health situation.
2. There is currently no regulatory framework to define standards for organic agriculture practices in Kenya and the roll out of agroecology as a science at the County level.;
3. Deteriorating human and livestock health situation both nationally and in the County and especially involving terminal illnesses.
4. Increased pollution by farm chemicals in the various county ecosystems especially water, agro and terrestrial ecosystems
5. Increased consumption of farm inputs pollutants in food chains in the region;
6. Environmental degradation of the county agroecosystems including soils and water;
7. Effects of climate change on food production systems threatening human existence;
8. Increased food security threats and food demands with increasing population
9. Increase in demand for organic food markets nationally.

## **4.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **4.1 Committee observations**

Upon consideration of the on Murang'a County Agro-Ecology Policy 2022 -2032, the Committee made the following observations;

1. **THAT**, there is no written policy developed on agroecology or related organic agriculture for Murang'a County.
2. **THAT**, the Policy has been formulated in line with relevant provisions of the Constitution and provides a clear road map to the realization of Vision 2030 agricultural goals and targets.
3. **THAT**, the County Government has established a legal framework that has been approved by the Assembly to give effect to the formation of the Agroecology Development and Marketing Board.
4. **THAT**, the policy identifies current challenges in the Agricultural Sector and outlines suitable guidelines to address them. It provides measures towards sustainable use of natural resources, particularly land and water, which are expected to boost agricultural production and productivity.
5. **THAT**, the Policy takes cognizance of cross-cutting issues, particularly agriculture in a changing climate, youth and gender, which have significant effects on agricultural development.
6. **THAT**, the Policy affirms the interrelationship between food and health ,it emphasizes the need for County Governments to commit adequate resources to enable sustainable production of sufficient and diverse nutrient dense foods.
7. **THAT**, Agricultural research is highly correlated to growth and development in agriculture to tackle challenges in agricultural value chains.







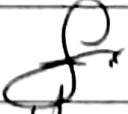
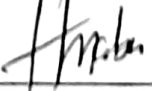


### **4.2 Committee Recommendations**

**The Committee Recommends as follows:**

1. **THAT**, the House adopts the Committees Report on the report on Murang'a County Agro-Ecology Policy 2022 -2032.
2. **THAT**, for successful implementation of the Policy, the County Department in- charge of Agriculture, Livestock, Veterinary Services and Fisheries should develop a monitoring and evaluation framework as an integral component to ensure the policy objectives are achieved.

3. **THAT**, the County Government should commit adequate resources to enable sustainable agricultural production and productivity for food security and increased incomes among the people of Murang'a which is in conformity with this agroecology policy.
4. **THAT**, the County Government should engage and collaborate with research institutions for development of Agro- ecology research unit within Murang'a County.
5. **THAT**, The County Government to promote the adoption of appropriate technologies that reduce post-harvest losses at community and household levels.
6. **THAT**, The CEC Members Agriculture,Livestock,Veterinary Services and Fisheries to submit to the Assembly the draft Murang'a County Agriculture sector policy and Murang'a County Agriculture sector plan for approval.

**THE SECTROL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES  
COMMITTEE REPORT ADOPTION SCHEDULE.**

NO.	NAME	SIGN
1.	Hon. Caroline Wairimu Njoroge -Chairperson	
2.	Hon. Gathe Wa Njeri -Vice Chairperson	
3.	Hon. Morris Thuku	
4.	Hon. Hilary Muigai Muchoki	
5.	Hon. Liz Muthoni Mbugua	
6.	Hon. Moses Gachui Mungai	
7.	Hon. Peter Murigi Ngugi	
8.	Hon. John Kamwaga	
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11.	Hon. Charles Machigo Karina	
12.	Hon. Francis Kibe Kamau	
13.	Hon. Elizabeth Wambui	