

Consultancy to Map and Profile Key Agroecology Actors and Movements in East Africa

Terms of Reference (ToR)

1. Background

This consultancy is anchored in SEATINI-Uganda’s project titled “Advancing Agroecology for Climate Resilience and Food Sovereignty in East Africa.” The project responds to growing climate vulnerability, food insecurity, ecological degradation, and over-reliance on food imports across the East African region.

The East African governments continue to prioritise an industrial, export-oriented agricultural model that marginalises small-scale producers, undermines indigenous knowledge systems, accelerates the use of harmful Agro-chemical inputs, and weakens food sovereignty. Despite agroecology being recognised globally including by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the East African Legislative Assembly as a viable pathway for climate resilience, sustainable livelihoods, and ecological restoration, it remains inadequately recognised and supported within national and regional trade, agriculture, climate, and investment policy frameworks.

The efforts to promote agroecology in East Africa are currently constrained by fragmented and siloed approaches among civil society organisations, farmer movements, advocacy networks, research institutions, and other sectoral actors. This fragmentation has resulted in weak coordination, duplication of efforts, limited collective action, and minimal policy influence at national, regional, and continental levels.

To address these challenges, the project places strong emphasis on movement building, strategic engagement, and coordinated policy advocacy as critical pathways for advancing agroecology for climate resilience and food sovereignty. Within this context, SEATINI intends to undertake a systematic mapping and profiling of key agroecology actors and movements in East Africa, specifically in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania.

This mapping exercise is intended to go beyond identification of actors. It will serve as a strategic tool to strengthen movement building by illuminating existing alliances, gaps, complementarities, and power dynamics within the agroecology ecosystem. The findings will directly inform SEATINI’s strategies for coalition building, joint advocacy, and coordinated engagement in trade, agriculture, climate, and investment policy processes at national, regional (EAC), and continental levels (including AfCFTA-related spaces).

2. Purpose of the Consultancy

The overall purpose of this consultancy is to map and profile key agroecology actors and movements in East Africa in order to strengthen strategic engagement, coordination, alliance-building, and collective policy influence in advancing agroecology for climate resilience and food sovereignty.

3. Objectives

The consultant will;

- Map and comprehensively profile key agroecology actors and movements at national and regional levels to inform strategic engagement, coordination, and collaboration under the project.
- Identify priority issues, interests, and policy entry points for engagement with the mapped stakeholders in relation to agroecology, trade, climate resilience, and food sovereignty.
- Assess and outline potential opportunities for strategic collaboration with selected stakeholders towards building and strengthening a regional trade-oriented agroecology movement.
- Compile and validate a directory of relevant focal persons, including institutional affiliations and contact details, to facilitate effective communication, coordination, and project implementation.
- Generate strategic recommendations to guide SEATINI's engagement, alliance-building, and advocacy approaches.

4. Scope of Work

1. Review relevant project documents, policy frameworks, and literature on agroecology, trade, and food sovereignty in East Africa, and develop a clear methodology and work plan for the assignment.
2. Map and categorise key agroecology actors and movements in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania, covering Law makers, Government Ministries of Trade, Agriculture and Environment, civil society, farmer organisations, networks, research institutions, and relevant private sector actors.
3. Develop structured profiles of mapped stakeholders, outlining their mandates, focus areas, geographical scope, constituencies, and engagement in agroecology-related initiatives.
4. Identify priority issues, stakeholder interests, and key policy and advocacy entry points related to agroecology, trade, climate resilience, and food sovereignty.
5. Analyse opportunities, synergies, and gaps for strategic collaboration among stakeholders to support the development of a regional trade-oriented agroecology movement.
6. Compile and validate a directory of key stakeholders, including designated focal persons and contact details, to facilitate coordination and effective project implementation.
7. Produce a consolidated analytical report with practical recommendations to guide SEATINI's strategic engagement, alliance-building, and policy advocacy efforts.

5. Expected Deliverables

- A comprehensive and user-friendly database of agroecology actors and movements in East Africa.
- A detailed analytical report including actor profiles, coordination analysis, and strategic recommendations for movement building and policy engagement.
- A concise summary brief highlighting key findings and priority recommendations.

6. Timeline

The consultancy is expected to be conducted over 30–40 working days, within a mutually agreed

timeframe.

7. Qualifications and Experience

- An advanced degree in agriculture, development studies, environmental studies, political economy, or a related field.
- Demonstrated experience in agroecology, food sovereignty, sustainable agriculture, or related advocacy work in East Africa.
- Strong understanding of regional and national trade, agriculture, climate, and investment policy processes (e.g. CAADP, AfCFTA, EAC frameworks).
- Excellent research, analytical, and report-writing skills.

8. Reporting and Management

The consultant will report to the Programs and Communications Manager and will closely with the project officer at SEATINI to ensure consistent and effective implementation of the assignment.

9. Application Submission

Interested consultants should submit their technical and financial proposals by 28th January 2026 to the Procurement Department at procurement@seatiniuganda.org.

10. Terms of Engagement

The consultant will be an independent contractor/consultant, and no employer-employee relationship exists between SEATINI Uganda and the consultant.

For further inquiries, please contact SEATINI Uganda at info@seatiniuganda.org.