



**SPEECH BY H E SUSAN KIHKA,
NAKURU COUNTY GOVERNOR, DURING
THE LAUNCH OF THE COUNTY
AGROECOLOGY POLICY HELD ON 9TH
DECEMBER, 2025 AT ATC SOILO**

**Distinguished Guests,
Honourable Members of the County
Assembly,
Members of Staff of the County Government
of Nakuru,
Esteemed Partners and Stakeholders in
Agriculture,
Our Dear Farmers,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good Morning.

1. Today marks a historic and transformative milestone for Nakuru County as we officially launch the Nakuru County Agroecology Policy—a blueprint that is a cornerstone of our vision for a regenerative, sustainable, and inclusive food system. This initiative comes at a time when the challenges facing our food systems are both undeniable and urgent. It

offers us a roadmap to navigate these challenges with purpose and resolve, placing food security and nutrition at the forefront of our county's development agenda.

2. This policy is not just another document to gather dust on shelves in our offices; it is a commitment to our future. A commitment to ensure that the way we farm, the way we produce food, and the way we nurture our land is sustainable, resilient, and equitable. Agroecology is no longer a distant ideal; it is an urgent necessity for securing a healthy and just future for our communities, our environment, and our economy.
3. As we stand here today, we recognize that policy development is one of the most powerful tools available to both national and county governments in shaping the future. Well-crafted policies create enabling environments where our farmers can thrive, our ecosystems are protected, and our people prosper. Nakuru County is uniquely positioned to take this step. Spanning over 7,500 square kilometres, we are blessed with diverse agroecological zones and fertile soils that have made us one of Kenya's agricultural powerhouses. With 62 percent of our land

being arable and more than 70 percent of that land highly suitable for farming, Nakuru has long been the backbone of Kenya's food security.

4. Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries together contribute nearly 22 percent to Kenya's GDP. Nakuru is proud to be at the heart of this achievement, but we are keenly aware that the future of agriculture must go beyond just increasing production. It must focus on producing better—producing in a way that preserves and enhances the health of our soils, our water, and our communities. Our agricultural systems must be sustainable, resilient, and adaptable to the changing climate.
5. In launching the Nakuru County Agroecology Policy today, we are joining a growing group of counties across Kenya that are taking bold steps toward transforming their food systems. Nakuru now stands alongside Murang'a, Vihiga, West Pokot, and Makueni as the fifth county to embrace agroecology as the future of farming. This is not just symbolic; it is a deliberate and strategic move to reshape our food systems for long-term success. This policy signals our

commitment to strengthening the resilience of our farming communities and ensuring that they can thrive in an ever-changing world. We are ready to reimagine how we produce, process, and market our food.

6. Agroecology is about farming with nature, not against it. It calls for us to rotate our crops, conserve our soils, use organic fertilizers, and protect indigenous seeds. It means embracing the diversity of our farming heritage—millet, sorghum, indigenous vegetables, and livestock—not just focusing on maize, potatoes, or wheat. It is about empowering all farmers—smallholder farmers, women, youth, indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities—to participate fully in shaping and benefiting from our food systems.
7. We are aware of the challenges we face. Extension services in Nakuru are stretched thin, with one officer serving up to 1,500 farmers. Our soils are becoming less fertile due to overuse of chemical fertilizers and the practice of monocropping. Indigenous crop varieties are disappearing, and markets for organic produce remain underdeveloped. Many farmers—especially women and

youth—still struggle to access land, credit, and fair prices for their produce. Yet, in the face of these challenges, Nakuru County also holds tremendous opportunities. Institutions like Egerton University and Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), alongside the hardworking farmers and dedicated partners we have in the region, are primed to lead the charge in implementing this policy.

8. Awareness of soil degradation, the pressures of climate change, and the growing demand for healthy, safe food is fostering a cultural shift toward more sustainable practices. Strong cooperatives, indigenous knowledge, community seed banks, and underutilized crops like millet and sorghum offer us the tools we need to restore biodiversity, diversify diets, and combat malnutrition. The Nakuru County Agroecology Policy sets out a clear framework for scaling up these approaches and transforming our food systems.
9. The objectives of this policy are ambitious but achievable. We will focus on strengthening value chains for agroecological products, improving certification systems,

and enhancing storage, transport, and retail systems to support organic and sustainable produce. Policy reforms and the establishment of inclusive value chains will embed agroecology into our county laws, empowering women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized communities to benefit from and contribute to this transformative change.

10. Today, as we launch this policy, we also embark on the next critical phase—implementation. This will not be an easy journey, but we are deeply grateful to the partners who have walked this path with us so far and who will continue to stand with Nakuru County as we implement this vision. Together, we will accelerate the transformation of our food systems, strengthen resilience across our communities, and build a future where our food systems are sustainable, equitable, and regenerative.
11. In conclusion, I want to be clear: the transformation of Nakuru’s food systems into resilient, sustainable, and equitable systems is urgent. Our responsibility to future generations compels us to act now. As Governor, I reaffirm the County

Government's unwavering commitment to creating the enabling environment necessary for agroecology to flourish. Nakuru County will live up to its vision of being "the County of Unlimited Opportunities for All."

Thank you.

H E SUSAN KIIHIKA, EGH

GOVERNOR, NAKURU COUNTY