



Foresight4Food
International Collaborative Initiative

Directions toward Nakuru's Food System Future

Manifesto for Change

July 2024

A journey towards transformation

The food system of Nakuru County is full of potential, as Nakuru is rich in natural resources and a wide range of agricultural value chains are represented. However, challenges related to food and nutrition security and environmental sustainability exist. Trends of climate change and its negative impacts urbanization and a rapidly growing population, unhealthy diets and land fragmentation are emerging. The future holds many uncertainties. Yet, in order to future-proof the food system, it is urgent that investments are made to further enhance the resilience and sustainability of food and agriculture in Nakuru as espoused in the 2023 – 2027 County Integrated Development (CIDP).

Since November 2023, a diverse group of more than 40 different stakeholders, both state and non-state actors, from Nakuru county have been coming together to consider the future of the food system, supported by researchers and facilitators of Foresight4Food. This inclusive group looked at the challenges and opportunities for food and agriculture today, but also at how it might evolve in 10–15 years' time.

This Manifesto builds on a joint food system analysis, an assessment of drivers and trends relevant for Nakuru, and 5 scenarios developed by this group. These outputs culminate in a vision for their desired future for Nakuru's food system, and a range of possible pathways that can set us in that direction, while preparing us for a range of uncertainties. The Manifesto calls upon all stakeholders to join and align their actions, and intensify collaboration to transform Nakuru's food system so that it can feed its people; advance inclusive economic development; grow in-county revenue; and eventually GDP growth for Kenya.

A desired future for Nakuru's food system

Based on the identification of 60+ trends and uncertainties, 5 plausible scenarios were co-created. These were based on 4 critical uncertainties. Learning from each of these scenarios, we distilled a 'desirable future scenario' for the Nakuru food system.

Here, we envision a desired future scenario which presents Nakuru in 2040 as a vibrant regional business community with a sustainable food system. It envisions a future with thriving rural communities and connected cities.

Nakuru is characterized by sustainable and regenerative agriculture, healthy consumption habits involving indigenous crops as well as processed foods, and socioeconomic harmony. Despite the seasonable nature of foods available, food safety and security, nutritious value, hygiene standards are maintained through regulation as well as trust-based standards. The community focuses on local and regional trade, with climate resilient agriculture serving as a backbone for economic growth. There is space for smallholder farmers, SMEs as well as professional companies from a range of different sectors such as green energy, IT and tourism. Stakeholders prioritize farmer welfare and environmental conservation, which means that food systems stakeholders, especially farmers, have access to information and markets, as well as financial services and responsive (advisory) research services. The economy is characterized by social enterprises, public-private-partnerships, business incubation and cooperative hubs, smart agri-IT services and inclusive financial services. Youth are highly educated with a strong participation in agri-food systems, and open-source technological advancements enhance productivity and efficiency.



Key sub-systems of a desired future

In this desired future, various key sub-systems of the food system are functioning well and generating more than the sum of their parts. Thus, this desired future involves:

- 1 Value-driven research and innovation data systems:** Valuing research and conducting participatory research are essential. Policies need to be informed by data, emphasizing evidence-based decision-making for sustainable agri-food systems. This involves engaging communities and stakeholders in research processes to ensure their perspectives are considered. This includes investments and results tracking, monitoring and evaluation, including diverse data sources, ongoing data collection and effective analysis.
- 2 Effective natural resource management and restoration systems:** Responsible and judicious input use and local practices for soil, water and biodiversity conservation are crucial. Farmers and SMEs adopt sustainable practices, through a mindset shift towards integrated practices and through collaboration with partner companies. Additionally, practices like terracing and riparian land preservation play a vital role in preserving natural resources.
- 3 Resilient value chain development:** Inclusivity and shared responsibilities in the value chain are paramount, ensuring that all communities contribute and benefit. Risk sharing and mitigation strategies, along with sustainability through information sharing and financing, are essential. Using the right inputs is crucial for maintaining quality throughout the value chain.
- 4 Inclusive financing systems:** Finance providers, organized groups and collective savings serve as driver and collateral for financing, promoting financial inclusion among small-scale farmers and SMEs. Micro-insurance for agribusiness helps mitigate risks, while ongoing financial literacy and empowerment programs ensure effective financial management.
- 5 Vibrant multi-stakeholder processes:** In this desired future there are ongoing multi-stakeholder platforms and collaborative instruments, such as private partnerships, fostering effective multi-stakeholder engagement. A central data repository is accessible to all stakeholders and facilitates informed decision-making and enhances transparency.



- 6 Participatory and inclusive enabling environment:** The County government plays a pivotal role inviting citizens and stakeholders to contribute the policy process. Principles such as 'participatory', 'inclusive', 'co-creation' and 'enabling' guide the development of policies that drive positive impacts.

Who was involved in this foresight process?

Government:

- Nakuru County Government
- National Government at Ward, Sub-County, County & National levels
- County and National Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies

Private sector:

- ASNET
- Youth in Agribusiness
- Nakuru North Agribusiness
- Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM)
- KENTGRA
- DTB Bank
- Fresh Crop
- Premiere Foods
- BIDCO
- Co-operatives

Community Based Organizations

- Kabazi Beyond 2030 Networks including: Sub County /ward heads of departments; Chief's forum; school heads forum; Women networks; Kabazi business community

NGOs & Civil Society

- Nakuru Endelevu Trust Initiative (NETI): the umbrella Organization for CSOs and NGOs.
- World Research Institute (WRI)

Research

- Egerton University Living Lab
- University of Nairobi
- KALRO
- ILRI
- KEPHIS
- KMFRI
- DOALF & VS
- Ndungiri TVET, Kabazi Ward

Setting off towards the desired future: pathways


This desired future does not emerge naturally. The scenarios pointed to the need to strongly take action now, and nudge the system into the direction of change needed, while being aware of global drivers and trends.

Based on systemic casual loop analysis, the Nakuru food systems stakeholders analysed how all these systems work. Based on the analysis and the scenario lessons, a number of essential entry points for starting the transformation process emerged. These involve combinations of pathways, processes and partnerships. The pathways are aligned with the National Government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and the Nakuru County CIDP (2023–2027) Plan.

Pathways are areas of intervention and direction. These pathways involve both a transformational mindset as well as potent areas of investment for the Nakuru food system stakeholders. Following these pathways will serve as 'no regret' strategies, investments toward positive futures and put mechanisms in place to avoid doomsday scenarios.

Pathways towards the desired future



 **Inclusive and enabling environment for food systems transformation:** a consistent, committed and catalytic role is envisioned for the County Government. Participatory consultation, multi-stakeholder forums and public-private partnership inform adaptive and anticipatory policy making and co-implementation of regulations. Farmers, enterprises and local research institutes working together in 'Living Labs' contribute to innovations, ongoing data collection, sense-making and results monitoring. A strong focus on applied, evidence based decision-making and citizen science informs strategies, with additional input from foresight and trend analysis units.

Farmers' collective action in partnership with key private sector partners: The voluntary action taken by small holder farmers to organize themselves into farmer groups and cooperatives will enable them to achieve common shared interests. The outcome of such collective action will be better bargaining power, access to better input prices and markets for farm produce.





Think and go green in agri-business: By fully starting to embrace circular economy, agro-ecological practices, water harvesting, waste to value, farmers, SMEs, cooperatives, financial service providers and researchers start to introduce new business models, and practices aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions in agriculture. In collaboration with local government, stakeholders reform and repurpose extension services, initiate agroforestry and generate green energy investments. Regulators and citizens ensure polluters are incrementally penalised and adoption of payment for ecosystem services is embraced. On the other hand, climate resilient plant varieties, livestock species and farming practices will enable farmers to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Sustainable and inclusive land management to buttress the viability of small-scale agriculture: A multi-stakeholder coalition of planners, farmers, citizens and companies initiate dialogue and visioning around urban and rural development. This coalition will also advance the restoration of degraded lands, the management of soil fertility in agri-ecosystems, as well as addressing land fragmentation and afforestation.



Shifting diets through food safety, health and education: A broad coalition of schools, women groups, local government, health care professionals and volunteers, food companies, and financial service providers will drive a healthy food environment. This includes equal gender relationships, inclusiveness and nutrition awareness, penalties for imported unhealthy processed food, and subsidies for local indigenous foods. Community-led school-feeding programmes are triggered to enhance education outcomes as well as sourcing from local farmers to increase marketability of nutritious foods. Reforming of curricula enhances engagement in health and food production sectors.

Nakuru County government and Nakuru communities take the lead in shaping nutritious, resilient and sustainable business value chains: Farmers, communities, local government, business leaders and financial service provider's work together to prioritize key value chains and strategic processing per sub-county based on business potential, sustainability and local nutrition outcomes. Food value addition drives income growth through processing (fortification, pickling, and fermentation), logistics, and marketing. Farmers, researchers, local government and companies diversify and build resilience of farm enterprises and markets in the face of climate change through strong investment in adaptable and drought-tolerant plant and livestock varieties, local seed propagation and diverse cropping systems. Shock-resilient markets are ensured through early warning systems and versatile buffer stocks of both staples and nutritious foods. Strategic investments in key low-emissions protein sectors lead to exploration of novel food developments and piloting alternative protein value chains.



These pathways form the Manifesto for Change for Nakuru's food systems future. This manifesto is a common reference point that serves to guided, motivate and spur action among the stakeholders that are an integral part of this food system. All food systems stakeholders are invited to add their commitment and suggestions to strengthen this work, and to co-create a roadmap for its implementation



What is Foresight4Food?

The Foresight4Food Initiative uses food systems and foresight approaches to foster a deeper understanding of the complexities within food systems and drive impactful decision-making by facilitating informed and strategic dialogues between government, private sector, science, and civil society. Foresight4Food implements the 'Foresight for Food Systems Transformation' (FoSTr) programme, which is financed by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, overseen by IFAD and led by the University of Oxford's Environmental Change Institute and Wageningen University & Research. FoSTr is a demand-driven facility for analysing key trends and potential futures in global and local food systems and supporting national food systems transformation pathways.

Foresight4Food currently operates in Bangladesh, Jordan, Kenya and Uganda. In Kenya, Foresight4Food is partnering with Results for Africa Institute, CGIAR-ILRI, and University of Nairobi.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

