

# AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY COMMUNITY NETWORK

## 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

JULY 15 16, 2019

SACDEP CENTRE, THIKA, KENYA

**THEME: ADVANCING BIODIVERSITY-BASED RESILIENT  
FOOD SYSTEMS AND MARKETS**

**HOST: PELUM KENYA**







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## ACRONYMS

ABC	Agricultural Biodiversity Community
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
SACDEP	Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Programmes
DHAN	Development of Humane Action Foundation,
INHERE	Institute of Himalayan Environmental Research and Education
CENESTA	Centre for Sustainable Development
SCOPE	Schools and Colleges Permaculture Programme
FACHIG	Farmers Association Of Community Self-Help Investment Groups

A giraffe with a brown and white spotted pattern stands in a savanna landscape. The giraffe is facing left, and its long neck is extended. The background shows a blue sky with scattered white clouds and a field of tall, dry grass in the foreground.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*The Agricultural Biodiversity Community Held its 8th Annual Meet at SACDEP Centre in Thika, Kenya on the 15th and 16th July. The Meet was hosted by PELUM Kenya in conjunction with the DHAN Foundation, and 19 ABC Members from 12 organisations attended the event. This year's theme was 'Advancing Biodiversity-Based Resilient Food Systems and Markets'.*

*The 2019 meet was purposed to advance understanding on biodiversity-based resilient food systems and market, exchange knowledge and experience on best practices related to agricultural biodiversity and to develop a plan of action for the year 2019-2020 considering emerging situations.*

*The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual meet featured presentations from various organisations such as the ABC secretariat, DHAN Foundation, White Mountain, PELUM Kenya, CENESTA, FACHIG, SCOPE Kenya, INHERE, and Earth-Net.*

*Some of the learning experiences gleaned from the shared experiences focused on the need to increase documentation of success stories and good practices for the ABC networks, validate findings through research institutions so they can be published beyond ABC. There was also a need to scaling up and replicating of good practices to other regions, while addressing and contributing more to global concerns.*

*ABC members identified three major areas of focus for the 2019-2020 work plan. The three areas are; Addressing climate change-related issues through an ABC Lens, Building Resilient communities to address issues related to corporatization and globalization of agricultural food systems and Mechanisms for building a vibrant ABC community.*

*From these areas was developed and approved by the members*



## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Meeting Background**

Agricultural Biodiversity Community (ABC) was initiated as part of a joint HIVOS and Oxfam Novib Knowledge Programme, Agrobiodiversity acknowledged in 2011. This knowledge programme aimed to synthesize knowledge from a local to a global scale, conduct research on approaches and analytical frameworks that provide new perspectives on agricultural biodiversity and its role in resilient socio-ecological food systems, and improve horizontal and vertical knowledge flows towards positive change and transformation. ABC was constituted by diverse organisations and individuals working on agricultural biodiversity with millions of farmers worldwide, where evidence and insights are generated, shared and tested.

#### **Vision**

The ABC desires a world where agricultural biodiversity is conserved, carefully utilized and continuously developed; a world where smallholder farmers, pastoralist, fisher folk and forest dwellers (men and women) are enabled to contribute to, and benefit from, biodiversity-based resilient food production systems; a world where these people, the agricultural biodiversity they manage and their associated socio-ecological systems, are recognized, supported and strengthened and consumers have access to healthy produce coming from such farming systems.



## **Mission**

The ABC aims to break through the barriers that limit the scaling up, institutional embedding and horizontal extension of people-centered, agricultural-biodiversity-based food production systems.

## **1.2 The Journey of ABC**

From 2011 to 2019, there have been eight annual meetings of the Agricultural Biodiversity Community (ABC). The first meeting was organized in Thika, Kenya, which is called as the birth place of ABC. So far, three events were organized in Thika including the eighth annual meet organized from July 15 – 16 2019. In the course of this collective journey, the ABC members mutually benefited by sharing their experience and learning on various aspects related to agricultural biodiversity. Stated below is the journey of ABC.

1. In the first meeting in 2011 held at Thika, Kenya established the state of knowledge around agricultural biodiversity. Identified knowledge gaps, common ground and support needed for the development of ABC.
2. In the second meeting in 2012 organised at Wongsanit Ashram, Thailand, strong foundations was laid by way of formulation of a shared vision and mission, identification of the five strategic themes for action and joint development of action plans to achieve goals of the community and created platform for communication.
3. In the third meeting in 2013 organised in Madurai, India we have evolved tangible knowledge products relevant to ABC and beyond and contributed to Farming Matters Magazine.
4. The fourth meeting held at Boxtel, Netherlands in 2014 focused on creating momentum for change towards agricultural biodiversity at scale by strengthening ABC to become a professional action-learning community. It worked towards advancing three themes namely resilience self-assessment, open source seed system, and influencing policy. Also, it focused on engaging with other stakeholders to identify blind spots, reflect and share experiences and perspectives.
5. Again in Thika, Kenya ABC organised its fifth meet in 2015, which focused on institutionalizing ABC and strengthening the member base.
6. The sixth the annual meet was organized at Pastoral Centre, Wayanad in India on the theme Agricultural Biodiversity and Climate Resilience.

7. The Seventh annual meet was organized on the theme regenerative agriculture and agricultural biodiversity at International University of Chababar. CENESTA hosted this event in IRAN.
8. The eighth annual meet of the agricultural Biodiversity community was hosted by PELUM Kenya on the 15th and 16th of July at SACDEP Training Centre in Thika, Kenya. This year's theme was 'Advancing Biodiversity-Based Resilient Food Systems and Markets'.

### **1.3 Purpose of Meeting**

1. To advance understanding on biodiversity-based resilient food systems and market
2. To exchange knowledge and experience on best practices related to agricultural biodiversity
3. To develop a plan of action for the year 2019-2020 considering emerging situations

### **1.4 Participants**

The meeting brought together 19 participants, including ABC members and the steering committee members for the 2-day conference. (Refer annex 1 for the list of participants)

## 2 OPENING CEREMONY AND WELCOME ADDRESS



***Picture 1: Participants place their inspirational items to symbolize the start of the annual meet***

Mr. Frank Heckman, opened the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual ABC meet by asking the participants to go outside to collect an item from the natural world that represented something to them. The participants placed their collections on a selected spot with a word of what their object meant. After the ceremony, the participants were led in a word of Christian and Hindu prayer. The whole event was inspiring and made the participants to carry the Mother Nature with them for the whole day.

## **2.1 Welcome Address and Introduction by Polly Wachira – SACDEP Kenya**

The meeting opened with SACDEP Kenya Assistant Director, Polly Wachira welcoming the attendants. Followed by a brief description of SACDEP Kenya’s history and works. SACDEP works in 14 counties in Kenya guided by the pillars of sustainable agriculture and factors that contribute towards food security. SACDEP partners with government and development agencies to achieve their vision and mission. SACDEP also trains small-holder farmers and provides an avenue for them to sell their products. SACDEP and PELUM welcome all participants to the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meet.



*Picture 2:  
SACDEP Kenya  
Assistant Director  
Ms.Polly Wachira  
welcoming ABC  
members*

## **2.2 Welcome Remarks and Introduction of Participants by Zachary Makanya – PELUM Kenya**

Mr. Makanya opened the meeting with a tale of a young boy who was playing with the sand, making many moulds and shapes using the sand for a long time, and even sweated, but in the end he admitted that he was doing nothing. The story was a reflection of the NGO world and the many efforts put towards improving the lives of farmers and yet farmers are getting poorer and poorer. He challenged the participants if they were doing nothing as they worked. He encouraged participants to make a difference in what they were doing. He also urged them to document their work. He followed it up with an inspirational message from Mother Teresa

who had urged people to do the best of what they were doing and that these little things if added could make a big ocean of impact in development.

His last story was about Martin Luther King, encouraging people to be the best version of themselves, and in the end, they will rise up and be given more responsibility. His key message to the participants was to be the best of what they are, and that every single effort counted in attempts to change the world.

Mr. Makanya reminded the participants that the first ABC meeting was held in Kenya, and it was a great honor to be hosting the Annual Meeting, for the third time in Kenya. He further challenged the participants to be part of the process of making ABC more sustainable by sharing their experiences and learning, and to use the knowledge acquired to improve the livelihoods of small-scale farmers in their respective areas of operations.

After his address, the participants paired up and asked to introduce the other party. The exercise was to help the participants build rapport and to better know each other.

### **2.3 Opening Remarks: Mr. Vasimalai**

In his opening remarks presented by K. N. Rajkumar, Mr. Vasimalai noted that the ABC was seeded at Thika, in Kenya by Hivos and Oxfam Novib with selected practitioners from all over the World with knowledge support from Stockholm Resilience Centre. Further the ABC took an institutional shape in Bangkok with the search conference facilitated by Mr. Frank supported by HIVOS and Oxfam Novib. He thanked PELUM Kenya and its CEO, Mr. Zachary in extending to host the ABC meet.

He observed that the ABC meet would have been held in Dakar, Senegal with the help of Agriculture Network to build our collaboration and sharing but the cost was not affordable looking at the available budget. He noted that ABC is now actively connected with Agriculture Network and Regeneration International Networks for mutual sharing and learning. He observed that the ABC is still in 'Survival' phase and yet to find its sustainability at local, regional and global scale with vertical and horizontal exchange visits, co-creation, knowledge management on agricultural biodiversity. He mentioned the five

working groups created earlier to gather knowledge of members, facilitate innovation with co-creation and exchange visits for practical action. The five groups are:

- Seeds, Breeds and technology
- Resilient Communities
- Markets and Trade
- Policy
- Communication

He observed that the five working groups are not so vibrant but brings clarity to the ABC both conceptually and in a practical way. He recognized 'SwedBio' for its continued support to ABC during this survival phase and a special thank you went to steering committee members to keep the ABC network alive and kicking. This survival of ABC requires continued and increased ownership of members, D Group, Working Groups and collaborators, he added.

With the focus of this year Annual meet is 'Advancing agricultural biodiversity resilient food system and market' which is key to addressing climate change with eco system approach. He emphasized on the need of the hour and giving the members an opportunity to rebuild our ABC with concrete suggestions relevant to the current global and local situation. In his concluding remarks he encouraged the members to root the ABC's uniqueness with eco system value framework.

## **2.4 Expectations from the Meeting**

Participants stated their expectations from the meetings and this was narrowed down to 7 major expectations:

1. That the meeting would increase networking
2. New Knowledge sharing on current activities, success stories and issues affecting agrobiodiversity and sustainability
3. That the meeting would increase understanding on how ABC and other organisations works in the field of agrobiodiversity and markets
4. To see a more vibrant ABC network
5. See how SACDEP can contribute to the ABC Network

6. To learn about sustainable practices in the agricultural sector that have worked in other regions
7. That the meeting would help develop the ABC 2019-2020 Work Plan

## **2.5 Sharing Of Progress Report and Update**

K.N Rajkumar, DHAN Foundation, India presented the progress report. He highlighted the various meetings that were held with the steering committee in the preparation for the 2019 Annual Meet.

- Meeting 1: The first skype meeting was deliberations on when the Annual Meet would be held and the date was set as 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018
- Meeting 2: The theme for the annual meet was finalized – Advancing Biodiversity-based Resilient Food Systems and Market. During the same meeting the annual meet event was postponed.
- Meeting 3: In this skype meeting, the committee agreed to organize the annual meet along with Agricultural Networking in the Annual Meet
- Meeting 4: A new secretariat member was introduced (Rajkumar) and the Annual Meet date was revised to the 4<sup>th</sup> week of June 2019
- Meeting 5: This meeting saw the committee setting the final date for the Annual Meet fixed for the first week of July, 2019.

### ***ABC Events in progress:***

The ABC network currently has facilitated three events, focusing on Skill Exchange and biodiversity:

1. Wave Foundation Workshop: Perch method of local breed goat rearing hosting 22 participants
2. Sharing of skills and knowledge between farmers and extension offices from 2 organisations, CREPP, RIDEP who visited GBiACK coordinated by PELUM Kenya. The visit involved 10 participants.
3. Rescue, Restoration, and Enhancement of Lost Plant Genetic Resource through cyclone Ida in Zimbabwe: This activity involves 400 participants / Household and is hosted by Community Technology Development Trust (CTDT). It is currently ongoing.

The ABC network is also currently compiling a compendium of experiences and case studies, with two books currently being published, one documenting best practices and the other highlighting activities and projects carried out by ABC (Case study).

## **2.6 Advancing Biodiversity-Based Resilient Food Systems and Market**

*Facilitated by Michael Commons- Earth Net Foundation, Thailand and M.Karthikeyan – DHAN Foundation, India*

This session focused on the theme of the Eighth Annual Meeting of ABC namely Advancing Biodiversity-based Resilient Food systems and Market. As many of the ABC members are actively engaged in promoting ‘Biodiversity-based Resilient Food systems and Market’, this session focused on pooling the best practices, learning and challenges emerging from these practices. To bring a common understanding on the topic, the definition of i) Food system, ii) Resilience and iii) Food system resilience was shared by M. Karthikeyan (see Box 1). Then to trigger the discussion, a presentation on mainstreaming small millet in the regular diets in India by DHAN Foundation was shared by M. Karthikeyan. The questions taken up for discussion were,

1. How we can advance biodiversity based resilient food systems in the context of many disturbing factors?
2. What are the promising approaches/ success factors?
3. What are the challenges?



### **Key definitions**

**Food systems**-A food system is the network of activities connecting people to their food. Food systems operate at multiple spatial scales and include production, distribution, and consumption components connected through complex social, ecological, and economic relationships (Schipanski et al. 2016).

**Resilience**- Resilience is the capacity of a system to withstand shocks and external pressures while maintaining its basic structure, processes, and functions. Resilient systems have buffering capacity, which enhances their ability to adapt to changes, learn from past mistakes, and recover from disturbances.

**Food system resilience**- The capacity of people to produce and access nutritious and culturally acceptable food over time and space in the face of disturbance and change.

- **Disturbing factors** include, i) Increased inequity and injustice, ii) Climate change related issues, iii) Environmental degradation, iv) More reliance on global food distribution networks and v) Homogenisation of energy-dense foods

The case of advancing Small Millets in India was picked as a case study for the theme due to its success in the populous nation. This intervention was undertaken in the background of emerging health issues such as under nutrition and obesity, micronutrient deficiencies, increased burden of non-communicable diseases (diabetes and other diseases), a decline in cereal diversity in diets and climate change-related issues. While reviving small millets in the cropping and food systems could be one of the important ways to address these issues, they have been moving out of the consumption cycle despite being a climate smart crop, being better in nutrition than rice or wheat which are heavily consumed in India and possessing medicinal properties.

*Picture 3:  
Mr.M.Karthikeyan  
of DHAN  
Foundation, India  
making a  
presentation on the  
case for advancing  
small millets.*



It is against this backdrop that the DHAN Foundation embarked on a campaign to scale up small millet production and consumption in India. This process involved addressing integrated set of constraints namely i) Production constraints, ii) Post-harvest constraints, iii) Lack of attractive products, iv) Inadequate awareness, v) Inadequate access and vi) Inadequate policy support through the following interventions:

Improving production through i) Supporting organised production by promoting Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs) and Federations/ Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs) and supporting them for effectively engaging in small millet value chain, (ii) Conserving and enhancing access to varietal diversity by characterisation and conservation of local varieties, reintroduction of vanished SM crops and varietal choice improvement and (iii) Identification and dissemination of location-specific SAP.

1. **Scaling up of decentralised processing of small millets** through i) Processing equipment improvement, ii) Reaching pan India by providing on-site incubation support to six equipment manufacturers, marketing of portable hullers and facilitating adoption (through demonstration in strategic locations, orientation to potential buyer & promoters, supporting in purchase & installation, and capacity building on operation & maintenance)
2. **Scaling up appealing small millet food products** by i) Proving health benefits, ii) Developing appealing healthful products, iii) Commercialisation of food products through support to small enterprises and iv) Supporting street vendors through building their capacity for voluntary adoption of hygienic practices for handling of food, register with government bodies to gain legitimacy, and improve the image and visibility
3. **Promoting household consumption** by i) Preparation of relevant promotion materials, ii) Raising awareness through events, media campaigns, film festivals etc., iii) Skill building on preparation of recipes and iv) Increase availability at lower prices through expanding of market networks
4. **Advocating for policy changes in favor of small millets** through i) Pilots for developing evidences and ii) Policy workshops

**Some of the lessons learned in this exercise were:**

1. The neglected and underutilized species need to be retained through conservation at species / cropping system / landscape levels and addressing technology gaps in production & post-harvest
2. There is need for developing local and regional value chain through nutrition and value addition research, bringing in different market actors and engaging pro-poor channels
3. Household consumption to be promoted by engaging with different actors to boost the demand for small millets
4. Relevant policy support need to be provided for various stakeholders across the value chain until the market reaches a threshold level, from where it can be driven by competitive market forces

**Some of the challenges experienced included:**

1. Balancing between the farm-gate price to be ensured to make production viable and end the consumer price to be ensured to make it affordable for large number of consumers
2. Meeting the cost of market development for an emerging food category
3. Meeting the cost of promotion of an emerging food category
4. Possibility of multinationals or big companies taking over the product leading to marginalization of small scale enterprises

Martin Muriuki from ICE, Kenya, shared about the positive difference made by the contribution by the local community for establishing a local value chain intervention. Michael Commons from Earthnet Foundation, Thailand, shared about the initiative of hospital in Chiang Rai province in north of Thailand to procure and facilitate market access to organically produced foods from local farmers. He mentioned that this initiative has resulted in a win-win situation for the farmers (in terms of a price better than that of a wholesale price) and for the hospital and other consumers (in terms of a price lower than that of a retail price along with the added advantages of fresh quality produce and satisfaction of supporting a good initiative). Thomas from FACHIG Trust, Zimbabwe shared about the difficulties in reaching scale economy needed by enterprises in the food value chain in a sparsely populated regions and inadequate infrastructure in Zimbabwe. Rosinah Mbenya

from Pelum-Kenya shared about the assurance of premium prices expected by the farmers for converting to eco-friendly mode of cultivation and the need for identifying workable market arrangements in the initial stage of intervention.

The discussions on the case study and various other experiences of the participants led to identification of following success factors:

- 1) Intervening beyond production, covering distribution and consumption for building resilient food systems
- 2) Starting with creation of local market to ensure local consumption, rather than starting with distance market in mind
- 3) Accommodating food crops with commercial crops in the case of small holders, so that the introduced food crop need not compete with commercial crops
- 4) Effective involvement of local community through ensuring contribution and governance

**Some of the challenges identified were,**

- 1) Power supply (which is currently inadequate) is an essential for introduction of processing equipment
- 2) Difficulties in reaching scale economy for an enterprise due to inadequate local demand in a sparsely populated areas
- 3) Inadequate local demand due to higher prices of organically grown foods
- 4) Farmers expecting premium prices as the main incentive to adopt organic farming practices

**Suggestions given to address these challenges include,**

- 1) Aggregation of produce from good number of farmers by farmers organisations can offer scale economy
- 2) Adopting effective mechanisms to link producers with local consumers as an alternative to producers selling to wholesale market and consumer buying goods transported from a distant place at a higher price.
- 3) Awareness raising at the producer and consumer level to shift to locally produced and processed foods can raise the local demand as is the case with wood-pressed groundnut oil in Tamil Nadu, India
- 4) Facilitating access to organic certification that are affordable and easy to adopt to the farmers could help them in getting better prices.



*Picture 4: Maasai Community members pose for a picture after the launch of the White Mountain Initiative*

### **3 EXPERIENCE SHARING BY THE PARTICIPANTS**

The Experience sharing segment featured presentations from 8 organisations:

#### **3.1 Embassy of the Earth: Maasai Call to Restore the Lost Icecap of Mt. Kilimanjaro**

*Facilitated by Frank rank Heckman – Embassy of the Earth. Nice Sankale and Janice Nkoyayo - White Mountain*

Frequent and longer droughts in the Amboseli region of Kajiado has resulted in the loss of biodiversity in the Mt. Kilimanjaro region, resulting in loss of cattle, the Maasai community's main source of income and food, frequent human-wildlife conflicts and the disappearance of the mountain's icecap.

It is through this backdrop that the Maasai community in the region called for help from Embassy of the Earth who first came to sit down with villages and listen to their story.

The White Mountain Journey started when a team was made and engagement started for an unprecedented collaboration on Community-led Landscape and Livelihood Regeneration of

the Maasai habitat around Mt. Kilimanjaro. The Environment and Forestry Cabinet of Secretary Keriako Tobiko publicly expressed support for the project.

From 24-27 April 2019 around 120 representatives of the Maasai community, wildlife conservation and conservancies, government agencies, tourism sector, farmers and pastors came together in the White Mountain Future Search Conference, in a camp close to the first nursery in Inchurra Village at the foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Trees were planted and interviews made.

The purpose of the conference was to begin a community-led landscape and livelihood regeneration in the White Mountain area. And the vision was:



*Figure 1: The White Mountain Future Search Vision*

Some of the challenges identified by the group include climate change, poverty, overgrazing, political interference, a loss of indigenous knowledge, unreliable rainfall, land subdivision, among others, and this led to the development of strategies that would help achieve the vision.

The strategies included:

1. Mobilizing and creating awareness in the community
2. Elders teach the young the importance of Maasai culture
3. Improve breeds of livestock and create an alternative livelihood
4. Improve health: toilets in manyatta, clean filtered water, use traditional medicinal herbs
5. All children must go to school
6. Regenerate landscape through holistic planned grazing, Permaculture design and Agro-forestry to reduce human-wildlife conflict
7. Coordinating Council to coordinate and mediate between stakeholders in implementation of action plans.

Since then, the Coordinating Councils that was elected for Kajiado and Narok are already working on action planning at community and landscape level. Interest has also been generated and a Maasai delegation from Tanzania and the Tsavo Heritage Foundation who participated in the initial White Mountain Future Search Conference and are now going to work on preparing Future Search Conferences in Tanzania and Tsavo.

In 2018, ‘White Mountain: Maasai vow to restore the lost ice cap of Mount Kilimanjaro’, became the top story of the Global Landscapes Forum, an international event that was held in Bonn, Germany.

### **3.2 ABC and INHERE Shared Journey on Biodiversity Conservation and Smallholder Farmers**

*Facilitated by Sonali Bisht – Institute of Himalayan Environmental Research and Education (INHERE)*

*Picture 5: ABC and INHERE Shared Journey on Biodiversity Conservation and Smallholder Farmers*



Institute of Himalayan Environmental Research and Education (INHERE) is a Community based not-for-profit organization working for rural communities of the central Himalayan region of India. INHERE works with hill and mountain communities on issues related to environment, livelihoods, basic social infrastructure, human resource development and advocacy.

INHERE shares the passion and belief of ABC that addressing agricultural biodiversity is essential to address the world's most pressing challenges. Such as enhancing food and livelihood security, ensuring community resilience and responding to climate change.

INHERE has a seed campaign to save and conserve local agro biodiversity through locating and collecting open pollinated traditional seeds from communities in remote mountain villages. These seeds are then given for multiplication to interested farmers. Other seeds are recollected and distributed more widely for multiplication and use, with an aim to make them available widely in local markets to increase access for farmers.

INHERE has stored 23 different varieties ranging from small Millets, vegetables, cereals and Pulses at its Seed bank unit for conservation and promotion of traditional mountain seeds. Local varieties of cereal and vegetable seeds have also been collected, graded and stored.

INHERE is also raising awareness of the community on biodiversity and need for conservation through village meetings, workshops, village and centre level trainings and other activities. Along with this, INHERE is also involved in supporting and encouraging farmer innovation and knowledge creation through identification of traditional agri practices used by farmers for climate change adaptation, documentation and validation at village level and along with partner organizations and dissemination of traditional agri- practices and introduction of new innovative practices for climate resilient agriculture.

INHERE is helping to create markets and improve livelihoods through imparting skills based on processing and value addition of natural and organic products, linking agri- produce of small land holding mountain communities for income generation and maintaining environment sustainability by promoting traditional mountain crops, agro forestry and silvipasture systems including medicinal plants.



### 3.3 The Concept of Green River and Ground Initiatives: Gundar River Basin regeneration

Facilitated by K. N. Rajkumar – DHAN Foundation

Green River is a community-led project focusing on restoring ecosystems, microclimates and its water cycles, and creating healthy livelihoods in the Western Ghat Mountains, Gundar Basin region. Gundar is one of the 17 basins in Tamil Nadu, India. The basin has a total population of 2,289,876. DHAN Foundation has been working in Gundar Basin for the past 15 years and has 10 farmer’s federations.

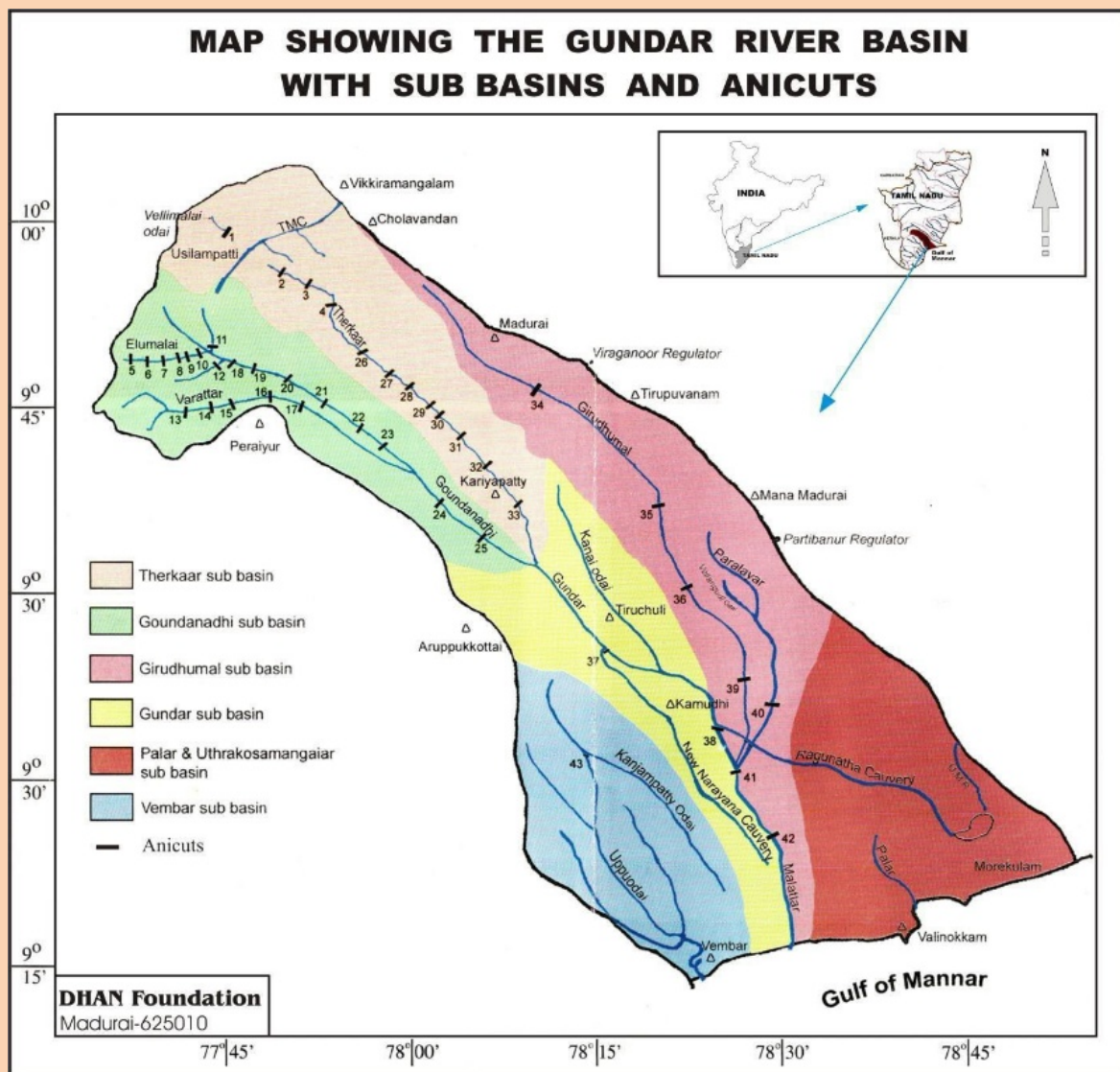


Figure 2 Map showing the Gundar Basin with sub-basins and anicuts

Green River is an evolutionary process and unique in that it identifies the whole watershed as the optimal landscape for bio-regional regeneration. The holistic, village-global approach gives it realistic opportunities for success. Green River is well connected to both local and global communities and organizations of regenerative knowledge and practices. These communities share knowledge, experience and resources, provide practical support upon request, and come together in this initiative.

Gundar Basin is one of the driest basins in Tamil Nadu. About 2276 tanks and 43 anicuts are constructed in the basin, Many of which are in in poor condition. It is one of the basins without a large reservoir and about 60 – 70% of households depend on agri and allied activities. The Gundae basin covers hill, dry land and coastal ecosystems, and is subject to repeated droughts and flash floods. 2016 was one of the worst droughts in the century

Water flows for about 10 days in a year in Gundar, and there are high variations in rainfall and seasonal shifts due to the ill effects of climate change. The community has had to sink deep wells and bore wells instead of shallow wells. Agriculture is declining and the presence of fallow land is in increasing trend leading to encroachment in waterways.

In 2016 none of the tanks in the basin was filled with water. Deforestation is on the rise due to increased human pressure and animal grazing in forest area is one of the important issues affecting the forest cover. People have started to migrate from the village to nearby towns and districts for their survival.

The Green River Initiative envisions “A living Gundar River ecosystem built on strong social capital and is a pollution and encroachment free river brimming with biodiversity that ensures sustained and disaster resilient livelihoods for generations of Gundar basin.”

*It's goal is:*

1. By 2021, community governance on water bodies and resources exist at village, block, sub-basin and basin level in Gundar Basin.
2. By 2021, local ecosystem will have been restored through rejuvenation of water bodies, greening environment, promoting bio-diversity, preventing pollution & encroachment and sustainable farm practices.

3. Environmentally sustainable (including the climate factors) and economically viable livelihood practices in select villages of Gundar Basin.

These goals will be achieved through:

*1. Social Capital and Good Governance*

- Social Mobilization
- Distance Education Programme
- Vocational Earth Regeneration Programme
- Mission Conservation
- Training Volunteers
- Social Marketing
- Exposure Visit and Expert Consultation
- Mission Setting Events

*2. Perennial Gundar River*

- Restoration of Man Made Wetland Ecosystem
- Watershed Development Works
- Renovation of Existing Anicuts
- Action Research
- Drought Relief

*3. Biodiversity Rich Gundar Basin*

- Nursery Development
- Tree Plantation
- Dry land horticulture plantation in the catchments of the tank system (in acres)
- Crop Diversification
- Livestock Fodder Development
- Organic Agriculture
- Apiculture
- Inland Fish Rearing
- Seed Ball Technique
- Action Research to Promote Bio-diversity

*4. Pollution free & Encroachment free Gundar Basin*

- Building Awareness and Engagement
- Awareness Rallies and Campaigns
- People Seminar
- Road Show
- Stakeholder consultation meetings
- Social Audit
- Action Research on Building Pollution Free Villages

*5. Removal of Prosopis*

- Removal of weeds in cultivable lands

#### 6. Sustainable livelihoods in Gundar Basin

- Facilitating Collective Marketing – Working Capital
- Facilitating the input purchase and marketing through FPOs
- Promoting Climate Adaptive Farm Practice
- Micro Enterprise Development for Landless Labourers
- Access to Finance for farm and Non-farm Activities
- Training on Climate Adaptive and Innovative Farming
- Exposure Visit

The DHAN Foundation implemented Project Water Conservation through Tank-Ecosystem Restoration with the funding support of HUL RIN and established a Social Infrastructure in the form of association and Self Groups. Four associations and 19 SHGs were promoted and In Tiruppuvanam block of Sivagangai district, four tanks were renovated.

Climate adaptive measures such as Crop Diversification, shifting from paddy cultivation to cultivation of maize, cotton etc were taken up and it resulted in water being saved. Mulching, Green Manuring, Composting, and Silt Application were also taken-up. Water use efficiency was improved through Sprinkler system and piped irrigation. DHAN has facilitated 10 farmers producer organisation in the region by connecting them with markets. Each association works with about 500 to 1000 farmers.

### 3.4 Greening Africa Project: experiences from the learning and exposure visits in Magugu, Tanzania

*Facilitated by Zachary Makanya – PELUM Kenya*

*Picture 6: Zackery Makanya sharing experiences from the learning and exposure visits in Magugu, Tanzania*



Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Association is a network of Civil Society organizations / NGOs working with small-scale farmers in East, Central and Southern Africa. The membership has grown from 25 pioneer members (in October 1995) to over 283 members as at Dec 2017.

PELUM operates in 12 countries and reaches over 12 million small scale farmers Eastern Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ethiopia), Central Africa (Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi) and Southern Africa (South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland).



*Picture 7: one of the Greening Africa Nurseries in Magugu, Tanzania*

Greening Africa project is a huge scale community led tree nursery project in Magugu, Tanzania. The project is wholly run by the community. The donors in this project only support the costs of establishing and operations of a village tree nursery. Some of the expenses include:

- Shading (Mosquito);
- The plastic tubings of various sizes from different seedlings; the seeds; Water Tanks; nursery working tools (hoes, wheel barrow, forked hoes etc.); water pump and flow pipes etc.
- Poles; construction of a site hut – Iron sheets, Timbers etc..
- Support for the project management team comprised of Executive Director; Manager, Coordinator (at the village level), Facilitator (at the sub-unit level); Tree Nursery Technician and a guard at every nursery.
- Training the staff and local leaders on concepts of sustainable development
- Support the project extension services which included transport costs for the project team
- Organizing competitions for various stakeholders.

The community provides the land on where the Tree nursery is to be located all the manual labor – for free preparing the tubing (putting soil into the tubes), Water the seedlings while at the tree nursery transport the tree seedlings to their respective farmers plant and take care of the seedlings and identify soil and provide manure their respective farms.

The local government supports the community by reinforcing the community rules and regulations using their local laws giving out land to the beneficiaries on long terms basis, ensures that the land given is used in the right way and is part of the teams that reviews the competition among the stakeholders.

The project has been successful as it helps the local people achieve their dreams. The local people are very proud of their achievements and are willing to show visitors their work. I took many photos of many smiling beneficiaries.

The project does not pay participants for manual labor. This has drastically reduced dependency syndrome among the people. The project facilitates competition at three levels:

Among the farmers in various areas, the best village leader and the best village nursery technician who are all rewarded for their efforts. Because the competitions is open and fair, most people are eager to participate.

The success of this project lies in the excellent organization at the village level which has led to the survival rate for tree planted to be over 80%. The village sets their priorities and goes ahead to implement them with support from donors and the local government. The project has had a positive impact on the community by uniting all the people in the village: at the village and village units' level.

The project makes use of the existing government structures. This is a major breakthrough since the government in any country is a main stakeholder in developing its people. The Project has reduced dependency on external people.

The main challenges facing the project are working in an environment where NGOs give a lot of handouts, as this means that the community has to be reconverted first, and also a dependency of natural rain.

### **3.5 Evolutionary Participatory Plant Breeding: Using Genetic diversity for increasing farmers resilience**

*Facilitated by Maede Salimi: Experience of the Centre for Sustainable Development (CENESTA)*



*Picture 8: A farmer examining his barley grown through Evolutionary Participatory Plant Breeding*

Iran is located in the world dry belt and has a dry and hot climate with lot of microclimate areas. Yearly precipitation averages 250 mm or less and about 70% of the average rainfall in the country falls between Nov. & Mar.

There are two kinds of farming systems in Iran: High input system that is done through Irrigated agriculture on fertile lands, and a Low Input system done through rain-fed agriculture on marginal lands.

The Evolutionary Participatory Plant Breeding is meant to Increase farmer's access to genetic materials. Evolutionary Plant Breeding (EPB) involves Single varieties, Mixture of several varieties and Mixture of Mega-diversity (population). Because of natural crosses, and natural selection, the seed which is harvested is never genetically identical to the seed which was sown. Therefore, the population evolves becoming progressively adapted to the conditions in which is grown, including climate changes. With evolutionary populations we exploit the Fundamental Theorem of Natural Selection to our advantage.





In the first year two farmers in two provinces planted evolutionary populations of barley and wheat in a small part of their fields. After one year, farmers decided to plant this population as the main crop. Multiplying evolutionary population and increasing cultivation area.

This evolutionary population of barley was cultivated by pastoralists as animal feed under rain-fed and organic conditions in a very dry climate. This particular genotype really stood out as being better adapted to these conditions and can be multiplied separately. Farmers have an important role for sharing their evolutionary population with others farmers in local, regional and national level.

More than 50% of Irrigated wheat and 80% of rainfed wheat exchange among farmers under Farm saved seed system

### 3.6 Farmers Association of Community Self-Help Investment Groups (FACHIG) TRUST SEED Program: Experiences from Zimbabwe

*Facilitated by Thomas Mupetesi - FACHIG Trust*



*Picture 9: Farmers showcasing their produce during a learning event*

Farmers Association Of Community Self-Help Investment Groups (Fachig) Trust Seed Programme focuses on strengthening women’s seeds management and system of community exchange, protecting and promoting farmers’ rights and ability to produce, trade and save own seeds and promoting agro-ecological approaches through learning and exchange.

It’s objectives are increased seed production, saving, exchange and use of farm saved seeds and increased farmer influence on political decision-making impacting on seed sovereignty through the principles of Farmer led activities, strengthening Sustainable practices, Collaboration, Inclusivity and Contextual understanding.

Farmer-led practices aim to shift research towards farmer-driven research and opening spaces for farmers views, rights to trade and exchange seeds. FACHIG also Strengthens Sustainable practices by Promoting and upholding ecological practices and Promoting traditional and OPV varieties. Learning and exchanges and Seed banking learning and exchanges are also

organised to promote collaboration in the community. Contextual understanding is promoted through Social-cultural, political and economic awareness through seed and culture days.

### **3.7 Schools and Colleges Permaculture Programme (SCOPE Kenya):**

*Presented by John Macharia – SCOPE Kenya*

*Picture 10: Students tending to the crops grown through the SCOPE Programme*



Schools and Colleges Permaculture Programme (SCOPE) Kenya, is a local capacity building and Networking Organization, founded in 2014, and registered in Kenya, as a company Limited by Guarantee under the companies Act 2015. SCOPE has a Membership of 16 Civil Society Organizations, located in 11 counties in Kenya. SCOPE, as a young network is currently hosted by PELUM Kenya in Thika.

SCOPE envisions Schools across Kenya being good learning examples of teacher- parents – student collaboration, towards sustainable land use, leading to significant improvement in the environment, food sovereignty and livelihood in the surrounding communities and its mission is to transform schools into dynamic learning centres of sustainable land use in support of holistic community development.

SCOPE Kenya is a member of Regional Schools and Colleges Permaculture Programme (Re-SCOPE) that bring together other SCOPE Chapters in Malawi, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Zambia.

SCOPE Kenya empowers school communities to redesign their already degraded compound, to create agro ecological production systems, with food forest and cool micro climate, through permaculture practices, to ensure children access safe nutritious food, learn and interact with nature for health and academic excellence.

Its objective is to strengthen and connect the ongoing initiatives of working with schools on sustainable land use for production of nutritious foods, without destroying its ability to sustain future production.

SCOPE works with schools because:

1. We strongly understand that the future custodian of this country (farmers, entrepreneurs and leaders), are young people in schools today, this creates a need to take development information and activities where they are, to give them an opportunity to learn, tap and nurture their full potential.
2. Young people learn and share information better than adults; and therefore well positioned in establishment of long term strategy for sustainable food sovereignty and development.
3. We work with youths in and out of schools to influence mindset change towards agriculture, to nurture a generation of “PRO-SUMERS”. ( producers & consumers), and people with enviro-preneurship skills.
4. Learners are a daily link between school and community, therefore good information dissemination agents.
5. Make use of undervalued resources in schools and transform them to become one stop shop/centre for agro ecological and environmental conservation learning, in support of community development.
6. To equip young people with knowledge and skills in agro ecological practises to bring on board fresh minds and energy in the agriculture sector.
7. Reach out to more farmers using little resources, as communities within school catchment areas are likely to participate and learn

Scope does this by Capacity building for field staff, teachers, learners, community members networking through information sharing on good practices and lessons learnt, look and learn field visits and through Murals in schools to promote key messages.

Practical implementation starts with Water management, through making of swales to harvest and store runoff water for use in agricultural purpose.

The project has improved utilization of school land for food production and environmental conservation and increased production and access to healthy food among needy pupils in schools and at community level. It has also seen an increased number of student enrolling for agriculture lesson in schools and active participation of learners in environmental conservation activities. It has increased interaction and working relationship between schools and communities, Reduced indiscipline cases in schools and improved academic performance among students directly involved in the project.

There are opportunities to for improvement of the project through development of communication and advocacy strategies, to enhance our interaction and engagement with government and other stakeholders. Organizational capacity in advocacy, information management and networking also needs to be improved, including creation of linkages with other networks, documentation of evidence based practices and monitoring and evaluation.

Future activities include:

- Strengthening the use of Integrated Land Use Design (ILUD) tool by among member organizations.
- Integrate components of value addition and marketing for income generation among young people graduating from schools.
- Promote seed collections, establishment of seed banks in schools and at community level.
- Support schools to establish tree nurseries and intensify tree plantings
- Encourage holistic participation of young people and communities in Natural Resources Management to address climate change.
- Reach out and work closely with relevant department at county level.
- Strengthen networking and advocacy in our work.
- Strengthen SCOPE secretariat to enhance delivery of quality services.

### 3.8 Regenerating tropical landscapes, biodiversity, and eco-system health through a new regenerative rubber value chain

*Facilitated by Michael Commons - Earth Net Foundation*



*Picture 11: A rubber garden in Malaysia*

Rubber Forest Gardening can be a solution to the problem of the desertification of 14 Million Hectares of Tropical Forest.

For the process to be successful, a Regenerative Rubber Guarantee System would need to be developed along with an evaluation Process and Progress Indicators. This will show what is regenerative rubber and the gardens it comes from which will allow the farmers and others to evaluation their progress toward regeneration (ecological, social, and cultural health) to do better and share this process with others in the supply chain.

Development of a Regenerative Rubber Supply chain is important as this will enhance transparency and traceability, sourcing latex from the rubber forest gardens through

collection points, local processing and packing, processing and on to sales and the final consumer.

Earth Net has links to Farmers (172 households, 1559 rai, 1163.5 tons of latex per year), a local Processor- Phatthalung Paratex & Phattex TTR Co. (manager is a rubber farmer as well-passionate about this vision) and a partnership with Einhorn Products of Germany- Leader of Rubber Projects. They also have support from the Prince of Songkla University, Earth Net Foundation/ Wanakaset Network & team, Terra Genesis International and Agricultural Land Reform Office –ARLO



## 4 ENVIRONMENT SCANNING, NEW REALITIES AND TRENDS



*Picture 12:  
Participants discussing  
environmental issues to  
build on the work plan*

Mr. Frank Heckman, facilitated a discussion on environment scanning, which will serve as a foundation for the plan for the year 2019 - 2020. The participants discussed about the current situation, challenges, and opportunities for ABC. Given below is the learning and expectation of members out of this session.

### 4.1 Key Learnings:

- Carbon trading: Create awareness and document learning from communities on the viability of carbon trading
- Increase documentation of success stories and good practices for the ABC networks
- Validate findings through research institutions so they can be published beyond ABC
- A more focused and sharper expression of the ABC vision is needed
- There is a need to scaling up/replicating of good practices to other regions
- ABC has to contribute more to global concerns eg climate change



- Organizations within ABC need to collaborate more within the network: ABC can serve as a platform for collaboration and cooperation
- How can ABC present itself/have a big impact at global events and gatherings like COP 25?
- ABC should have strong country hubs/chapters to help the community achieve its goals
- How can ABC work with high pressure on small land areas?
- There is a need to create a new generation of farmers and land stewards. This was highlighted in the SCOPE Kenya story
- Balancing farmer benefit with consumer affordability
- Mechanisms need to be put in place to meet quality standards at community level with low investment costs
- Key Benefits that ABC partners derive from the network need to be clearly defined
- The expectations of ABC from its partners also need to be defined
- There is a need to enrich and expand the ABC learning platforms
- In order to ensure success in local communities, indigenous knowledge will need to be Incorporated in programmes and projects

## 4.2 The Environment Scanning



**Picture 13: The groups got together to further refine the findings**

The participants gathered into three sub-groups to identify priority areas of concern that would need to be addressed in the Work Plan.

### The Key Findings of Sub-group One

- Breakdown in ecosystem services resulting in emergence of pests and diseases, and disappearance of insects and pollinators
  - o Supportive systems,
  - o productive services
  - o regulatory services
  - o Cultural services
- Water scarcity and an increase of drought
- Capitalism and focus on economic profits affecting power and politics in seeds, influx of hybrid and GMO seeds compromising nature seeds
- how to sustain ABC interest with increased fundraising competitions
- Youth engagement in agriculture is weak
- Weak agro-ecology link and engagement in climate change discussions / Discourse yet there are huge opportunities in the climate change filed.



*Picture 14: Ms. Anne Maina of BIBA Kenya walks the participants through her group's findings*

### **The Key Findings of Sub-group Two**

- Lifestyle changes and rural urban migration
- Globalisation / nationalization of the food chains from local and regional food chains leading to
  - o Dominance of large companies in production, processing, distribution and retailing of foods
  - o homogenization of crops leading to mono-cropping
  - o Loss of dietary diversity and quality
- Land subdivision and development
  - o farming land being converted for construction
  - o cultural/religious aspect (inheritance or continuous division of land to others)
- Climate change
- Water shortage and inadequate water harvesting leading to conflicts
- loss of soil fertility due to introduction of chemicals
- deforestation causing changes in weather patterns and soil erosion
- Inadequate resources

### **The Key Findings of Sub-group Three**

- GMO and Genetic Engineering
- Industrial agriculture/corporate influence
- Climate change
- Social/cultural/political influences
- Increased awareness on soil health

### ***The Positive trends:***

Some of the positive trends identified by the groups towards advancing biodiversity -based resilient food systems and markets included:

- the recognition for family farming/agro-ecology by the UN
- Appreciation for healthy and diversified foods and natural organic farming (ethnic/traditional foods)
- Increasing support for addressing climate change services
- Increasing movement against GMOs and industrial agriculture

- Youth values and motivation changing – they upcoming generation is showing an interest in agro-biodiversity
- There is an increased interest on environmental issues among the youth
- more scientists are focusing on agro-ecology

***Emerging issues refined:***

The findings were refined into 3 major focus areas to be addressed in 2019-2020:

A) Climate Change issues

- Breakdown in ecosystem services resulting in emergence of pests and diseases, and disappearance of insects and pollinators
- Water scarcity and an increase of drought
- Water shortage and inadequate water harvesting leading to conflicts
- loss of soil fertility due to introduction of chemicals
- deforestation causing changes in weather patterns and soil erosion
- Inadequate resources

B) Corporatization and globalization of agricultural food systems

- GMO and Genetic Engineering
- Industrial agriculture/corporate influence
- Capitalism and focus on economic profits affecting power and politics in seeds, influx of hybrid and GMO seeds compromising nature seeds

C) Vibrant ABC community

- how to sustain ABC interest with increased fundraising competitions

## 5 WORK PLAN

The 2019-2020 work plan was developed with a focus on the three thematic areas identified.

Sub-group	Deliberation	Action Points
Group 1	Addressing climate change-related issues through an ABC Lens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support/recognize farmer innovations that are climate change adaptive</li> <li>• Support development of farmer native seed systems as they are more climate change adaptive</li> <li>• Communicate to various stakeholders on the international and local stage e.g. COP 25 on how agro-biodiversity contributes to climate change adaptation through platforms and forums (participation by ABC community)</li> <li>• Documentation of case studies at farm level that showcase climate change adaptation for upscaling</li> <li>• Build capacities of ABC members on climate change issues</li> <li>• Stakeholder mapping of ABC members to evaluate and understand what members are doing in regards to climate change, identify gaps and opportunities</li> <li>• Develop guidelines on various climate change adaptation agro-biodiversity/agro-ecology mechanisms with step by step processes for replication purposes</li> </ul>
Group 2	Building Resilient communities to address issues related to corporatization and globalization of agricultural food systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building capacity on seed saving, selection, breeding and building communities seed banks</li> <li>• Step up advocacy efforts against GMOs</li> <li>• Sharing of authenticated and validated research studies</li> <li>• Campaign against the use of pesticides and herbicides like Round-Up</li> <li>• Farmer-producer organisations should work on the value chain</li> <li>• Create alternative food systems by linking producers and consumers</li> <li>• Build self-reliance</li> <li>• Promote exchange and learning visits and collaborations</li> <li>• Have structured trainings</li> <li>• Create awareness on agricultural practices</li> <li>• Develop joint proposal</li> <li>• Focus on regional markets</li> <li>• Create family-farming initiatives to support small holder farmers</li> </ul>

Sub-group	Deliberation	Action Points
Group 3	Mechanisms for building a vibrant ABC community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote country chapter clusters around them</li> <li>• Country Chapter to raise funds</li> <li>• Cross-learning exposure visits between the members and the farmers</li> <li>• Documenting of success stories, best practices, innovations, technologies and publishing in books/ websites/ social media</li> <li>• Each country chapter can have its own website hosted by one member of ABC</li> <li>• the ABC identity needs to be created through branding</li> <li>• ABC should be distinct from other members</li> <li>• Subgroups can be formed based on sub-themes focused on their interest areas and discussions can happen through periodical meetings at country level</li> </ul> <p><i>Services of ABC to its members:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate Exchange learning</li> <li>• Collaborations through joint activities</li> <li>• Provide references to its members</li> <li>• Provide opportunities to participate in workshops and trainings</li> <li>• Create joint proposals at country and regional levels</li> <li>• Provide social media services.</li> </ul> <p><i>Responsibilities of the members:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send updated contact details</li> <li>• Respond to the D-groups and secretariat communications</li> <li>• Share and spread the Vision and Mission of ABC</li> <li>• Mobilise resources to achieve the purpose and mission of ABC</li> <li>• Share the Best practices and learning technologies</li> <li>• Practice and promote ABC practices, ideals and themes</li> <li>• Members of ABC must be accountable and transparent</li> </ul>

## 6 THE CONCLUSION

At the end of the two day event people gathered in the same place, where they offered and shared their wishes with the Mother Nature. Participants agreed to build stronger and vibrant ABC, as the members of the community are doing **“GOD’s OWN JOB”**. Participants cherished the learning gained and hoped for another gathering with lot more learning.



*Picture 15: PELUM Kenya’s Zachary Makanya closes the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual ABBC Meeting*

## ANNEX 1: Attendance

**Day one (15th July 2019)**

No	Name	Organization	Mobile No	Email Address
1.	Rosinah Mbenya	Pelum-Kenya	+254724760438	<a href="mailto:rosinah@pelum.net">rosinah@pelum.net</a>
2.	Valentine Mbuthia	Rapporteur	+254721765224	<a href="mailto:valmbuthia@gmail.com">valmbuthia@gmail.com</a>
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6.	Frank Heckman	Embassy of the Earth	0799543749	<a href="mailto:fbheckman@gmail.com">fbheckman@gmail.com</a>
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14.	M.Karthikeyan	DHAN Foundation	9094054560	<a href="mailto:kaithihayanirfd@gmail.com">kaithihayanirfd@gmail.com</a>
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16.	Collins Ochieng	CREP Programme	+254722617030	<a href="mailto:coothieno7@gmail.com">coothieno7@gmail.com</a>
17.	Zachary Makanya	PELUM-Kenya	+254714647916	<a href="mailto:makanya@pelum.net">makanya@pelum.net</a>



**Day Two (16th July 2019)**

No	Name	Organization	Mobile No	Email Address
1.	Rosinah Mbenya	Pelum-Kenya	+254724760438	<a href="mailto:rosinah@pelum.net">rosinah@pelum.net</a>
2.	Valentine Mbuthia	Rapporteur	+254721765224	<a href="mailto:valmbuthia@gmail.com">valmbuthia@gmail.com</a>
3.	Thomas Mupetesi	FACHIG Trust	+236772228898	<a href="mailto:fachig2019@gmail.com">fachig2019@gmail.com</a>
4.	Michael Commons	Earthnet Foundation, Thailand	+66818688720	<a href="mailto:michael@greennet.or.th">michael@greennet.or.th</a>
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19.	Martin Muriuki	ICE	+254721565012	<a href="mailto:martin@icekenya.org">martin@icekenya.org</a>

## **ANNEX 2: Programme**

### **AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY COMMUNITY ANNUAL MEET**

**Event Date:** 15 – 16 July 2019  
**Event Venue:** SACDEP Training Centre, Thika, Kenya  
**Hosted by:** PELUM Kenya  
**Main meeting Facilitator:** Mr. Frank Heckman. Supported by the ABC steering Councils

#### **Meeting's Main Purpose**

1. To advance understanding on biodiversity based resilient food systems and markets
2. To exchange knowledge and experience on best practices related to agricultural biodiversity
3. to develop plan of action for the year 2019-2020 considering emerging situations

#### **Day one - 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

09:30 AM – 09:50 AM	Opening Ceremony and presentation of the 1-day Programme By Mr. Frank Henkman
09:50 AM – 10:10 AM	Welcome remarks by SACDEP Kenya: Ms Polly Wachira, Assistant Director, SACDEP Welcome Address and introductions of Participants by Mr. Zachary Makanya, Country Coordinator, PELUM Kenya
10:10 AM – 10:30 AM	Opening Remarks by Mr. Vasimalai, Steering Council Member through Skype
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Background and History of ABC: Sonali
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	Sharing of Progress and updates on ABC: K. N. Rajkumar, the Coordinator of ABC Secretariat
11:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Coffee/Tea and Health Break
11:15 AM – 12:45 PM	Session on Advancing Biodiversity based Resilient Food Systems and Market – Facilitation by Mr. Michael and Mr. Karthikeyan
12:45 PM – 01:30 PM	Experience Sharing Mr. Frank Heckman: Experience with the Maasai Community Ms. Sonali Bisht: Institute of Himalayan Environmental and Education Mr. K. N. Rajkumar: Thee Concept of Green River and Ground Initiatives
Research	
01:30 PM – 02:30 PM	Lunch and Health Break
02:30 PM – 04:30 PM	Experience Sharing (Continued) Mr. Zachary Makanya: The Tanzanian Experience on Green Africa

Projects

Ms. Maede Salimi: experience of the Centre for Sustainable Development

(CENESTA)

Thomas Mupetesi: Experience of FACHIG Trust

Experience Sharing by other Participating Organisations

*(spontaneous for those willing to share. They may not use PowerPoint Presentations)*

04:30 PM – 04:45 PM

Tea and coffee/Health break

04:45 PM – 05:30 PM

Examining the new realities and trends: Mr. Frank Heckman

07:00 PM – 08:30 PM

Social Evening and dinner

**Day Two- 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

09:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Recap of Day one

10:00 AM – 04:00 PM

Focusing on the Work Plans for 2019/2020

(The details for the day to be developed after day 1)

Meeting Closure

04:00 PM – 07:00 PM

ABC Steering Council Meeting

07:00 PM

Dinner





**Agricultural  
Biodiversity  
Community**

**SwedBio**

A programme at Stockholm Resilience Centre

