

YALTA YOUTH SUMMIT



**African Youth Establish a
Continental Agroecology Youth
Caucus To Advance the Kampala
CAADP Agenda Implementation**

VENUE

Kampala, Uganda

Date: 24-26 AUGUST 2026

A landmark step towards strengthening youth participation in Africa's agrifood systems transformation was achieved during the Youth in Agroecology and Leadership Transformation at the continental YALTA Youth Summit, co-organized by the PELUM Association, BvAT, and partners under the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) supported Agroecology Promotion Program (APP). The summit brought together young agroecology champions, policymakers, development partners, civil society organizations, researchers, and entrepreneurs from across the continent to discuss the future of youth-led agroecology and the implementation of the Kampala CAADP Agenda.

The event was attended by representatives of the Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) and the African Union Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOAI) Secretariat, including Mr. Alex Mutungi, Coordinator of the AU EOAI Secretariat, Mr. Lennox Ouma, Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning (MERL) Coordinator, and Mr. Geoffrey Langat, Finance Officer.



A Call for Youth at the Decision-Making Table

The summit was officially opened by Hon. Rose Akol, Member of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (ATNR), and Uganda's CAADP Focal Person. In her remarks, she emphasized the critical contribution of youth in transforming Africa's agriculture and food systems and urged young people to take advantage of emerging opportunities in agroecology, agribusiness, innovation, and policy advocacy.

Representing BvAT, Mr. Alex Mutungi articulated a bold vision for youth engagement within Africa's agroecology movement. He stressed the need to move beyond token participation and ensure that young people occupy strategic leadership and decision-making spaces within agricultural policies and programs.

"Youth must not merely be participants in development processes; they must sit at the decision-making tables where those processes are designed and implemented. It cannot be for youth without the youth," remarked Mr. Mutungi.

He further highlighted the importance of creating structured platforms through which young people can influence policy, shape agricultural transformation agendas, and contribute meaningfully to sustainable food systems across the continent.

Youth Leadership in Kampala CAADP Implementation



As a keynote speaker, Mr. Mutungi delivered a presentation on the Role of Youth in the Implementation of the Kampala CAADP Framework, underscoring the immense potential of Africa's youthful population to accelerate the transformation of agrifood systems through innovation, entrepreneurship, advocacy, and digital engagement.

He noted that achieving the ambitions of the Kampala CAADP Action Plan will require a deliberate investment in youth leadership, capacity development, and inclusive governance structures that empower young people as partners rather than beneficiaries.

In addition, Mr. Mutungi contributed to a high-level panel discussion in which participants explored practical pathways to strengthen youth participation in policy formulation, implementation, monitoring, and accountability processes related to agriculture and food systems transformation.

Agroecology Promotion Program Networking and Collaboration Meeting

On the margins of the summit, Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) convened all Agroecology Promotion Programme (APP) partners for a project networking and coordination meeting. The session provided an opportunity for partners to discuss ongoing and potential synergies, strengthen collaboration, and identify joint activities that could enhance the programme's impact. During the meeting, BvAT also presented the reporting guidelines, procedures, and timelines for both technical and financial reporting, emphasizing the importance of timely submissions, accountability, and effective project performance management. The discussions reinforced the

commitment of all partners to coordinated implementation and knowledge sharing in advancing agroecological transitions across the region.



A New Frontier: A Historic Establishment of the Africa Agroecology Youth Caucus for CAADP implementation

One of the most significant outcomes of the summit was the successful establishment of the Continental Agroecology Youth Caucus, an African youth-led platform designed to strengthen youth engagement in agroecology advocacy and support the implementation of the Kampala CAADP Action Plan.

The election process, overseen by the AU Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOAI) Secretariat, culminated in the selection of a continental leadership structure comprising:

- **President**-Mr. Francis Masha Thoya (Kenya)
- **Vice President**-Ms Bushra Mohamed Omar (Somalia)
- **Secretary General**-Mr. Opoakpajor Myigmah James (Ghana)
- Regional Economic Community (REC) Representatives
 - **SADC**- Ms. Mutinta Handoondo (Zambia)

- **ECOWAS**-Ms. Ezeofor Goodness Ifunanya (Nigeria)
- **EAC**-Ms. Umuhire Germaine (Rwanda)
- **ECCAS**-Mr. Muguha Eliezel (Burundi)
- **UMA**-Not Present
- **People With Disabilities (PWD)**-Ms. Grace Awinja (Kenya)

These regional representatives will work closely with country-level CAADP focal points to create a coordinated continental network of young agroecology advocates and practitioners.



The newly established Caucus will be embedded within the AU EOAI Africa Secretariat, providing an institutional home and strategic linkages to continental agriculture and food systems processes. This arrangement is expected to strengthen youth representation, coordination, mentorship, and participation in regional and continental policy engagements. The establishment of the Agroecology Youth Caucus represents a major milestone in strengthening youth voices within Africa's agroecology movement. The platform is expected to catalyze:

- Youth participation in CAADP implementation processes.
- Agroecology policy advocacy at national, regional, and continental levels.
- Knowledge sharing and peer learning among youth organizations.

- Awareness creation and digital campaigns on agroecology.
- Mobilization of young people around sustainable food systems.
- Promotion of youth-led agroecology enterprises and innovations.
- Strengthening accountability and youth representation in agricultural policy dialogues.

By harnessing the digital skills, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit of African youth, the Caucus will provide a powerful vehicle for advancing agroecological transitions and promoting resilient, climate-smart, and inclusive food systems across the continent.

Looking Towards the Future

Participants expressed optimism that the newly established structure will foster stronger collaboration between youth movements, governments, development partners, and regional institutions. The Caucus is also expected to contribute significantly to the implementation of the forthcoming EOAI Strategic Plan and other continental agroecology initiatives.



The YALTA Summit reaffirmed the growing recognition that young people are central to Africa's agrifood systems' future and must be empowered to lead the continent's transition towards sustainable and resilient food systems.

The Agroecology Youth Caucus was officially launched by Dr. Lakisa Mercy Faith, Minister for Youth and Children in Uganda's Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

Official Closing

The summit was officially closed by Hon. Dr. Lakisa Mercy Faith, Minister for Youth and Children in Uganda's Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. In her closing remarks, she commended the participants for their commitment to shaping Africa's agricultural future. She welcomed the establishment of the Agroecology Youth Caucus as a timely initiative that aligns with Uganda's and Africa's broader aspirations for youth empowerment, employment creation, and sustainable development.

As delegates departed Kampala, a renewed sense of purpose and commitment emerged: to ensure that youth are no longer observers of Africa's development but active architects of the continent's agroecological transformation and the successful implementation of the Kampala CAADP Agenda.

Compiled by:

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