



CEFRESA



COAST FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY PAVILION REPORT

HARNESSING OUR POTENTIAL TO PRODUCE FOR ALL

1ST DECEMBER 2022



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FOREWORD

Food and nutrition insecurity along Kenya's Coast is a lived and daily reality shaped by climate variability, water scarcity, land governance dynamics, ecosystem stress, and the resilience of communities whose livelihoods depend on land and sea. For farmers, fishers, women, youth, and coastal households, food security is inseparable from secure access to water and land, functioning ecosystems, viable markets, and responsive governance systems.

It is within this lived coastal context that the Coast Food and Nutrition Security Pavilion, an annual flagship convening of the Center for Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA), was conceived. The Pavilion was intentionally designed as a space to listen to voices often excluded from policy processes, to recognize lived experience as legitimate evidence, and to translate grassroots realities into coherent policy, advocacy, and investment pathways. Rooted in community practice and county-level implementation, the Pavilion affirms coastal communities not as passive beneficiaries but as producers of knowledge, innovation, solutions, and resilience.

The Pavilion facilitates a layered dialogue that begins at the community level, engages county and national governance realities under Kenya's devolved system, and elevates these perspectives into wider climate and food systems discourse. Through this approach, coastal experiences of production, adaptation, and constraint are situated within Kenya's broader food and nutrition security and climate governance landscape, revealing both opportunities and systemic gaps across local, county, and national frameworks.

The 2022 Pavilion, convened in the immediate post-COP27 period, deliberately extended this layered conversation into the global arena. Rather than translating global climate commitments downward, the Pavilion positioned coastal voices, evidence, and aspirations as inputs into international conversations on climate adaptation, food systems transformation, climate finance, loss and damage, and climate justice. This bottom-up framing demonstrated how local realities, indigenous practices, production challenges, and governance gaps must inform global ambition, implementation pathways, and investment priorities.

Through a hybrid format that combined structured policy dialogue with the physical showcasing of coastal agricultural and blue economy products, the Pavilion bridged discourse and practice. It affirmed that coastal food systems are not defined solely by vulnerability, but by potential, productivity, and possibility when supported by coherent policies, inclusive institutions, and sustained partnerships.

This report documents that journey: from lived community experience to structured policy dialogue; from producer aspiration to regional and national strategy; and from coastal realities to global post-COP27 relevance. It stands as both a record of collective reflection and a strategic contribution, offering insights, lessons, and calls to action that speak beyond the Coast, into Kenya's national commitments and the global effort to advance resilient, inclusive, and climate-responsive food systems.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Coast Food Pavilion reflects CEFRESA's enduring commitment to ensuring that communities at the frontline of climate change are not spoken about, but are meaningfully heard, recognized, and positioned as active contributors to solutions. Along Kenya's Coast, food and nutrition security is a lived reality shaped by climate stress, ecosystem health, land and water governance, and the resilience of communities whose livelihoods depend on land and sea.

Through the Coast Food Pavilion, CEFRESA created a deliberate space where community experience, producer knowledge, and county-level implementation realities could inform structured policy dialogue and strategic partnerships. The Pavilion affirmed that sustainable food systems transformation must be inclusive, ecosystem-based, and grounded in lived experience linking local production systems with governance, investment, and innovation pathways.

The strong participation of county leaders, practitioners, researchers, civil society actors, women, youth, and producers reaffirmed a critical insight: progress in food and nutrition security depends on coherence across governance levels, aligned public and private investment, and partnerships that recognize community agency as central to impact. The Pavilion demonstrated that coastal food systems are not defined solely by vulnerability, but by resilience, innovation, and significant production potential when supported by enabling policies and institutions.

As CEFRESA, we remain committed to stewarding dialogue that bridges community realities with policy influence, and evidence with action. The Coast Food Pavilion is not an endpoint, but a strategic milestone strengthening momentum toward coordinated regional action, inclusive governance, and a resilient, food-secure Coast region.

By elevating coastal voices, evidence, and aspirations into wider climate and food systems discourse during the COP27 period, the Pavilion ensured that global conversations on adaptation, food systems transformation, and climate justice were informed by the realities and solutions emerging from the Coast.

Executive Director
Center for Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND APPRECIATION

The Center for Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA) extends its sincere appreciation to the organizations whose in-kind and technical contributions were instrumental throughout the planning, shaping, and delivery of the Coast Food and Nutrition Security Pavilion.

CEFRESA gratefully acknowledges MUHURI for its critical support in providing the venue, which enabled the Pavilion to be hosted in a space aligned with its values of inclusion, dialogue, and civic engagement. We further appreciate KECOSCE for providing professional photography services, ensuring the Pavilion's discussions, exhibitions, and interactions were documented and communicated effectively.

CEFRESA also recognizes the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) and TECAFILI for their sustained technical engagement during the planning process and throughout the Pavilion. Their insights helped shape the agenda, informed the framing of discussions, and strengthened the quality and relevance of the discourse on coastal food systems, the blue economy, climate adaptation, and value addition.

Collectively, these contributions reflect a partnership that goes beyond event participation. They demonstrate the value of collaborative agenda-setting, shared ownership of dialogue, and cross-institutional commitment to advancing inclusive, climate-responsive, and locally grounded food and nutrition security efforts along Kenya's Coast.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Coast Food Pavilion and Coast Food and Nutrition Security Summit, convened by the Center for Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA) on 1 December 2022 as part of its flagship convening architecture, served as a strategic hybrid platform that elevated coastal food and nutrition security into national, regional, and global climate and food systems discourse in the immediate post-COP27 period.

At a time of intensified global focus on climate adaptation and food systems transformation, the Pavilion asserted that durable responses to food and nutrition insecurity must be grounded in lived realities. Drawing from the experiences of farmers, fishers, women, youth, innovators, and county practitioners, the Summit reframed the Coast region not merely as climate-vulnerable, but as a source of adaptive knowledge, scalable practices, and locally grounded solutions for resilient food systems.

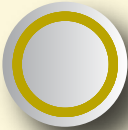
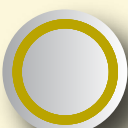
The Summit brought together county governments, national institutions, civil society organizations, research bodies, private sector actors, development partners, media, and community representatives. Through a structured programme of opening reflections, thematic presentations, panel discussions, and interactive dialogue, participants interrogated interconnected systemic challenges, including climate variability, water insecurity, land tenure constraints, underdeveloped value chains, and fragmented coordination across shared ecosystems and devolved governance structures.

A defining feature of the Pavilion was its hybrid design, integrating high-level policy dialogue with a physical exhibition space showcasing coastal agricultural and blue economy products. The exhibition validated producer agency, demonstrated innovation and value addition potential, and highlighted pathways through which supportive policies, infrastructure, and partnerships can enable coastal food systems to transition from subsistence and vulnerability toward resilience, dignity, and economic contribution.

Key thematic deliberations underscored that food and nutrition security along the Coast is fundamentally a governance and climate adaptation challenge. Participants emphasized water security as a critical enabler of production, the strategic role of the blue economy in climate-resilient livelihoods, and the importance of secure land tenure, public finance prioritization, and innovation ecosystems, particularly those that expand opportunities for women and youth within devolved and national policy frameworks.

Panel discussions and audience engagement further enriched the dialogue, generating collective calls for food sovereignty conversations rooted in local realities; policies responsive to lived production and market challenges; stronger inter-county and cross-sectoral partnerships; the inclusion of children and youth in food systems discourse; and a more intentional role for media in shaping positive narratives around coastal production and resilience. The Kenya Climate Innovation Center (KCIC) was highlighted as a catalytic platform for advancing youth-led climate and food systems innovation.

Overall, the Coast Food Pavilion delivered several strategic outcomes:

-  Elevated bottom-up coastal perspectives into post-COP27 climate and food systems discourse.
-  Strengthened inter-county solidarity around shared ecosystems and systemic challenges.
-  Validated producer potential through visible innovation and value addition.
-  Advanced momentum toward a Coast Regional Food and Nutrition Security Roadmap.
-  Reinforced the centrality of multi-stakeholder partnerships in scaling impact beyond isolated interventions.

This report captures these contributions and presents forward-looking recommendations to support coordinated regional action, mobilize investment, strengthen governance and institutional coherence, and sustain inclusive, evidence-informed dialogue. As climate pressures intensify and food systems face growing strain, the Coast Food Pavilion stands as a strategic example of how community-rooted experience, when elevated through inclusive platforms, can shape policy, influence investment, and contribute meaningfully to resilient and just food systems.

KENYAN COASTAL VOICES TO POST-COP27

Positioning Coastal Food Systems within the Global Climate Agenda

The Coast Food and Nutrition Security Pavilion is an annual multi-stakeholder convening hosted by the Center for Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA) to elevate coastal perspectives on food systems, livelihoods, and resilience. The 2022 Pavilion, held on 1 December 2022, was strategically aligned with the post-COP27 moment, following the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which took place in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, from 6-18 November 2022.

COP27 marked a pivotal global moment, reinforcing adaptation, food systems transformation, loss and damage, climate finance, and climate justice as central pillars of climate action, particularly for vulnerable and frontline communities. Recognizing the significance of these priorities, CEFRESA intentionally positioned the 2022 Pavilion as a post-COP engagement platform, engaging participants to reflect on how coastal lived realities, producer experiences, and county-level governance insights can inform post-COP climate implementation at national, regional, and global levels.

The Pavilion provided a grounded space for translation and contribution, connecting global climate commitments to the everyday realities of farmers, fishers, women, youth, innovators, and county practitioners across Kenya's Coast. Participants were deliberately guided to articulate how coastal food systems challenge and solutions align with, and can advance, COP27 outcomes.

ALIGNMENT WITH KENYA'S NDC AND NATIONAL CLIMATE FRAMEWORKS

The post-COP27 reflections emerging from the Pavilion directly reinforce Kenya's climate and development architecture, including:

Kenya's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

Prioritizing adaptation in agriculture, water, ecosystems, fisheries, and livelihoods, with a strong focus on vulnerable communities, women, and youth.

Climate Change Act (2016) and National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP)

Mandating climate mainstreaming across sectors and levels of government, with adaptation as a national priority.

Constitution of Kenya (2010) and the Food and Nutrition Security Policy

Affirming the right to food and the central role of devolved governance in achieving food and nutrition security.

Water Act (2016)

Providing the legal framework for integrated water resource management essential for climate-resilient food systems.

COASTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO COP27 PRIORITY AREAS

Discussions during the Pavilion demonstrated how coastal food systems can operationalize COP27 priorities through locally led action:

01

Adaptation and Resilience

Food and nutrition insecurity was identified as a frontline climate impact, calling for county-anchored, locally led adaptation investments in climate-smart agriculture, sustainable fisheries, and ecosystem-based approaches.

02

Food Systems Transformation

Producers showcased viable pathways through diversification, value addition, and women- and youth-led enterprises, highlighting the need for policy coherence, infrastructure, and market access.

03

Water-Climate-Food Nexus

Water insecurity emerged as a binding constraint, underscoring the need to elevate water-for-food investments and inter-county coordination on shared resources.

04

Loss and Damage

Communities highlighted slow-onset livelihood erosion, declining yields, fisheries stress, and loss of productive assets, as climate losses requiring recognition and response.

05

Climate Finance, Youth, and Innovation

Youth-led innovation aligned with COP27 priorities but remains under-financed, calling for strengthened access to climate finance and incubation platforms such as the Kenya Climate Innovation Center (KCIC).

06

Climate Justice and Food Sovereignty

Participants emphasized rights-based approaches, secure land tenure, inclusive governance, and community agency as foundations of just climate transitions.

STRATEGIC RELEVANCE TO THE PAVILION OUTCOMES

By embedding post-COP27 reflection within an annual, community-rooted convening, the Coast Food and Nutrition Security Pavilion positioned Kenya's Coast as a contributor to global climate solutions. The Pavilion demonstrates how locally led, devolved, and rights-based food systems action can deliver on NDC commitments while advancing COP27 outcomes.

This positioning strengthens the Pavilion's role as a bridge between coastal realities and global climate processes, reinforcing CEFRESA's commitment to ensuring that frontline voices shape climate policy, finance, and implementation beyond the conference space.

OVERVIEW

This report documents the Coast Food and Nutrition Security Pavilion as a strategic convening designed to advance coordinated action on food and nutrition security along Kenya's Coast. It responds to persistent structural challenges, including climate variability, water insecurity, land tenure constraints, underdeveloped value chains, and fragmented governance across devolved systems, that require integrated, multi-level solutions rather than isolated interventions.

The report is structured around three interrelated strategic lenses. First, it considers food and nutrition security as a governance and systems challenge, shaped by policy coherence, institutional coordination, and public investment choices. Second, it positions climate adaptation and ecosystem integrity, particularly water systems and the blue economy, as foundational enablers of resilient livelihoods and production. Third, it highlights inclusion and innovation, with particular attention to women, youth, and producer-led value addition as drivers of transformation.

The Pavilion's hybrid format, combining structured policy dialogue with the showcasing of agricultural and blue economy products, provides the practical grounding for these lenses, linking discourse to practice and evidence to opportunity. Insights from thematic presentations, panel discussions, exhibitions, and audience engagement inform the reflections and outcomes documented in this report.

Subsequent sections present the key discussions, reflections, and outcomes that emerged from the Pavilion, followed by consolidated recommendations aimed at strengthening governance coherence, mobilizing investment, and supporting coordinated regional action. Convened in the immediate post-COP27 period, the Pavilion and this report contribute to ongoing national and global conversations by positioning coastal realities, evidence, and priorities as inputs into climate adaptation, food systems transformation, and inclusive development pathways.



COAST FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY

Pavilion

THEME

“Harnessing our potential to produce for all”

DATE

1st December
2022



A Virtual Pavilion



“Creating synergies and utilizing our resources to build Coastal climate resilience towards a Sustainable Solution to Food Aid.”



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Grounding the Dialogue to Coastal Realities, Assets, and Systemic Pressures

Food and nutrition security along Kenya's Coast is shaped by a complex interplay of environmental, economic, and governance factors. Climate variability, water insecurity, land tenure constraints, and underdeveloped value chains continue to pose real challenges to agricultural and fisheries production. At the same time, the Coast region possesses significant productive assets, ecological diversity, and a growing base of innovation across both agriculture and the blue economy.

Across the region, farmers, fishers, women, and youth are actively engaged in food production, processing, aquaculture, and value addition. The Pavilion's exhibition and product showcases demonstrated viable practices in crop diversification, climate-adaptive farming, fisheries, aquaculture, agro-processing, and emerging blue economy enterprises. These initiatives reflect resilience and tangible potential for scaling production, improving nutrition outcomes, and strengthening local economies when supported by enabling policies, infrastructure, and markets.

Women and youth play a central role in these systems as producers, processors, innovators, and entrepreneurs. While they face structural barriers related to access to land, finance, water, and markets, they are also driving many of the adoptive and value-adding practices shaping coastal food systems today. Their agency and innovation featured prominently throughout the Pavilion's discussions and exhibitions.

Water security remains a binding cross-cutting factor, influencing both constraints and opportunities across the Coast. Reliable access to water underpins agricultural productivity, aquaculture, ecosystem health, and nutrition outcomes, and has emerged as a foundational priority for unlocking the region's food systems potential.

These realities, both constraints and assets, shaped the focus of the Pavilion's discussions and informed them of the thematic priorities explored. Governance coherence, ecosystem-based adaptation, inclusive innovation, value chain development, and cross-county collaboration emerged as practical pathways for building existing strengths while addressing systemic gaps. The subsequent sections examine these themes in depth, drawing from presentations, panel dialogue, exhibition insights, and audience engagement to surface lessons, opportunities, and forward-looking actions for advancing resilient, inclusive, and productive food systems along Kenya's Coast.



OPENING REMARKS

JUDY MATU – Chairlady Association of Women in Agriculture in Kenya (AWAK)

In her opening reflections, Judy Matu-Awak grounded the conversation in the lived realities of women across coastal food systems. She underscored that women form the backbone of agricultural production, processing, and household nutrition, while remaining disproportionately exposed to climate shocks, water scarcity, and structural barriers related to access to land, finance, markets, and extension services. Drawing from sustained grassroots engagement, she emphasized that food and nutrition security cannot be realized without gender-responsive policies that recognize women not only as caregivers, but as producers, entrepreneurs, and decision-makers within food systems.

She called for policy and investment frameworks that intentionally support women-led agribusinesses, expand access to extension and advisory services, and integrate nutrition outcomes into agricultural programming. Her remarks set a critical tone for the Pavilion by framing food and nutrition security as both a production imperative and a social justice issue, anchored in equity, agency, and inclusion.

Rev. Silvanus Mwalima – Chief Officer, Taita Taveta County

Rev. Silvanus Mwalima highlighted the central role of county governments under Kenya's devolved system in translating policy commitments into tangible improvements in food security and livelihoods. Drawing on practical experience from Taita Taveta County, he outlined the challenges counties face in responding to climate-induced food insecurity amid constrained resources, competing priorities, and fragmented coordination across shared ecosystems.

He emphasized the necessity of strengthened inter-county collaboration, particularly in the management of water resources, climate adaptation initiatives, and agricultural value chains that extend beyond administrative boundaries. His contribution reinforced the importance of moving beyond siloed, county-specific interventions toward coordinated regional approaches grounded in shared ecological realities and collective action.

THEMATIC PRESENTATIONS:

EVIDENCE, INNOVATION, AND PRACTICAL PATHWAYS

The thematic presentations translated lived realities and policy concerns into evidence-based insights and practical pathways for strengthening coastal food and nutrition security. Collectively, the presentations highlighted how climate adaptation, ecosystem stewardship, water security, and value addition can unlock resilient livelihoods and inclusive economic opportunity when aligned with governance and investment frameworks.

Dr. Peter Odote – Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI): ***Blue Economy Opportunities for Women and Youth***

Dr. Odote examined the blue economy as a critical but underutilized pathway for food security, livelihoods, and climate adaptation along Kenya's Coast. He outlined how declining fish stocks, climate variability, and unsustainable practices continue to threaten coastal livelihoods, while simultaneously underscoring the significant opportunities presented by sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, mariculture, and value addition.

Drawing on ongoing research and pilot initiatives, he demonstrated how women and youth can be meaningfully empowered through improved access to appropriate technologies, skills development, and markets. He emphasized that sustainable management of marine resources, combined with targeted investment in cold chains, storage, and processing infrastructure, can improve incomes, enhance food availability, and protect marine ecosystems, positioning the blue economy as both a livelihood and climate solution.

Patrick Ochieng – Ujamaa Center ***Water as a Foundation for Coastal Food***

Patrick Ochieng framed water security as the foundational enabler of food and nutrition security in the coastal context. Drawing from extensive community-level engagement, he illustrated how water scarcity directly affects cropping patterns, livestock productivity, fisheries processing, and household nutrition outcomes.

He shared practical experiences and best practices in rainwater harvesting, community-managed water systems, and integrated water resource management approaches that have strengthened resilience in water-stressed areas. He emphasized that efforts to address food insecurity without securing reliable water access are inherently unsustainable, calling for stronger alignment between water governance, agricultural planning, and climate adaptation strategies at both county and regional levels.

Maxwell Lumbasi – Strategic Delivery Manager - KECOSCE
Value Addition and Youth-Led Agribusiness in Tana River

Maxwell Lumbasi presented value addition as a transformative lever for enhancing food security while expanding employment opportunities for youth. Drawing on case studies from Tana River County, he demonstrated how relatively simple interventions in processing, aggregation, and market linkage development can significantly increase incomes for young agripreneurs.

He emphasized the need to shift prevailing narratives from raw production toward enterprise development, highlighting opportunities across cereals, fruits, fish, and livestock value chains. His presentation reinforced the importance of skills development, access to finance, and supportive policy environments in enabling youth-led agribusinesses to scale and thrive.

PANEL DISCUSSION: SYSTEMS ENABLERS, LIVED CONSTRAINTS, AND COLLECTIVE CALLS TO ACTION

The panel discussion provided a deeper, systems-level interrogation of the structural factors shaping food and nutrition security along Kenya's Coast. Drawing from lived experience, institutional mandates, and practice-based evidence, panelists examined how land governance, public finance, innovation ecosystems, and partnerships interact to either enable or constrain resilient and inclusive food systems. The discussion moved beyond problem diagnosis to highlight practical pathways and examples of what is already working, and what can be scaled through deliberate coordination.

Sam Olando

Executive Director -Pamoja Trust Land Use, Tenure, and Equity

Sam Olando contextualized land tenure as one of the most persistent and politically sensitive barriers to food and nutrition security in the Coast region. He illustrated how insecure and unclear land rights discourage long-term investment in agriculture, limit access to credit, and undermine the adoption of climate-smart practices. Women and youth, he noted, are disproportionately affected, often cultivating borrowed, communal, or informally held land without legal protection or decision-making power.

Drawing from community case studies, he shared examples where tenure regularization and community sensitization have enabled smallholder farmers to diversify crops, invest in small-scale irrigation, and improve soil and water management. In areas where land rights were clarified, households demonstrated greater willingness to adopt climate-resilient practices and engage with financial institutions. Olando called for deliberate land governance reforms, strengthened community awareness, and the systematic integration of land tenure considerations into county food security and climate adaptation strategies.

Josephine Nyamawi

PFM Analyst – Coast Budget Hub Public Finance, Planning, and Accountability

Josephine Nyamawi framed public finance as a decisive lever for translating policy intent into measurable food and nutrition outcomes. She highlighted the persistent gap between county-level commitments on food security and climate resilience and the limited, fragmented budgetary allocations that follow. Using examples from county planning and budgeting cycles, she demonstrated how food and nutrition priorities are often dispersed across departments, agriculture, water, health, and environment, without a unifying investment framework.

She cited emerging nutrition-sensitive budgeting practices, where counties have begun aligning agriculture, water, and health expenditures around shared food security objectives. In these cases, improved public participation and clearer budget tagging have strengthened accountability and enhanced the visibility of food and climate investments. Nyamawi called for climate-responsive and nutrition-sensitive budgeting, stronger citizen engagement in planning processes, and improved tracking of food systems expenditure, emphasizing that without fiscal prioritization, food security commitments remain aspirational rather than operational.

Damaris Ogonji

**Hub Manager Kilifi -Kenya Climate Innovation Center (KCIC)
Youth, Innovation, and Climate Solutions**

Damaris Ogonji positioned innovation as a critical bridge between youth aspirations and climate-resilient food systems. She presented the Kenya Climate Innovation Center (KCIC) as a catalytic ecosystem supporting climate-smart enterprises through incubation, mentorship, access to finance, and market linkages. Her examples illustrated how youth-led innovations in agriculture, water management, renewable energy, and value addition can scale when supported by enabling institutional infrastructure.

She highlighted enterprises supported by KCIC that have introduced affordable irrigation technologies, climate-smart processing solutions, and renewable energy applications for agribusiness, demonstrating how innovation can address both productivity and resilience. Audience engagement around her presentation was particularly strong, with participants identifying KCIC as a strategic “gold mine” for coastal youth. Discussions focused on access pathways, partnership opportunities, and how county governments and organizations such as CEFRESA could intentionally link young innovators to innovation hubs and financing platforms.

Sadiki Ridhiwani

**Member –Taita Taveta CSOs Network
Partnerships, Collaboration, and Scaling Impact**

Sadiki Ridhiwani emphasized that fragmented and project-based interventions are insufficient to address systemic food and nutrition challenges. Drawing from cross-sectoral experience, he highlighted the importance of partnerships that leverage comparative advantages, government policy authority, private sector capital and market access, civil society reach and trust, and research institutions’ technical evidence.

To illustrate this approach, he shared a practical example from Taita Taveta County, where a civil society-led multi-sectoral coordination mechanism brings together county departments, community organizations, private actors, and technical partners around shared thematic priorities, including water security, land governance, climate adaptation, and livelihoods. Through joint planning, information sharing, and coordinated implementation, the mechanism has reduced duplication, strengthened alignment with county development plans, and improved collective responsiveness to food and climate challenges.

Ridhiwani argued that such models demonstrate how partnerships can move beyond ad hoc collaboration toward structured, accountable systems of action. He called for the intentional replication and adaptation of similar mechanisms across coastal counties, supported by co-investment models, shared learning platforms, and sustained convening. Partnerships, he concluded, are not peripheral but foundational to scaling resilient food systems solutions across shared ecosystems.

HYBRID EXHIBITION PAVILION

Showcasing Coastal Production and Value Addition Potential



A defining feature of the Coast Food Pavilion was the physical exhibition pavilion convened by CEFRESA, which translated policy dialogue into tangible, practice-based evidence. The exhibition served as a visual and experiential complement to the discussions by showcasing agricultural and blue economy products from across the Coast region, reflecting the diversity, productivity, and adaptive capacity of local food systems.

The displays highlighted climate-resilient crops processed and semi-processed agricultural products, and fisheries-related outputs that demonstrated value addition potential along coastal value chains. While the Pavilion did not host enterprises as formal exhibitors, the showcased products illustrated how primary production can be transformed through processing, aggregation, and improved market linkages, particularly for smallholder farmers, fishers, women, and youth.

Strategically, the exhibition reinforced the policy dialogue by grounding system-level conversations in real production realities. It validated producer aspirations, demonstrated pathways for increasing income and resilience through value addition, and made visible the investment and infrastructure gaps required to move from raw production to higher-value food systems. In doing so, the Pavilion positioned the Coast not merely as a site of food insecurity, but as a region with tangible production assets and unrealized economic potential.

EXHIBITION PHOTO GALLERY



PARTICIPANT REFLECTIONS AND STRATEGIC INSIGHTS

Audience engagement was a defining strength of the Coast Food Pavilion, transforming the convening from a series of presentations into a collective space for reflection, affirmation, and shared sense-making. Participant contributions enriched the dialogue by surfacing lived experiences, practical concerns, and forward-looking perspectives that informed, but did not predetermine, the outcomes and recommendations of this report.

Participants commended CEFRESA for convening a timely, inclusive platform that elevated coastal voices during the COP27 period. Reflections emphasized the value of grounding food and nutrition security conversations in community realities and implementation contexts, ensuring that policy dialogue remains connected to everyday production and livelihood challenges.

One participant specifically called for the advancement of a food sovereignty conversation rooted in local cultures, production systems, and consumption patterns, highlighting the importance of community-defined pathways to resilience. While not presented as a collective position, this contribution added depth to the broader discussion on local agency and ownership within food systems transformation.

Key Emerging Themes



Strengthening agricultural and fisheries policies to better reflect the lived realities, production contexts, and resilience challenges facing farmers and fishers.



Advancing the inclusion of children and young people in food and nutrition security conversations to support long-term behavioral, cultural, and dietary transformation.



Positioning the media as a strategic partner in shaping positive, credible, and aspirational narratives around coastal production, resilience, and innovation.



Elevating value addition as a critical pathway for income generation, producer dignity, livelihood resilience, and local economic development.



Enhancing the documentation and dissemination of best practices to strengthen learning, policy dialogue, cross-county exchange, and replication of successful approaches.

Collectively, these reflections reinforced the Pavilion's bottom-up ethos and highlighted priority areas for continued engagement beyond the convening. They provide important contextual signals that inform the synthesis and recommendations presented in subsequent sections, while preserving space for structured prioritization and strategic action.

KEY OUTCOMES AND STRATEGIC CONTRIBUTIONS

The Coast Food Pavilion generated a set of interrelated outcomes that extend beyond the convening itself and contribute to longer-term food systems transformation along Kenya's Coast.

Elevation of coastal lived experience into food and climate discourse

The Pavilion successfully positioned coastal community realities, producer perspectives, and county-level implementation challenges as legitimate inputs into COP27-era food systems and climate conversations. In doing so, it shifted the narrative from vulnerability toward agency, evidence, and locally grounded solutions.

Strengthened inter-county solidarity across shared ecosystems

By convening actors from across coastal counties, the Pavilion reinforced a shared understanding of food and nutrition security as a regional systems issue. This strengthened inter-county solidarity around common ecosystems, water resources, value chains, and climate risks that transcend administrative boundaries.

Validation of producer aspirations through dialogue and demonstration

Through the integration of policy dialogue and the hybrid exhibition pavilion, the convening validated producer aspirations by linking lived production realities with governance, investment, and market conversations. This approach affirmed value addition, innovation, and productivity as central to resilient coastal food systems.

Consolidation of momentum toward a Coast Regional Food and Nutrition Security Roadmap

The Pavilion helped consolidate emerging alignment among counties, civil society, research institutions, and partners around the need for coordinated regional action. This momentum lays the groundwork for the development of a Coast Regional Food and Nutrition Security Roadmap anchored in shared priorities, systems thinking, and collective accountability.

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Advance the formalization and uptake of a Coast Regional Food and Nutrition Security Roadmap

Stakeholders are encouraged to collaboratively advance the formalization of a Coast Regional Food and Nutrition Security Roadmap as a guiding framework for regional coherence. The roadmap should serve as a reference point to inform county-level planning, investment prioritization, and alignment with existing development, food systems, and climate policy instruments.

Promote structured inter-county coordination on water, food, and climate action

There is a clear opportunity to strengthen structured coordination among coastal counties to address shared water systems, climate risks, and food value chains. Developing light but effective coordination arrangements can support joint learning, harmonized approaches, and collective responses to challenges that transcend county boundaries.

Create enabling conditions for investment in climate-smart and blue economy value chains

Deliberate efforts are needed to create an enabling environment that attracts and sustains investment in climate-smart agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, and blue economy enterprises. This includes improving access to finance, reducing risk for small-scale producers, and strengthening market linkages particularly for women- and youth-led initiatives.

Sustain multi-stakeholder engagement through regular hybrid food systems platforms

Maintaining inclusive spaces for dialogue remains critical to sustaining momentum, trust, and accountability across the food system. Regular hybrid platforms can provide opportunities for continued exchange, coordination, and reflection among government, civil society, private sector, academia, and community actors.

Reinforce the centrality of women and youth across food systems decision-making

Future food systems and climate initiatives should intentionally reinforce the leadership, agency, and meaningful participation of women and youth. This includes ensuring that policy processes, financing mechanisms, and implementation arrangements are responsive to their priorities, capacities, and lived realities.

CONCLUSION

The Coast Food Pavilion and Summit affirmed the critical role of bottom-up, experience-driven dialogue in informing and enriching national, regional, and global conversations on climate and food systems. By bringing coastal lived realities, producer perspectives, and governance insights into COP27-era engagements, the Pavilion created a credible bridge between community-level evidence and higher-level policy and investment discourse repositioning the Coast region as an active contributor to shared global learning and solutions.

As climate risks and food systems pressures continue to intensify, the reflections, connections, and priorities emerging from the Pavilion point toward a promising pathway for more inclusive, ecosystem-based, and governance-responsive food systems transformation. Anchored in the knowledge, agency, and capacities of coastal communities, this pathway underscores the importance of sustained collaboration, adaptive leadership, and locally grounded innovation in shaping resilient and equitable food futures.



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