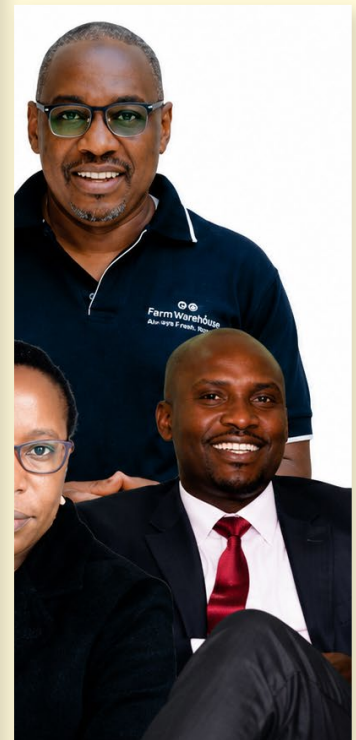




YOUTH VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY REPORT

Youth Powering Kenya's Coastal Green & Blue Future

THEME

"TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS: YOUTH INNOVATION FOR HUMAN AND PLANETARY HEALTH."

#ActivateAgriTalks

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SETTING THE AGENDA

Repositioning Youth at the Center of Kenya's Coastal Green and Blue Future

At a time when food insecurity, climate vulnerability, and youth unemployment converge with growing urgency, the role of young people in shaping Kenya's food systems can no longer remain peripheral. Along the Coast, where land, ocean resources, innovation, and a youthful population intersect, the future of sustainable development will be determined by how decisively institutions respond to youth potential.

The Youth Powering Kenya's Coastal Green & Blue Future Virtual Roundtable was convened to challenge prevailing narratives and reset priorities. It sought to move youth from the margins of agriculture and environmental governance into the center of innovation, value creation, and policy influence. Anchored in the global International Youth Day 2021 theme, "Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health," the convening was intentionally designed as a strategic intervention rather than a symbolic dialogue.

Across Kenya's coastal region, youth disengagement from agriculture is often mischaracterized as apathy. It reflects structural constraints, limited access to land, finance, skills, markets, and decision-making spaces, that continue to suppress participation despite strong interest and creativity. These systemic barriers not only undermine youth livelihoods but also weaken the resilience and sustainability of food systems themselves.

This roundtable positioned youth as critical actors within the green and blue economy, capable of driving climate-smart agriculture, value addition, innovation, and inclusive growth. It brought together youth leaders, policymakers, financial institutions, private sector actors, research agencies, civil society, and media in a shared space of accountability, one that recognized youth not as beneficiaries, but as co-creators of solutions.

The discussions and outcomes captured in this report set a clear agenda for action. They call for deliberate investment, policy reform, and institutional alignment to unlock youth potential, restore dignity and aspiration to agriculture, and accelerate a just transition toward resilient coastal economies.

This is not a call for incremental change. It is a demand for systems that work for youth and with youth to secure food security, environmental sustainability, and inclusive prosperity.

INTRODUCTION

Convening Youth Leadership for Coastal Food System Transformation

The Centre for Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA) convened the **Youth Powering Kenya's Coastal Green & Blue Future** Virtual Roundtable on **11 August 2021**, as part of Youth Week and the global commemoration of International Youth Day. Hosted virtually, the convening brought together youth leaders from Kenya's coastal counties alongside policymakers, financial institutions, private sector actors, research agencies, civil society organizations, and media practitioners.

This dialogue responded to the urgent intersection of youth unemployment, food insecurity, and climate stress across the coastal region. Despite the Coast's vast potential within agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, and green enterprise, youth participation remains persistently low, not due to lack of ambition, but because of entrenched systemic barriers.

Anchored on the global theme "Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health," the roundtable was designed to reposition youth from the periphery of food systems into spaces of influence, innovation, and economic agency. It created a platform for youth to articulate lived experiences, propose practical solutions, and engage directly with duty bearers responsible for policy, financing, and institutional frameworks.

Through this convening, CEFRESA advanced its mandate to amplify youth voices, strengthen accountability, and catalyze inclusive green and blue economy transformation across Kenya's coastal region. This report documents the insights, priorities, and calls to action emerging from the dialogue and serves as a reference point for stakeholders committed to youth-led, sustainable development.

REPORT OVERVIEW & STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The virtual roundtable brought together over **200 participants** from across Kenya's coastal region, including youth leaders, policymakers, financial institutions, private sector actors, media practitioners, civil society organizations, and agricultural research agencies such as KALRO.

The convening responded to a persistent paradox: a region rich in agricultural and marine resources yet marked by low youth participation in food systems. It created a rare intergenerational and multi-sectoral space for dialogue and accountability, enabling direct engagement between youth innovators and the institutions shaping policy, investment, and implementation.

By placing youth at the center of the discussion, the roundtable functioned as both a diagnostic and catalytic platform. It surfaced structural barriers limiting youth participation while simultaneously demonstrating that, when enabling conditions exist, young people can lead climate-smart agriculture, value addition, enterprise development, and environmental stewardship. This section situates the roundtable within broader national and global efforts to advance sustainable food systems, youth inclusion, and climate resilience, reinforcing its relevance beyond the event and positioning it as a reference point for future policy and programmatic action.

OPENING REMARKS

County Leadership Perspective



Hon. Tendai Lewa

County Executive Committee Member, Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives – Mombasa County

In his opening remarks, Hon. Tendai Lewa anchored the dialogue in a defining demographic reality: **over 75% of Mombasa's population is below the age of 35**. He emphasized that this youth majority must be reflected in how counties design agricultural, food security, and economic policies.

He outlined the County Government's commitment to deliberately unpacking opportunities for youth through policy reform and programmatic alignment, noting that meaningful participation requires more than motivation. He identified access, accountability, championship, and collaboration as the foundational pillars necessary to unlock youth engagement in food systems.

Hon. Lewa acknowledged that negative perceptions surrounding agriculture continue to discourage youth participation despite the sector's potential. He called upon the media to play a transformative role in reshaping narratives by amplifying youth success stories and positioning agriculture as a dignified, innovative, and economically viable pathway.

Recognizing Mombasa's predominantly urban character, he highlighted plans to reposition the county as a regional food systems hub, supporting production in surrounding arid and semi-arid counties while strengthening local food security. Sub-counties with available land, including Kisauni, Jomvu, and Likoni, were identified as strategic entry points for youth-driven agricultural initiatives.

His remarks reinforced a central message that youth inclusion in food systems is a governance responsibility, requiring intentional policy choices, cross-sector collaboration, and sustained political will.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

National Policy & Systems Perspective



Prof. Hamadi Boga

Principal Secretary, State Department for Crop Development and Agricultural Research

The keynote address delivered by Prof. Hamadi Boga provided a systems-level lens for understanding youth participation in food systems. He challenged the narrow framing of agriculture as primary production alone, urging participants to adopt a holistic view that recognizes the full food system value chain

He outlined diverse opportunities available to youth across production, value addition, processing, aggregation, storage, logistics, marketing, utilization, and post-harvest management, spanning both the green and blue economies. In this framing, youth were positioned as innovators, entrepreneurs, technologists, and market builders-not merely farmers.

Addressing the persistent challenge of land access, Prof. Boga encouraged youth to adopt adaptive and strategic entry models, including land leasing, partnerships, urban and peri-urban agriculture, and aggregation-based enterprises. He emphasized that innovation and strategic positioning, rather than ownership alone, define success in modern agriculture.

He further highlighted existing government support mechanisms, including the Kenya Youth in Agribusiness Strategy, urging youth to engage with national policy instruments designed to support agribusiness SMEs. He reaffirmed the role of research institutions such as KALRO in strengthening climate-smart, data-driven agricultural practices and improving research-to-extension linkages.

The keynote reframed youth from a target group into a strategic national asset, calling for experimentation, learning, and deliberate scaling. Prof. Boga concluded by underscoring that Kenya's food security and climate resilience will be shaped by how boldly youth are integrated into innovation ecosystems today.

GOVERNANCE, LEGISLATION, AND YOUTH ACCOUNTABILITY

Embedding Youth Priorities in Policy, Budgets, and Oversight



Hon. Tobias Samba
Member of County Assembly - Tudor Ward

Sustainable youth inclusion in food systems requires more than executive direction, it demands legislative anchoring and accountability. County Assemblies sit at the heart of this architecture, translating citizen priorities into enforceable laws, financed budgets, and monitored delivery. Without this anchor, youth commitments remain aspirational rather than institutional.

To ground the roundtable in this reality, a youthful Member of the County Assembly offered a legislative perspective on converting youth aspirations into tangible governance outcomes.

The intervention highlighted three decisive roles County Assemblies play in advancing youth-led food systems:

Legislation: Enacting and amending laws that lower entry barriers for young people in agriculture, agribusiness, and the green economy, particularly around land access, financing, skills, and markets.

Budget Allocation and Approval: Ensuring intentional, protected financing for youth-focused agricultural programmes, innovation hubs, extension services, and climate-smart initiatives, rather than ad hoc allocations.

Oversight and Accountability: Tracking implementation and holding executive departments to account, closing the gap between policy promises and the lived realities of young people.

The Hon.Samba further urged young people to engage governance institutions beyond consultation, participating actively in public participation forums, budget hearings, and policy reviews that shape their livelihoods.

By situating youth inclusion within legislative and accountability frameworks, this perspective reinforced the roundtable's central message: transforming food systems requires not only innovation and enthusiasm, but laws, budgets, and institutions that work for youth, the mechanisms that ultimately determine sustainability and scale.

INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP IN NARRATIVE TRANSFORMATION

Amplifying Youth Innovation Through the SHIBE DRIVE E-Magazine

While governance and policy debates surface the structural conditions shaping youth participation, narrative remains the lever that determines whether young people see themselves in food systems. The roundtable recognized that institutions carry a distinct responsibility: to reshape how agriculture is understood, communicated, and aspired to by the next generation.

Speaking to this mandate, the Executive Director of CEFRESA positioned narrative transformation as a practical, scalable strategy for youth engagement, anchored in the organization's flagship platform, the SHIBE DRIVE E-Magazine.

Launched in response to entrenched perceptions of agriculture as labor-intensive, low-return, and misaligned with youth ambition, SHIBE DRIVE is a digital storytelling and knowledge-sharing platform that spotlights youth-led innovation across farming, agripreneurship, and the wider food value chain. It documents real stories of young people advancing climate-smart farming, value addition, digital solutions, and community-based enterprise, reframing agriculture as innovative, opportunity-rich, and culturally relevant.

Miss Mary emphasized that the platform's value extends beyond visibility. SHIBE DRIVE operates as a peer-learning and inspiration engine, translating complex agricultural conversations into accessible, visual, and practical content that opens clear entry points into the food system.

Positioned at the intersection of policy and participation, SHIBE DRIVE bridges governance dialogue and grassroots action, reinforcing accountability by evidencing what becomes possible when enabling environments exist, while motivating broader youth uptake of agriculture as a pathway to leadership, innovation, and livelihood.

CEFRESA's investment in narrative transformation reflects a deliberate commitment to sustaining momentum beyond dialogue, ensuring youth-led success is not only discussed, but documented, amplified, and scaled.



Mary Maina
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - CEFRESA

"Changing how agriculture is perceived is as important as changing how it is practiced. When young people see agriculture as a space for innovation, creativity, and leadership, participation follows. Through SHIBE DRIVE, we are intentionally amplifying youth-led success stories to inspire confidence, possibility, and sustained engagement across food systems."

FRAMING THE DIALOGUE

Designing a Safe and Inclusive Youth Engagement Space



PATIENCE NYANGE
Moderator

Recognizing that meaningful youth participation depends on how engagement spaces are designed, the roundtable adopted an intentional facilitation approach that prioritized inclusion, openness, and lived experience. Rather than positioning youth as passive participants, the moderator created a safe civic space that enabled young people to engage confidently, share candid perspectives, and actively shape the conversation on food systems transformation within Kenya's coastal context.

The dialogue was grounded in the realities shaping coastal livelihoods, including urbanization, limited land access, climate vulnerability, unemployment, and emerging opportunities within the blue and green economy. The facilitation intentionally acknowledged the diversity of youth experiences across urban, peri-urban, rural, and coastal communities, ensuring the discussion reflected multiple realities and not a single narrative.

To make participation accessible and meaningful, the moderator used clear and relatable language that simplified technical agricultural and policy concepts, lowering barriers for engagement regardless of participants' educational or professional backgrounds. Interactive guiding questions and thematic prompts further encouraged dialogue around barriers to participation, opportunities for innovation and enterprise, and the institutional support required for youth-led food systems transformation.

Central to the approach was the creation of a psychologically safe environment where young people could openly discuss challenges surrounding land access, financing, markets, and perceptions toward agriculture without fear of dismissal or exclusion. This shifted the engagement from one-way consultation to co-created dialogue informed by lived realities and practical experience.

By intentionally designing for participation, the moderation bridged institutional perspectives with youth voices, demonstrating that transformative conversations are shaped not only by the issues discussed, but by the spaces intentionally created to hold them.

CURATED INSIGHTS FROM THE ROUNDTABLE DIALOGUE

1

Youth Voices, System Responses, and Replicable Models Across the Food System

The roundtable dialogue surfaced interconnected perspectives that illuminate both the opportunities and constraints shaping youth participation in agriculture and the green and blue economy across Kenya's coastal region. The insights presented in this report reflect a convergence of youth lived experiences, institutional perspectives, and practical youth-led models, grounding policy discussions in reality while pointing toward pathways for reform, innovation, and collective action.

2

Youth Aspirations and Entry Points Across the Food System Value Chain

Young participants articulated a clear understanding of agriculture as a broad and interconnected system extending far beyond primary production. Youth engagement was framed around value addition, processing, aggregation, logistics, marketing, digital platforms, aquaculture, and environmentally sustainable enterprises. Many participants expressed a desire to engage as innovators and agripreneurs rather than subsistence producers.

This perspective was reinforced during the keynote address, where the Principal Secretary challenged young people to rethink traditional notions of land dependency in agriculture:

"Land should not be seen as a limitation. Agriculture is much broader than farming. There are vast opportunities in value addition, processing, aggregation, and services. Even where land access is a challenge, young people can work together, lease land collectively, and still participate meaningfully in the food system."

~Principal Secretary

3

Structural Barriers Shaping Youth Participation

Despite strong interest and ambition, youth consistently highlighted structural barriers that limit their participation. Land access emerged as a central concern across coastal counties, where tenure complexities, urbanisation, and competing land uses restrict availability. Many young people described land as fragmented, costly to lease, or inaccessible due to ownership and inheritance structures.

Access to finance was also cited as a major constraint, with youth noting that existing financing mechanisms often require collateral, formal registration, or track records that young entrepreneurs are yet to build. Limited market linkages, inadequate extension services, and exclusion from decision-making spaces further compounded these challenges.

"The challenge is not that young people are not interested. The systems are not designed for us. Access to land, finance, and markets feels closed off before we even begin."

~Youth Participant

4

Enabling Pathways and Institutional Responses

Participants identified several pathways that could significantly improve youth participation if implemented deliberately and on a scale. These included youth-friendly financing instruments, structured land-leasing models, shared production and processing infrastructure, and strengthened access to technical and business development support.

Research and extension institutions were recognized as critical enablers, particularly in supporting climate-smart agriculture, aquaculture, post-harvest handling, and value addition. However, participants emphasized that these services must be more accessible, responsive, and tailored to youth realities.

A stakeholder representative emphasized the importance of institutional adaptation

"We already have policies, programs, and research in place. The real work is redesigning how these reach young people in ways that are practical, accessible, and responsive to their realities."

~Stakeholder Representative

5

Research, Innovation, and Unlocking Youth Potential

The role of research and evidence-based innovation emerged as a central theme in addressing persistent barriers to youth participation in agriculture. Participants emphasized that research institutions play a critical role in de-risking youth engagement by providing tested technologies, climate-smart practices, market-relevant innovations, and credible data to inform decision-making.

Representatives from the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) underscored the openness of research institutions and the availability of resources that young people from the coastal region can actively explore. These include research stations, demonstration sites, improved seed varieties, aquaculture innovations, soil and climate data, and technical expertise tailored to diverse agro-ecological zones.

KALRO emphasized that research is also a powerful tool for reshaping narratives around agriculture:

“Research is one of the ways we unlock the hurdles young people face in agriculture. Our institutions are open, and the resources are available. When youth engage with research, they see agriculture differently—not as guesswork, but as innovation, science, and opportunity.”

~KALRO Representative

6

Youth-Led Models and Pathways for Replication

Beyond policy and institutional perspectives, the dialogue highlighted concrete youth-led models that demonstrate how challenges can be navigated in practice. These examples simplified complex discussions by showing what is already working and how similar approaches can be replicated across communities.

Participants reflected on the experience of youth agripreneurs who have successfully developed agricultural models beyond their home counties, creating practical learning platforms that other young people and communities can emulate. These models integrate production, value addition, and market access, serving as demonstration sites for peer learning and skills transfer.

In Tana River County, youth initiatives supported by Maxwell Lumabis were highlighted for opening pathways into value addition and structured market engagement. By organizing young people, facilitating shared access to land and resources, and linking production to markets, these initiatives demonstrated how collective models can overcome land and scale constraints while creating viable livelihoods.

In Mwakirunge, Mombasa, youth leadership in agriculture has been strengthened through community-based organizing and the strategic use of community radio. Led by Joel, this approach combines agricultural practice with storytelling and documentation, enabling communities to share knowledge, surface local challenges, and reshape narratives around agriculture in accessible and relatable ways.

Collectively, these examples reinforced a central message across the dialogue: youth are not waiting for solutions; they are already building them. What is required is deliberate support to document, amplify, and scale such models so they can inform policy, programming, and peer learning across the coastal region and beyond.

7

Reframing Agriculture and Shifting Perceptions

Across the dialogue, participants underscored the power of narratives in shaping youth engagement. Persistent perceptions that agriculture is labor-intensive, low-status, and economically unrewarding continue to discourage youth participation, even where opportunities exist.

Media practitioners and facilitators emphasized the need to simplify language, amplify youth-led success stories, and present agriculture as innovative, entrepreneurial, and climate-responsive. Youth participants echoed this sentiment, noting that visibility of relatable role models plays a critical role in shaping aspiration and confidence.

As one participant reflected:

"When young people see others like them succeeding in agriculture and agribusiness, it changes how they think about what is possible."

~Youth Participant

A consistent message across the dialogue was the need for shared responsibility in transforming food systems. Participants emphasized that youth cannot overcome structural constraints alone, and that institutions must move beyond policy commitments toward practical implementation and sustained engagement.

The roundtable highlighted the importance of collaboration between government, financial institutions, research bodies, private sector actors, civil society, and youth-led organizations. Embedding youth voices within governance structures and ensuring accountability for implementation were identified as critical to sustaining momentum beyond the convening.

"Youth inclusion cannot be symbolic. It must be built into decision-making, budgeting, and implementation if we are serious about transforming food systems."

~Panelist

FINANCING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN FOOD SYSTEMS

1. Community-Led Models, Public Finance, and Scalable Pathways

Access to finance emerged as one of the most significant enablers, and persistent barriers to youth participation in agriculture and food systems. Across the dialogue, young people emphasized that while interest and innovation potential exist, the ability to start, sustain, and scale agribusiness initiatives is often constrained by limited access to appropriate and responsive financing.

The roundtable highlighted that financing challenges are not solely about availability of funds, but about the **design, accessibility, and alignment** of financial products with youth realities. In response, the dialogue surfaced promising financing models operating at both community and institutional levels, demonstrating pathways that can be strengthened and scaled.

2. Youth-Led and Community Financing Models

Youth-led initiatives such as **Zayad Microfinance** were highlighted as examples of community-based financing models that are deliberately structured to support agriculture and farming enterprises. These models prioritize trust, peer accountability, and contextual understanding, making them more accessible to young agripreneurs who may lack formal collateral or credit histories.

By encouraging savings, providing small-scale financing, and reinvesting within local agricultural value chains, such initiatives demonstrate how youth can mobilize capital collectively and support one another's enterprises. Participants noted that community-driven financing not only unlocks capital, but also builds financial discipline, ownership, and resilience among young people.

3. Public Sector Financing and Institutional Support

The dialogue also emphasized the role of public institutions in expanding access to agricultural finance at scale. **Sarah Wacheke**, representing the **Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC)**, outlined existing government-backed financing mechanisms designed to support agripreneurs and agricultural enterprises across the country.

AFC's role in financing youth-led models, supporting agribusiness development, and engaging young people in structured conversations around agriculture was highlighted as a critical institutional pathway. Participants acknowledged that public finance institutions have the ability to de-risk agriculture, extend longer-term financing, and support enterprises beyond the startup phase.

The discussion emphasized the importance of improving awareness, simplifying application processes, and strengthening linkages between youth initiatives and public financing institutions to ensure that available resources are fully utilized.

4. Convergence and Scalable Financing Pathways

A key takeaway from the dialogue was the need to strengthen **interfaces between community-led financing models and public sector institutions**. Participants noted that when youth-driven initiatives such as Zayad Microfinance are linked with institutions like AFC, financing becomes more inclusive, scalable, and sustainable.

The roundtable underscored the potential of blended approaches that combine community trust, youth organization, and public capital. Such convergence can lower risk, expand reach, and ensure that financing supports not only production, but also value addition, marketing, and enterprise growth across the food system.

By recognizing and strengthening these financing pathways, the dialogue affirmed that access to finance is not an isolated challenge, but a system opportunity, one that can accelerate youth leadership in agriculture when actors work in alignment.

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES & PRIORITY ACTIONS

Five Priority Outcomes for Advancing Youth Leadership in Food Systems

OUTCOME 1

Diversified and Inclusive Youth Entry Points Across Food Systems

Youth engagement in agriculture expands beyond land-intensive production to include value addition, processing, aggregation, marketing, aquaculture, innovation, and service-based enterprises.

Priority Actions:

- ▶ Promote value-chain-focused youth engagement models that reduce reliance on land ownership.
- ▶ Support collective approaches such as land leasing, aggregation, and shared infrastructure.
- ▶ Document and scale youth-led models that demonstrate diverse entry points into food systems.

OUTCOME 2

Youth-Centered Financing Ecosystems Strengthened

Responsive, accessible, and scalable financing mechanisms enable youth-led agricultural and agribusiness initiatives to start, grow, and sustain operations.

Priority Actions:

- ▶ Strengthen community and youth-led financing models such as **Zayad Microfinance**.



Improve linkages between youth initiatives and public finance institutions, including the **Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC)**.



Promote blended financing approaches that combine community capital, public finance, and private sector investment.

OUTCOME 3

Research, Innovation, and Knowledge Embedded in Youth Agripreneurship

Youth participation in food systems is anchored in research, innovation, and evidence-based practices.

Priority Actions:



Strengthen partnerships between youth initiatives and research institutions such as **KALRO**.



Expand access to demonstration sites, innovation hubs, and climate-smart technologies.



Integrate research-to-market pathways that support youth-led innovation and enterprise growth.

OUTCOME 4

Youth-Led Models Documented, Amplified, and Replicated

Proven youth-led initiatives are documented and scaled to inform policy, programming, and peer learning across the coastal region.

Priority Actions:



Identify and document successful youth-led agricultural and agribusiness models.



Support peer-learning platforms and youth-to-youth mentorship.



Leverage community media, digital platforms, and storytelling initiatives such as SHIBE DRIVE to amplify success stories.

OUTCOME 5

Youth Voices Institutionalized in Governance and Narrative Transformation

Youth perspectives shape food systems, governance, accountability, and public narratives around agriculture

Priority Actions:



Institutionalize youth representation in county and national food systems platforms.



Strengthen linkages between youth organizations and governance institutions.



Partner with youth-led and community media to reposition agriculture as innovative, dignified, and opportunity-driven.



CALL TO ACTION

From Dialogue to Collective Action for Youth-Led Food Systems

The virtual roundtable affirmed a shared understanding: Kenya's coastal food systems cannot be transformed without the meaningful inclusion, leadership, and innovation of young people. Across governance, research, financing, media, and community practice, the dialogue demonstrated that youth are not passive beneficiaries, they are already shaping solutions. What is required now is coordinated, sustained action to scale what works and remove the barriers that persist.

This Call-to-Action invites stakeholders across government, financial institutions, research bodies, private sector actors, civil society, media, and youth-led organizations to move from commitment to implementation.

1. To Government and Policy Actors

We call on national and county governments to institutionalize youth participation within food systems governance, ensuring that policies, budgets, and programs are responsive to youth realities. This includes strengthening youth representation in decision-making spaces, supporting collective land-use models, and aligning agricultural, climate, and youth policies to unlock diverse entry points across the value chain.

2. To Financing Institutions and Investors

We call on public finance institutions, community financing initiatives, and private investors to expand youth-centered financing ecosystems. By strengthening linkages between youth-led models, community finance initiatives, and institutions such as the Agricultural Finance Corporation, stakeholders can reduce risk, increase access, and support youth enterprises from startup to scale, particularly in value addition, processing, and market-oriented agribusiness.

3. To Research and Knowledge Institutions

We call on research and extension institutions to actively open their spaces, resources, and innovations to young people. Strengthening youth access to research stations, demonstration sites, climate-smart technologies, and data will accelerate innovation, adoption and reposition agriculture as a science-driven and opportunity-rich sector.

4. To Media, Storytellers, and Platform Builders

We call on media practitioners, community radio, digital platforms, and content creators to play a deliberate role in reshaping narratives around agriculture. Amplifying youth-led success stories, simplifying complex conversations, and showcasing relatable role models are essential to restoring dignity, aspiration, and confidence in food systems as viable youth pathways.

5. To Youth and Youth-Led Organizations

We call on young people to continue organizing, innovating, collaborating, and leading. Collective action, peer learning, and shared models, such as those highlighted during the roundtable -demonstrate that youth power lies not only in numbers, but in coordination, creativity, and persistence

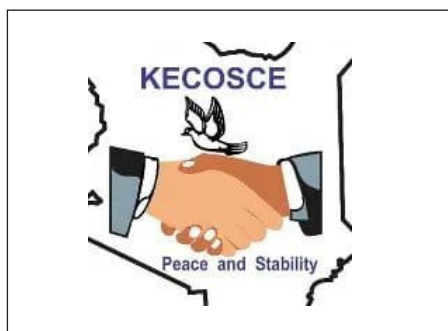
6. To Partners and Ecosystem Actors

We call on all partners to support platforms that document, amplify, and scale youth-led solutions. Initiatives such as SHIBE DRIVE demonstrate the value of sustained narrative transformation alongside policy and programmatic action. Investing in such platforms strengthens learning, accountability, and long-term impact.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONVENING PARTNERS

The successful convening of this virtual roundtable was made possible through the valued collaboration and support of partner organizations committed to advancing youth inclusion, governance, and access to justice within food systems.

CEFRESA acknowledges the contributions of the following organizations, whose support enabled the planning, coordination, and delivery of the dialogue:



Their partnership reflects a shared commitment to creating inclusive spaces for dialogue, accountability, and youth-led solutions across Kenya's coastal region.

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