

AN AGROECOLOGICAL TURN? ASSESSMENT OF KENYA'S POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

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Introduction

Kenya does not have a policy on Agroecology.

Existing policies and legislations are fragmented across different sectors

There is little synergy; majority focus on attaining rapid economic growth

Materials and methods

Information available on the government portal

Information available in public Libraries

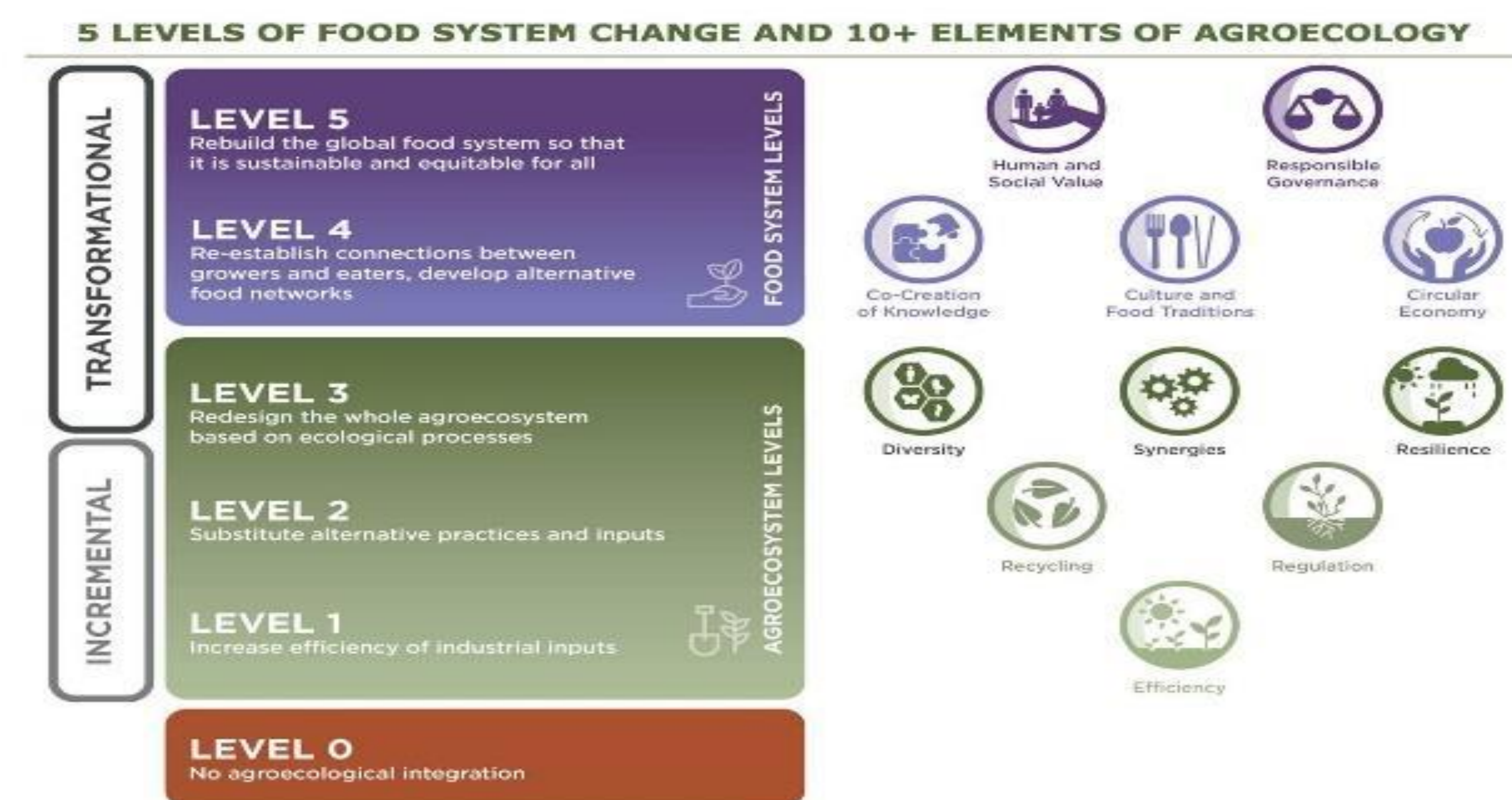
Review of existing Laws and policies

Information from non-governmental agencies

Information from educational institutions

Results

- Strong belief in and push for conventional largescale industrial agriculture as the surest way to increase productivity and achieve rapid economic growth
- Biodiversity conservation policies focus only on protected areas instead of agricultural landscapes
- A sectoral approach to policy development still dominates with little horizontal integration.
- Fragmented institutional and coordination mechanisms.
- Poor implementation of existing policies.
- The role and potential of counties to mainstream and implement agrobiodiversity and agroecology is yet to be fully appreciated or exploited.



Source: Liepert et al.2020

Literature cited

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HLPE, 2019. Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition. A report by the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security. Rome.

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IPES-Food 2020. COVID-19 and the crisis in food systems: Symptoms, causes, and potential solutions. Communiqué by IPES-Food, April 2020.

Leippert, F., Darmaun, M., Bernoux, M. and Mpheshea, M. 2020. The potential of agroecology to build climate-resilient livelihoods and food systems. Rome. FAO and Biovision. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb0438en>

Conclusions

The agroecological turn is thus yet to fully take root in Kenya, but elements of such a turn are evident..

The concepts of agroecology and agrobiodiversity have not deeply permeated the policymaking system.

While there is often a tendency to develop new policies for every emerging issue, focus should instead shift to developing clear and practical implementation strategies and well thought out programmes and projects

Sectoral policies and strategies should dedicate significant efforts to supporting and promoting agrobiodiversity and agroecology

There is need to harmonise the existing policies and mainstream agrobiodiversity and agroecology across all policies and institutions

Support and build counties' capacity to design and implement agrobiodiversity and agroecology policies,