

TMG Research gGmbH (TMG) is a research organization specialized in food systems, land governance, and nature-based solutions. It is headquartered in Berlin, Germany with a permanent team in Nairobi. We work with various Kenyan stakeholders and partners, including local, national and international NGOs, government agencies and ministries, and international development cooperation agencies.

By conducting action research and facilitating constructive dialogues, TMG helps to:

- >> Transform food systems
- >> Support responsible land governance
- >> Build inclusive urban food systems
- >> Address food production challenges related to climate change

Towards inclusive and climate resilient food systems



Kenya's commitment

The Government of Kenya is committed to promoting inclusive growth and sustainable development by transforming the country's food systems and promoting more responsible land governance. This commitment is laid out in the [Kenya Vision 2030](#) development plan and the [Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy](#).

TMG's areas of support in Kenya

1. Governance of food system transformation

3. Responsible land governance

2. Climate-related challenges

4. Inclusive urban food systems

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1. Governance of food system transformation

- >> One of the core insights to emerge from global events on food system transformation such as the [Global Forum for Food and Agriculture \(GFFA\)](#) and the [UN Food Systems Summit \(UNFSS\)](#) is the need to create enabling environments at local and national levels to help all stakeholders build resilient and sustainable food systems. [TMG action research project aims to identify just and inclusive governance approaches to the transformation of food systems by providing dialogue platforms between the different levels.](#)
- >> TMG facilitates discussions among key national stakeholders such as the Agriculture Transformation Office (ATO), Biovision Africa Trust, KENAFF, PELUM, Route to Food Initiative, and ASNET. For example, the recent ASNET [National Agriculture Summit](#) provided a forum to discuss how to ensure [just and inclusive governance of FST](#).
- >> At local level, Shibuye Community Health Workers and the Kakamega County Farmers Association, a member of KENAFF, launched [Governor's Day with Farmers \(GDF\)](#) with the support of TMG in 2022. The GDF gives farmers an opportunity to engage directly with political leaders, voicing their concerns and ideas. The second GDF was held in 2023, involving over 2,000 farmers, agribusiness actors, the County Governor, and high-level county officials. The GDF has already influenced county development plans and boosted farmers' representation in agri-food discussions.

Partners in Kenya: Shibuye Community Health Workers (CHW), Kenya National Farmers Federation (KENAFF), Kakamega County Farmers Association (KACOFA), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), and many more.

Scope: National/Nairobi, Kakamega County

2. Climate-related challenges

- >> TMG partners with the [Climate Prediction and Applications Centre \(ICPAC\)](#) of the [Intergovernmental Authority on Development's \(IGAD\)](#) on Early Warning/Early Action Systems (EWS) to make food systems more resilient to shocks induced by climate change. This collaboration specifically addresses the threat of [crop pests and diseases](#) exemplified by the desert locust crisis in [the Horn of Africa from 2019–2021](#), which jeopardized food security and resulted in the large-scale use of toxic pesticides.
- >> We use [state-of-the-art technology and data analytics](#) to forecast potential threats to agricultural livelihoods. By providing early warnings for policymakers and farmers, this project helps them address these threats and adjust to evolving climatic scenarios. This approach – prioritizing early action over reactive crisis management – enhances the sustainability and resilience of food systems in Kenya and all IGAD member states.

Partners in Kenya: IPAC

Scope: IGAD member states (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda)

3. Responsible land governance

- >> TMG works to remove barriers that prevent smallholder farmers from exercising their land usage rights, for example through the [community-led land lease guidelines](#) in Kakamega County. Areas where the guidelines were implemented have seen an increase in food production and soil restoration, and a decrease in land conflicts. In 2023 the guidelines were extended to four more counties – Bungoma, Kisumu, Siaya and Vihiga – under the GIZ AgriJobs 4 Youth project.
- >> Women are particularly affected by land tenure insecurity. TMG and its partners are piloting an innovative digital tool, Haki Ardhi, in Kakamega and Taita Taveta counties. Haki Ardhi connects women farmers to organisations that offer a range of supports, from immediate crisis response to dispute resolution.
- >> TMG works to ensure that global policy discussions on land and environmental governance align with national and local realities. For example, we have analysed the impact of Kenya's forest protection and conservation policies on the access and usage rights of forest-adjacent communities. Our analyses have yielded recommendations on strengthening Kenya's forest management framework and have informed land rights discussions at the global level, specifically at the UNCCD Conference of Parties.

Partners in Kenya: Kenyan Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB), GIZ Kenya, Kenya Land Alliance (KLA), Shibuye Community Health Workers, Kijabe Environment Volunteers (KENVO), Taita Taveta Human Rights Watch, Rainforest Foundation UK.

Scope: National, LREB counties, Kakamega County, Taita Taveta County, Narok County

4. Inclusive urban food systems

- Access to adequate, safe and nutritious food is a human right protected by Kenyan and international law. However, communities in informal urban settlements suffer from high-levels of food insecurity. TMG is working with the County Government of Nairobi to increase food security in Mukuru, one of Nairobi's largest informal settlements by
- >> Expanding the scope of the Government's school meal programme to include non-formal schools in informal settlements.
 - >> Testing the social and economic viability of controlled environment agriculture (hydroponics) in urban areas to supplement food supply in schools and counter the disruption of food production due to climate change.
 - >> Strengthening the voice of informal food vendors who play a vital role in the urban food supply chain and helping to reform laws and policies that hamper the informal economy.

Partners in Kenya: Muungano Akiba Mashinani Trust, Miramar International Foundation and civil society in Mukuru.

Scope: Communities of Nairobi's Mukuru informal settlements, County of Nairobi