



A STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT REPORT ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN ON JUST ENERGY TRANSITION AND AGROECOLOGY



13th March 2026 | Roomita Hotel, Kampala Uganda

**STRENGTHENING MARGINALIZED WOMEN
TO ADVOCATE FOR AGRO ECOLOGY AND
JUST ENERGY TRANSITION AT NATIONAL
LEVEL**



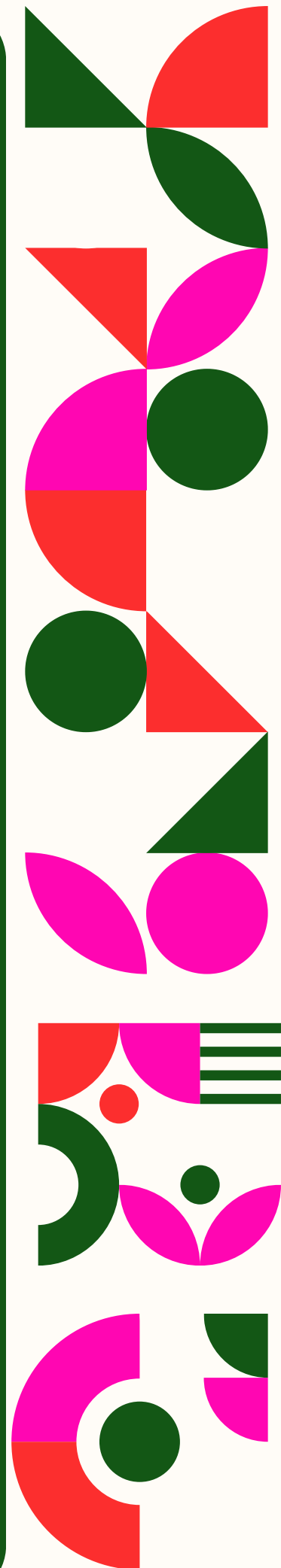
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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND






The stakeholders' engagement on the role of women in Just energy transition and agroecology was held on 13th March 2026 at Roomita Hotel, Kira. The meeting brought together women leaders, policymakers, feminists, grassroots women, climate activists, youth representatives, and researchers to explore how women can shape and amplify their role in agroecology and Just energy transition amidst the exploitation of oil and gas. Across Africa, particularly in Uganda, women are central to food systems, natural resource management, and household energy use. They are primary food producers, custodians of indigenous agricultural knowledge, and managers of household energy for cooking and heating. Despite these significant contributions, women especially those from rural and marginalized communities remain underrepresented in decision-making processes related to energy transition, agroecology, and climate policy.

“Women are primary food producers, custodians of indigenous agricultural knowledge, and managers of household energy for cooking and heating”

The engagement also provided a platform for grassroots women to share their lived experiences, particularly highlighting how the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project has affected their livelihoods and contributed to food insecurity in their communities. In addition, a researcher presented findings from a Women for Green Economy Movement (WoGEM) research report examining the impacts of EACOP on agroecology in Hoima, shedding light on the broader environmental and socioeconomic implications for women farmers.

This engagement therefore provided an important platform for dialogue, knowledge sharing, and collaboration among key stakeholders, with the ultimate goal of promoting inclusive energy transitions and resilient, women-led agroecological practices. The discussions and outcomes presented in this report highlight the key findings, challenges, and recommendations from the meeting.

Objectives of the Engagement

-  Strengthen advocacy and leadership skills of marginalized women on agro ecology and just energy transition
-  Build a shared feminist agenda linking food systems, energy, climate justice and care work
-  Enable women's collective engagement with national policy processes and decision makers.

PARTICIPANTS AND METHODOLOGY



The engagement convened 20 participants drawn from diverse backgrounds, including climate activists, policymakers, feminists, and grassroots women. This diverse representation ensured a range of perspectives, experiences, and expertise, fostering a rich and inclusive dialogue on Agroecology, justenergy transition, and community empowerment.

The participants introduced themselves, sharing their names and the organizations they are affiliated with, as well as expressing their expectations for the engagement. Most participants mentioned that by the end of the session they hoped to gain knowledge and skills that would enable them to advocate for their rights, particularly for grassroots women. For example, **Peninah**, a grassroots woman, shared that her expectation was to learn how to advocate for other women who are not able to speak for themselves, saying, "**Ninyenda kwegu kugambirira abandi abakazi**," meaning she wanted to learn how to speak up for other women. Another participant expressed interest in understanding what agroecology means and how it can support their livelihoods. This process set a positive tone for the discussion, allowing participants to get to know one another and interact freely.

The Methodology emphasized active participation, inclusivity, and knowledge exchange, ensuring that all voices, particularly those of grassroots women and youth, were heard and valued throughout the engagement.

The engagement used an interactive and participatory approach to effectively involve youth and stakeholders. The main methods employed included panel discussions, breakout sessions, and plenary sessions. Panel discussions featured experts sharing insights, experiences, and best practices on topics such as Agroecology, just transition, climate action, and community empowerment, while also allowing participants to ask questions and engage directly with panelists.

Breakout sessions provided small group settings for in-depth dialogue, knowledge sharing, and practical problem-solving, where participants explored issues affecting women in oil-affected communities, youth engagement in climate action, and strategies for sustainable agriculture. Plenary sessions then brought all participants together to share findings from the breakout groups, consolidate recommendations, and highlight key takeaways, ensuring collective reflection and actionable outcomes.

WELCOMING REMARKS



WORD STATEMENT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WOGEM UGANDA

**THROUGH AGROECOLOGY TRAININGS, FARMER-TO-FARMER EXCHANGES,
AND COMMUNITY DIALOGUES, WOMEN ARE RECLAIMING CONTROL OVER
FOOD SYSTEMS, PRESERVING INDIGENOUS SEEDS, STRENGTHENING SOIL
HEALTH, AND BUILDING SOLIDARITY NETWORKS**

The Executive Director, Ireen Twongirwe warmly welcomed all participants, thanking them for accepting the invitation to this important dialogue. She officially opened the session and elaborated on its purpose, highlighting the critical role of agroecology and the concept of a just transition, emphasizing their significance for community resilience and sustainable development.

Ireen explained that WoGEM Uganda is a community-based organization dedicated to empowering young women and girls. She shared that the organization has been working closely with grassroots communities, particularly in Hoima, to understand the challenges women face, including gender-based violence. She noted that WoGEM had carried out the disproportionate gendered impacts of EACOP across project affected communities in Uganda. A researcher gave key findings, particularly on agroecology and Just Energy Transition and she later shared with the participants.

Ireen highlighted the experiences of women in oil-affected areas such as Hoima, impacted by EACOP and related compensation measures. She explained that the seeds provided were often not drought-resistant, some crops for cooking were difficult to process, and instances of land grabbing occurred. Despite spending most of their time tending gardens, these women faced growing food insecurity. She warned that if gender justice, unpaid care work, and grassroots realities are not centered, policies risk reinforcing existing inequalities. For example, in 2023, affected communities received poor-quality banana plantlets and bean seedlings as compensation, which worsened food insecurity and deepened vulnerability among already marginalized families.

Ireen emphasized that through agroecology trainings, farmer-to-farmer exchanges, and community dialogues, women are reclaiming control over food systems, preserving indigenous seeds, strengthening soil health, and building solidarity networks.

RESEARCH REPORT PRESENTATION



Doreen Kemigisha began her session by engaging the community members on what crops and seedlings they are currently planting. She highlighted key research findings on Just Transition and Agriculture, focusing particularly on agro ecology. She noted a “chemical paradox” affecting local agriculture poor-quality seedlings and pesticides combined with relocation promises by EACOP that were poorly executed. Doreen explained that although the broader research report addresses multiple areas, the discussion here would focus on agroecology.

For residents of displaced communities particularly women, the elderly, and youth compensation for land affected by the EACOP project was delayed, in many cases, until 2022 or early 2023, representing a gap of 3 to 8 years. This delay caused households to lose revenue from cash crops such as bananas and coffee, significantly threatening their livelihoods. Women were especially affected, as they were often denied access to agricultural land, which is central to their economic survival.

Doreen shared findings on the impact of EACOP on women in Kyakagoba, Kyakatamba, and Kijjumba Villages along the pipeline corridor in Hoima District. She highlighted that researchers faced threats during data collection, with some community members warning of arrest.

KEY FINDINGS

Inadequate and delayed compensation: Land and crops were assessed and valued between 2013 and 2019, but compensation only began in 2022, significantly below replacement costs. Community members reported that EACOP developers would sometimes destroy crops during assessments, and some even resorted to stealing mangoes from neighbors.

Poor quality of seedlings: Women reported that seedlings supplied by EACOP often failed to germinate or dried up. Crops like bananas, maize, beans, Irish potatoes, and cassava performed poorly in the new relocation sites.

Relocation challenges: Communities relocated to Kijjumba expected fertile land to continue agricultural production. Instead, they found poor soil, (sandy soils) and fewer growing seasons, reducing yields drastically. An elderly community leader in Kijjumba noted: From Kyaplioni, we had three growing seasons in a year. Here, there is only one. If we lose a rainy season, we lose the whole harvest

RESEARCH FEEDBACK



Madam Peninah, a community member, expressed her disappointment, noting that although many promises had been made, very little had been fulfilled for example, a school that was promised had not been built, even as they were displaced from their land.



Comfort from Hoima pointed out a factual correction, clarifying that the correct relocation site was Kyakatemba, not Kyapuloni as mentioned in the presentation and she later appreciated the report and the work done by WoGEMUganda.



Mugisha Imam emphasized that compensation is often given to men, even though women perform most of the agricultural work and bear the burden of sustaining their households. This feedback underscores the need to address unmet promises, factual accuracy, and gender disparities in the compensation process, ensuring that the experiences of both women and men are adequately captured in the research.



PANEL DISCUSSION



The panel discussion was moderated by **Hannah Arinaitwe**. She introduced the theme: “**Agroecology as a pathway for climate resilience, food sovereignty, and women’s economic empowerment.**” She invited panelists to the stage, including Ireen Twongirwe, Executive Director of WoGEM Uganda, Mr. Anthony from CAN and the Climate Youth Council, Mr. Robert from Environment Parliament, and Miss Diana. To orient the audience and community women. Hannah started with a general question: *what is agroecology?*



Mr. Robert explained that it involves integrating climate-smart initiatives and organic farming to protect the environment. He emphasized the importance of traditional practices such as mulching and sustainable agriculture, noting that government programs like PDM support smallholder farmers in adopting agroecology. Highlighting agriculture as the backbone of Uganda’s economy, he cautioned against the use of synthetic fertilizers, which degrade the land and reduce productivity, and encouraged the use of organic farming. He also called on citizens to hold the government accountable, noting the introduction of GMOs without community awareness and the need for strategic mobilization, climate finance, and informed activism.



Ms. Diana framed agro ecology as a movement that centers food systems and indigenous knowledge. She warned against over-reliance on foreign practices and encouraged teaching communities to build on their existing knowledge. Diana highlighted the importance of involving grassroots women, who bear the greatest climate risks, and underscored the power of social media to amplify their voices. She also called for increased funding for agro ecology practices, emphasizing the need to safeguard food systems and reduce insecurity.



Mr. Anthony described agro ecology as a self-sustaining approach that uses traditional practices to conserve the environment and prevent food insecurity. He highlighted agroforestry as an example, mixing crops such as trees and coffee, and stressed the importance of planting diverse crops to improve food security. He urged the use of indigenous knowledge and grassroots engagement, noting that CAN plans to expand its work from international advocacy to grassroots initiatives to ensure communities can demand accountability.



Ms. Ireen Twongirwe focused on the role of women in agroecology, stressing that government support is essential to ensure women lead in these initiatives. She highlighted the value of indigenous knowledge, such as farmer-to-farmer seed exchanges, and cautioned against imposing seeds or practices that communities do not choose. Ireen noted that while government policies exist, they often favor modern or commercial farmers over smallholders, and she called for greater engagement with ministries like Agriculture and Water and Environment. She also raised concerns about underrepresentation of the most affected women at international conferences, emphasizing the need for policies and platforms that reflect the realities on the ground.

PLENARY SESSION



Miss Doreen highlighted that women possess traditional knowledge that promotes agroecology and therefore deserve full support. She also raised concerns about the disbursement of funds for seeds that take a long time to germinate and emphasized the need for government investment in organic farming to ensure families can be adequately fed.



Miss Martha stressed the importance of holding the government accountable, noting that many grassroots women do not understand English or formal policy language, yet they possess the knowledge and skills to preserve food and protect the environment.



Miss Comfort suggested that government initiatives should be centralized at the sub county level to effectively reach and engage women, emphasizing that planning should start by consulting grassroots women rather than imposing top-down solutions. Imam further added that fair financing aligned with policy assessment is critical and called on the government to invest more in sustainable agricultural practices to ensure long-term viability.










KEY POLICY GAPS IDENTIFIED

-  Delayed and inadequate compensation for displaced communities: Households affected by the EACOP project, especially women, experienced delays of 3–8 years in receiving compensation, with amounts often below the replacement value of land and crops. This has undermined livelihoods and created long-term economic insecurity.
 -  Gender disparities in compensation and decision-making: Women, who contribute most of the labor in agriculture and food production, are frequently excluded from receiving compensation directly. Policies fail to account for gendered differences in land use, income generation, and resource control, leaving women marginalized despite their central role in agro ecology and food systems.
 -  Poor quality and suitability of relocation land and agricultural inputs: Relocated communities often received land with poor soil quality and unfavorable growing conditions. Seedlings and agricultural inputs provided were sometimes low-quality or unsuitable, resulting in reduced productivity and food insecurity.
 -  Insufficient recognition and integration of indigenous knowledge: Current policies and interventions often prioritize modern farming techniques over traditional, climate-resilient practices. Indigenous knowledge such as seed exchanges, crop diversification, and local storage methods remains undervalued, despite its proven effectiveness in promoting sustainable agriculture.
 -  Limited government engagement at the grassroots level: Many programs are planned without meaningful consultation with the communities they aim to serve. Decisions are often top-down, failing to account for local realities, language barriers, and the practical knowledge of women and smallholder farmers.
 -  Underrepresentation of women in policy and international platforms: Women's voices, especially those most affected by climate change and displacement, are often absent from policy discussions and international conferences. Even when present, they may not represent the realities of grassroots communities.
 -  Gaps in access to climate finance and sustainable agriculture support: Although funding mechanisms exist, access to resources for agro ecology and sustainable practices is limited. Smallholder farmers, particularly women, face challenges in securing financing to implement climate-resilient strategies.
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KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

-  Hold the government accountable: Panelists encouraged participants to track how funds for agroecology and climate initiatives are being allocated and used. Transparency is essential, and the panel urged communities not to passively wait but to actively demand information, ensure policies reach smallholder farmers, and hold officials responsible for implementing commitments on the ground.
-  Capacitate communities with knowledge and skills: Training grassroots communities in indigenous farming practices, climate-smart agriculture, and sustainable food systems is crucial. Equipping women and men with practical skills and data enables informed decision-making and strengthens local resilience to climate change.
-  Sufficient recognition and integration of indigenous knowledge: Policies and interventions should prioritize traditional, climate-resilient practices.
-  Government engagement at the grassroots level: Programs should be planned with meaningful consultation with the communities they aim to serve and decisions should be down-top approach.
-  Invest in organic and diversified farming: Panelists highlighted the need to prioritize organic fertilizers over synthetic ones and encourage crop diversification. Practices like mulching, intercropping, agroforestry, and farmer-to-farmer seed exchanges enhance soil fertility, improve productivity, and reduce dependency on imported or synthetic inputs.
-  Ensure grassroots women's inclusion in decision-making: Women are often the primary custodians of indigenous knowledge and food production. Policies and programs should actively involve them in planning, implementation, and monitoring of agroecology initiatives, rather than imposing top-down approaches that may not suit local contexts.
-  Leverage strategic mobilization and social media advocacy: Panelist encouraged communities and activists to use social media and local networks to amplify indigenous voices, share success stories, and build public support for agroecology. Data-driven advocacy, storytelling, and visible grassroots engagement strengthen the push for systemic change.
-  Access to funding is essential to implement agroecology at scale. Governments, donors, and organizations should invest in sustainable agricultural practices that support food security, climate resilience, and women's empowerment, ensuring resources reach the most affected communities.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Participants were divided in 2 groups and engaged in group discussions focusing on practical recommendations for seed preservation, government support, and the impact of the EACOP project



Group One Focused on seed preservation and government support for farmers. They recommended practical methods for preserving seeds, including storing them in granaries, keeping seeds in sacks with ash, mixing seeds with chili, soaking seeds in sugar and water, and leaving some seedlings with their seed coats intact. Regarding government action, the group suggested reviving farmer cooperatives, educating communities on how to use government support funds effectively, ensuring seeds are delivered in season and of good quality, empowering women to own land, and actively involving women in decision-making processes.



Group Two discussed the impact of the EACOP project on communities. They noted that the project had caused environmental degradation through tree cutting, destruction of crops, land grabbing, and increased food insecurity. In terms of government action, the group recommended full acquisition of land in cases of displacement, fair distribution of resources, and timely and adequate compensation to affected communities.

These discussions highlighted the importance of combining practical agricultural practices, community empowerment, and government accountability to ensure sustainable farming, food security, and equitable treatment of displaced populations

WELL-BEING SESSION



WOMEN FOR GREEN ECONOMY MOVEMENT UGANDA

JOY IS RESISTANCE
WELLBEING IS POWER



Centering Joy , Wellbeing & selfcare for
Feminists , Activists and EWHRDs
Championing Climate and
Gender Justice

Protect the defenders.
Nurture the Movement.
Sustain the fight for climate and gender justice

Rest is not luxury. It is part of the struggle.
Our joy , healing and solidarity are powerful acts of resilience

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A wellbeing session was held, focusing on storytelling and grounding exercises, and was moderated by Ireen Twongirwe. During the session, feminists shared personal stories of resilience and highlighted challenges women face in leadership and climate spaces. Ireen shared her experience at the Africa Climate Summit, noting that panels were dominated by men and discussions on clean energy often excluded women, who are frequently relegated to informal spaces such as the kitchen. Participants also reflected on the burden of unpaid care work at home, emphasizing the importance of sharing domestic responsibilities with partners, especially after long workdays.



Women were encouraged to speak openly about injustices, gender-based violence, and the barriers they face in their communities. Comfort, a community participant, noted that participating in WoGEM spaces has increased her confidence and self-esteem, allowing her to speak more freely in public a skill she had previously struggled with. The session concluded with grounding exercises, meditation, and a symbolic release of negativity, leaving participants feeling refreshed, empowered, and energized.



Based on the research findings, panel discussions, plenary contributions, and wellbeing sessions, the following are the general recommendations;



Empower grassroots women in agroecology: Support women with resources, training, and decision-making power, recognizing their indigenous knowledge and central role in food production and environmental stewardship.



Promote sustainable and organic farming: Encourage the use of organic fertilizers, crop diversification, agroforestry, and climate-smart practices to enhance productivity, food security, and environmental protection.



Strengthen government accountability and policy implementation: Ensure that compensation, climate finance, and agricultural programs reach the intended beneficiaries, particularly women and smallholder farmers, and that policies are informed by local realities.



Enhance community capacity and advocacy skills: Build knowledge on sustainable agriculture, climate-smart initiatives, data-driven activism, and social media advocacy to amplify voices and demand systemic change.



Addressing gender disparities: Ensure women are included in all stages of policy design, program implementation, and international platforms, recognizing their disproportionate exposure to climate risks and contributions to agriculture.



Increase funding and access to resources: Facilitate climate finance, seeds, equipment, and training for sustainable practices, ensuring accessibility at the grassroots and subcounty levels.

CONCLUSION

The discussions highlighted the important role of women and grassroots communities in promoting agro ecology, food security, and climate resilience. Key challenges identified included delayed compensation, gender inequalities, poor relocation support, and limited government engagement at the local level. The sessions emphasized the need to listen to communities, use indigenous knowledge, and support sustainable farming practices. Women's inclusion, capacity building, and access to resources were identified as essential for meaningful change. Overall, the event showed that achieving agro ecology and empowering women requires collaboration, accountability, and practical support for those most affected by the extraction of oil and gas.





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