



Annual Report 2009

## Climate change: community responses and global debates



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## Last year marked yet another important year in PELUM's history.

We spent much of 2009 focused on understanding, learning and participating in climate change issues and global processes, including the conference that took place in Copenhagen, Denmark in December.

PELUM has long recognised climate change as one of the major factors that affect small-scale farmers' livelihoods and in 2009 we made a big effort to spread the stories of affected farmers. For example, we used the conference in Copenhagen to enrich the debates with real issues, sharing farmer issues, needs and adaptation mechanisms in the meetings. And through the support of DanChurchAid (DCA) in Zambia, we documented farmers' stories on coping with climate change.

I would like to welcome new members of staff who joined the Regional Desk (RD) this year: Secretary General Mary Jo Kakinda, the Gender, HIV and AIDS Officer Lea Acallar (who came through our partnership with Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO)) and Campaign, Advocacy and Lobbying (CAL) Officer Agnes Yawe.

I would like to thank our major funding partners Bread for the World, Misereor and Oxfam Novib for their continued support.

PELUM embarked on implementing a new strategic plan this year. The theme of the strategic plan – covering 2009-2011 – is enhancing, consolidating and sustaining PELUM's role and capacity in promoting food and livelihood security in eastern, central and southern Africa.

We pledge to continue contributing to improved livelihoods of small-scale farmers in the region.



John Bideri, Chairperson  
PELUM Association Regional Board



Participants at the senior staff-board meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, preparing group presentations.

## 2009: A focus on the issue of climate change

### A changing climate means an unchanging commitment to ecological land use management

Climate change is damaging and destroying our farmers' crops. Rising temperatures and more extreme weather is resulting in pest outbreaks, degraded soils and lower crop yields. Climate change is making our farmers hungrier, sicker and less financially secure.

So they're fighting back:

- Planting trees to reduce erosion and control run-off
- Moving to fields less vulnerable to flood and erosion
- Finding better crop varieties or new crops entirely
- Creating good drainage systems
- Using more sustainable methods to control pests and weeds
- Supplementing their farming income

And PELUM is helping them with all these actions, through education, training, awareness-raising and lobbying.

In 2009, at the regional and country levels, PELUM worked to help people better understand our changing climate and what they can do about it.

In order to ensure effective participation of PELUM at all levels in climate change negotiations and adaptation, a training workshop was organised for staff in June. Topics included the science of climate change, adaptation and mitigation efforts, local initiatives and the processes around the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

### Global engagements helped to raise the profile of farmers' needs

With the support of Bread for the World, PELUM took part in the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in Nairobi in May. We were able to contribute tactical and scientific information into the African position paper.

Later in the year, PELUM participated in two global meetings thanks to the support of Oxfam Novib: a Barcelona meeting in November and the Copenhagen conference in December. The main focus of these global meetings was on adaptation mechanisms appropriate to Africa and the availability of adequate funding; land use issues and general agriculture in the negotiations; and a broader view on forests beyond rainforests towards inclusion of woodlands typical in the SADC countries.

At the Barcelona conference, PELUM participated as a member of the Zambian delegation team. This enabled the two PELUM representatives (CAL Officer and a smallholder farmer representative) to attend all possible negotiation meetings without restrictions. Given the complex nature of such global meetings, this status enabled understanding of the dynamics of the global negotiations, the rules of the game and the key power centres. The accreditation status and the information obtained from the closed meetings were beneficial for civil society organisations (CSO) engagements.

In Copenhagen, PELUM staff and members from Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Zambia and Kenya participated in the global climate negotiations in partnership with other CSOs particularly Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and African Biodiversity Network (ABN). Under the leadership of PACJA, African CSOs collectively undertook different actions including media events, demonstrations and lobby meetings with delegates. PELUM participated as a panel member in one of the media events; and took leadership in following-up and reporting on adaptation to CSOs under PACJA. The CSO collective action was effective in bringing the CSO 'African voice' into the negotiations as well as

informing and updating the rest of Africa on the process. The RD team focused on identifying forums where it could shape negotiations in favour of African small-scale farmers. For instance, PELUM experiences were shared in the Farmers Group, a global platform for those interested in advancing agriculture. In this forum, we shared evidence, developed strategies and lobbied for the inclusion of agriculture in the negotiations.

### **National activities and engagements highlighted solutions**

Often with the support of RD, PELUM country desks put great effort into climate change work in 2009. Some highlights:

- PELUM Zambia ran a big campaign to help people understand what climate change is and how farmers can adapt to it. A video was made, showing impacts on farmers and adaptation practices, which was aired on television and has been used as a training tool. The group organised a two-hour phone-in radio programme which revealed that communities were yearning for solutions on how to deal with the changes. In addition, PELUM Zambia took a leading role in creating a CSO position paper on climate change for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, participated in a climate equity workshop in Johannesburg and presented a paper at a RAEIN-AFRICA climate change meeting in South Africa
- PELUM Malawi developed a policy brief on Climate Change which it is using in advocacy and lobbying
- PELUM Uganda helped its member organisations better understand how they could support farmers vulnerable to climate change, at a workshop it organised for 15 member organisations. PELUM Uganda also improved its understanding of the issues, through a multi-month investigation of the existing mitigation and adaptation practices being carried out in the different ecological zones of Uganda while relating them to sustainable land management and food security. The investigation highlighted the indigenous knowledge technologies that are used in the adaptation strategies and analysed the role of key players
- PELUM Zimbabwe began to revise the PELUM College syllabus to take greater account of climate change



A still from the PELUM Zambia video *Coping with Climate Change*.

## Other major PELUM interventions in 2009

**We work to empower and build the capacity of small-scale farmers by facilitating learning, networking and advocacy in ecological land use management. In 2009, therefore, much work was done in these areas, as the following highlights show.**

### **Facilitating learning: Shared ESAFF lessons**

PELUM documented the success stories Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) country chapters in Lesotho, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Since its inception in 2002, ESAFF has grown significantly, setting up country offices and a regional office in Tanzania. The documentation exercise highlighted the positive impact the PELUM country desks have had in building the capacity of farmers to influence policy and lessons learnt in setting up smallholder farmer organisations. In addition, the secretary general held discussions with ESAFF headquarters in Tanzania and agreed on how PELUM will relate with ESAFF.

### **Facilitating learning: Helped to mainstream gender and HIV/AIDS issues**



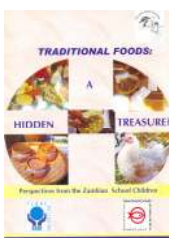
A gender mainstreaming workshop in Zimbabwe.

PELUM RD developed a three-year plan to implement a gender, HIV and AIDS programme. As part of that programme, the RD supported gender mainstreaming efforts in Kenya and Zimbabwe through training workshops and technical and financial support. The workshops were attended by PELUM member organisations and country desk staff. In Kenya, participants created an action plan for mainstreaming gender. In Zimbabwe, through the sharing of experiences, participants came to learn why gender mainstreaming is essential in their organisations. Following the training, PELUM Zimbabwe developed gender and HIV/AIDS policies. Success stories in gender mainstreaming were also documented in Lesotho and Uganda.

### **Facilitating learning: Enabled members to share experiences on sustainable agriculture**

Through facilitation from PELUM RD, Rural Community in Development, a PELUM Uganda member, shared its experiences in promoting sustainable agriculture. The story can be accessed on the PELUM website. Its story was one of several documented for the website this year.

### **Facilitating learning: Helped Zambian children share their views on traditional foods**



PELUM published a children's book that contains stories about traditional foods. The stories were collected from Zambia. The book, which was printed with support from DCA in Zambia, is a culmination of drawings, essays and poems that were collected during the school competitions conducted by PELUM in 2007 under a campaign to promote traditional foods.

### **Facilitating networking: Strengthened the network**

During the year, PELUM was represented at several critical workshops and meetings besides the global climate change ones already mentioned:

- The Regional Agricultural and Environmental Initiatives Network-Africa (RAEIN-Africa)
- The International Water Management Institute
- Agriculture Consultative Forum in Zambia
- Institute for Democracy in Africa
- Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité

In addition, PELUM continued its involvement with several networks and organisations:

- The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
- The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa, a network of eight regional networks
- WWF, to help it develop international programmes in sustainable land use and raising resources for their implementation
- A Japanese university, from which PELUM received a volunteer to work with several communities in Zambia

### **Facilitating networking: Promoted farmer-researcher interaction**

PELUM participated in an international conference on reducing poverty through innovation. It was an important opportunity to interact with scientists and hear their views on genetic engineering and food security and gain good insight from farmers who attended and stressed the need for science to meet their needs.

### **Facilitating advocacy: Supported the marketing of small-scale farmers' products**

PELUM helped to develop organic standards for Zambia. In addition, PELUM facilitated training in using the 'participatory market chain approach', a workshop attended by 24 participants from several countries. Follow-up activities have commenced and will be continued in 2010.



Participants at the participatory market chain approach training doing a 'rapid market assessment'.

## Financial review

### Successful fundraising strengthened the organisation

PELUM was able to get extra project funding for additional activities in 2009. The climate change awareness campaign in Zambia was funded by the DCA while the attendance of PELUM at the Barcelona and Copenhagen conferences was funded by Oxfam Novib.

Additionally, the gender, HIV and AIDS officer position was filled after a gap of two years. This funding enhanced the effective implementation of activities under gender, HIV and AIDS. The officer managed to provide support on gender, HIV and AIDS to members in Kenya and Uganda.

### Core funders were a great help

We would like to thank our major donors of 2009, whose core funding support helped us to improve the livelihood of small-scale farmers:

- Bread for the World
- Misereor
- Oxfam Novib

### Income and expenditure 2009

**Income:** ZMK2.027 billion, with ZMK1.736 billion from donors and ZMK290 million from membership fees and self-generated income.

**Expenditure (on an accruals basis):** ZMK2.088 billion, which was spent to deliver on the objectives in our strategic plan of promoting of 'pelum' practices; partnering with farmer organisations; building institutional capacity; learning, monitoring and evaluating; strengthening regionalism; and mainstreaming gender.



The secretary general and an Oxfam Novib representative visited YARD, a member organisation in Kenya.