



## End Term Report

# East Africa Drylands Expert Group



## Executive Summary

Funded by the Swedish International Agricultural Network Initiative (SIANI) and coordinated by Vi Agroforestry, the East Africa Drylands Agroforestry Expert Group convened **14 experts** across **Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania** to strengthen evidence-informed practice and policy for agroforestry in dryland landscapes. Over the project period, the group combined in-person convenings and online engagement to (i) exchange experiences and develop shared drylands-specific messages, (ii) influence policy and practice through a regional policy brief and targeted decision-maker engagement, and (iii) increase practitioner knowledge on adoption using accessible communication formats, including community radio and a short documentary. Key achievements include an inception process delivered during the **9th Tanzania Annual Agroforestry Symposium (14–16 Nov 2024, Musoma)**, a regional policy brief produced and launched on **3 July 2025** with **~100 stakeholders**, an expert webinar with **70+ registered participants**, **two national newspaper op-eds** (8 March and 28 June 2025), an approved **UNFSS+4 side event** (Addis Ababa, 28–29 July 2025), community radio outreach reaching **5,000+ listeners**, and a **~7-minute documentary film**. As part of the project's knowledge dissemination and outreach efforts, the Expert Group deployed a multi-channel communication approach combining policy messaging, mass media, digital platforms and community-level formats. Outputs included two national newspaper op-eds, three organisational web articles, a short documentary film, community radio programming, a regional policy brief launch webinar, and three internal workplace presentations. This mix of products enabled the project to reach decision-makers, practitioners, researchers and dryland communities across Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, strengthening both visibility and practical uptake of dryland-specific agroforestry evidence.

This report summarises delivery of the SIANI – East Africa Drylands Expert Group workplan, organised under Outcome 1 (enhanced understanding among policymakers and practitioners) and Outcome 2 (increased knowledge on adoption). It highlights key processes, tangible results (quantitative and qualitative), lessons learned, and challenges encountered during implementation across major convenings i.e., two of the Agroforestry Annual Symposium events and associated communications and policy engagement activities.

## Background and project overview

The East Africa Drylands Agroforestry Expert Group is funded by the Swedish International Agricultural Network Initiative (SIANI) and led by Vi Agroforestry. The group brought together **14 committed experts** from civil society, ministries, academia, practitioners and youth organisations across **Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania**, working collaboratively to exchange knowledge with farmers, pastoral and agro-pastoral communities and to engage policymakers in advancing sustainable land management and resilient food systems in dryland landscapes.

**Implementation approach:** Activities were delivered by 'piggybacking' on high-value regional convenings (Vi Agroforestry's Annual Agroforestry Symposium in Tanzania in 2024 & 2025), complemented by online dialogues/webinars, targeted policy engagement, and strong communications (articles, web texts, radio, and a documentary film). The work combined scientific evidence with practice-based and community knowledge, with a deliberate focus on inclusion of women, youth and marginalised dryland communities.

**Adaptive Management / Deviations and Mitigation Measures:** The project applied adaptive management to ensure continued delivery against objectives while responding to operational constraints and stakeholder demand for deeper engagement. Key adjustments included cancelling activities that could not be implemented as planned (e.g., CFS53 travel) and shifting selected convenings to online delivery, generating savings that were reallocated to strengthen post-policy brief launch dialogue, visibility, and regional stakeholder engagement.

- **CFS53 participation (Rome) – cancelled (SEK 25,000 originally budgeted):** Travel was cancelled after the expert could not obtain the required official invitation letter within the available timeframe (despite prior confirmation/QR code). **Mitigation:** the unused allocation was reallocated to post-launch policy dialogue and outreach activities.
- **Public seminar and policy brief launch – moved online:** Planned convenings were delivered virtually, reducing delivery costs while maintaining dissemination of key messages.
- **Cancellation of in-person Open Learning Week:** The in-person learning event was not held, which was planned to include releasing the full allocation for this line. This meant that other associated activities were **no longer required hence:** Budget lines for a decision-maker engagement space and for community radio production/broadcast were identified as no longer needed under the adapted approach.
- **Decision-maker engagement space and community radio during the open learning week – discontinued:** These activities were assessed as no longer required under the updated engagement approach, freeing the associated budget.
- **Reallocation to enhance uptake of outputs:** Savings were prioritized for an expanded post-policy brief launch dialogue package, including a live prime-time studio panel, live streaming via major media houses in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania, coordinated social media engagement during the forum, and three days of promotional airing on NTV.
- **Budget implication:** Total savings identified for reallocation amount to **SEK 81,500**, in addition to a previously approved reallocation.
- Reallocation of 8,000SEK set for Event area (tent) with table, electricity and screen to show video (during the symposium) to cater for additional audit financial requirement.
- **Shift to fully online seminars:** Planned public seminar (agroforestry in drylands) and the policy brief launch seminar were delivered online, generating cost savings.
- **Use of reallocated funds to increase policy engagement and visibility:** Resources were prioritized for a post-launch dialogue package, including a live studio panel discussion (prime time), live streaming through major media houses in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania, coordinated social media engagement during the forum, and promotional airing on NTV for three days in advance.

Outcome 1: Enhanced understanding among policymakers and practitioners

*Output 1.1: Exchange experiences and build a holistic understanding*

*Activity 1.1.1: Inception workshop at Symposium*

**Process:** The group convened an inception workshop during Vi Agroforestry’s Annual Symposium -2024 in Tanzania to align on scope (dryland agroforestry and resilient food systems), agree on shared definitions and priority themes (including gender and youth considerations), validate the workplan, and map key audiences (policy and practice). A facilitation approach combining plenary inputs, moderated discussion, and prioritisation exercises was used to capture experiences from different countries and organisations.

- **Quantitative outputs:** 1 inception workshop delivered at the **9th Tanzania Annual Agroforestry Symposium (14–16 November 2024, Musoma, Tanzania)**. The in-person inception meeting was held with **6 expert members** (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda) and supported

by **2 Vi Agroforestry communications staff** and **2 journalists** from Zanzibar Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC Television). A subsequent online inception meeting engaged **13 of 14 experts**.

- **Qualitative outcomes:** Participants reported clearer alignment on what “drylands” and “dryland agroforestry” mean in East African contexts, and a shared understanding of barriers/enablers for adoption (water access, tenure security, extension systems, market incentives, and locally appropriate species selection).
- **Immediate follow-up:** A consolidated set of ideas was agreed for use in subsequent presentations, web texts, and policy engagement (policy brief, seminars, and platform inputs). The topical included but not limited to the role of women in agroforestry and water management in the drylands; Culture practices that enhance AF /conserve environment/Nutrition/education-including stewards of nature e.g., Karamojong community; Ecosystems approach in policy; Integrating Agroforestry into the NDC’s; Agroforestry as a Tool for Soil Fertility Restoration in East Africa’s Drylands; Economic Viability of Agroforestry Systems for Smallholder Farmers in Dryland Regions; Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods through Agroforestry in East African Drylands

#### *Activity 1.1.2: Presentations at workplaces*

**Process:** Some group members disseminated insights from the symposium and the emerging policy/practice messages through internal seminars, and programme meetings within their respective organisations. Presentations were adapted to organisational mandates (implementation, research, advocacy) and tailored to ongoing projects in dryland landscapes.

- **Quantitative outputs:** 3 workplace presentations delivered by Experts from International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and Paran Women Group, and University of Nairobi (UoN) where at UoN approximately 200 participants including students, early career researchers and practitioners interested in rangelands and drylands agriculture were engaged. There was peer-peer knowledge exchange on species suitability and practical implementation challenges in drylands farming systems. A direct output on this engagement is the recommendation by the participants for the development of a technical guide on suitable agroforestry species and practices for different drylands zones.

**Estimated reach:** approximately **230–260 staff, students and associates**, including **~200 participants** at the University of Nairobi and additional internal audiences at ILRI and Paran Women Group.

- **Qualitative outcomes:** Increased internal buy-in for integrating dryland-appropriate agroforestry options into project design (species choice, water harvesting, assisted natural regeneration, and farmer-led experimentation). Some organisations reported stronger cross-team linkages between technical staff and communications/policy teams.
- **Evidence of uptake:** Examples of follow-on actions included: requests for technical notes; inclusion of dryland agroforestry as an agenda item in planning meetings; and identification of partners for learning and filming.

#### *Activity 1.1.3: Web texts*

**Process:**

Short, web-ready articles were developed to translate the policy brief and expert insights into accessible narratives for wider public and practitioner audiences. Drafting was coordinated by Vi Agroforestry Communications in collaboration with expert group members. Content was technically reviewed, simplified for non-specialist readers, and adapted for hosting on partner institutional websites.

- **Quantitative outputs:**

- **Three** web articles produced
- **Two** articles published during the reporting period (Paran Women Group; Technical University of Kenya)
- **One** article pending publication by the University of Nairobi, scheduled for inclusion in the university's 2026 policy booklet
- Combined online reach could not be consolidated due to varying analytics access across platforms

**The web text is found under these links:**

1. [Empowering Women, Restoring Land: Agroforestry as a Climate Solution in East Africa](#)
  2. [TU-K Don Among Experts behind Agroforestry Policy Brief - The Technical University of Kenya](#)
  3. UoN- a draft has been made awaiting review by the university for sharing in their almanac.
- **Qualitative outcomes:** The web texts supported wider diffusion of dryland-specific agroforestry messages beyond project convenings. By foregrounding gender, climate resilience and practical policy entry points, the articles reinforced the policy brief's recommendations and strengthened public accessibility to Expert Group evidence.

Output 1.2: Advance policies, principles and practices

*Activity 1.2.1: Engage decision-makers at Symposium*

**Process:** The group intentionally engaged decision-makers during the symposium through targeted invitations, curated sessions, and bilateral conversations. Discussion focused on policy and institutional bottlenecks affecting adoption in drylands (tenure, incentives, climate finance access, extension staffing, and cross-sector coordination between forestry, agriculture, livestock, and water).

- **Quantitative outputs:** Policy engagement was undertaken during the November 2024 symposium through participation in a **Knowledge Co-Creation Hub**, engaging multi-stakeholder participants (policy makers, farmers, researchers, local government and CSOs). Named decision-makers engaged included the **Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism** (Guest of Honour), the **Director for Forestry** (Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism), the **Regional Secretary for Mara Region**, and **three District Commissioners** (Mara Region). Additional national/local policy actors on the panel included representatives from the **Ministry of Agriculture (Tanzania)**, the **Food Systems Focal Person, NEEC, Local Government Authorities**, and CSP Foundation.
- **Qualitative outcomes:** Improved appreciation among decision-makers of the distinct constraints/opportunities in drylands compared to higher-rainfall zones (particularly establishment risk, water competition, and mobility of pastoral/agro-pastoral livelihoods). Decision-makers also signalled interest in clearer guidance on “what works where” and investment-ready practices.

*Activity 1.2.2: Write policy brief*

**Process:** A policy brief was drafted through an evidence-to-action process: synthesising workshop inputs, relevant literature and practice-based evidence; agreeing on core recommendations; peer-reviewing within the expert group; and preparing versions for different audiences (including translation into Kiswahili and layout).

- **Quantitative outputs:** 1 policy brief produced and finalised: **“Scaling Agroforestry as a Climate Resilience and Food Security Solution in Drylands of Kenya, Uganda, and**

**Tanzania.”** The drafting process mobilised expert contributions across countries, with lead authorship by **Recha, J., Nyika, J., Kimaro, A., Mwanja, C., Mwaimu, O., Butali, C., Bakengesa, S., Nderitu, M., Githendu, E., Maeri, D., Miseda, H.** The remaining experts and advisory group served as the reference/review team.

- **Qualitative outcomes:** The brief consolidates scientific evidence and practitioner experience demonstrating that agroforestry improves **climate adaptation, sustainable agricultural productivity, soil and water conservation, biodiversity protection, and livelihood diversification**, while also contributing to conflict reduction and gender-inclusive development. Policy analysis across the three countries identified persistent **implementation gaps**, including fragmented policy integration, limited dryland specific strategies, weak extension systems, insufficient financing, and insecure land tenure—particularly for women and marginalised groups. In response, the brief outlines **five priority policy actions:** strengthening policy and institutional coherence; increasing dedicated financing and incentives for agroforestry; investing in capacity building, extension, and monitoring systems; securing land tenure and governance; and fostering inclusive, multistakeholder partnerships at national and regional levels. The policy brief provides decisionmakers and donors with a **clear investment case and practical roadmap** for translating climate and food system commitments into tangible dryland impact. It supports evidence-based policy dialogue and regional coordination to scale agroforestry solutions across East Africa’s drylands.

#### *Activity 1.2.3: Launch policy brief*

**Process:** The policy brief was launched through an online public seminar designed to bridge gaps between decision-makers and practitioners. The session included a short presentation of key recommendations, practitioner responses, and an open Q&A aimed at surfacing implementation considerations and partnership opportunities.

- **Quantitative outputs:** 1 virtual policy brief launch held on **3 July 2025** (9:00–12:00 EAT) via **Microsoft Teams**, organised by Vi Agroforestry and the Expert Group. The event attracted a broad mix of policymakers, researchers, CSOs, development partners and community representatives; the end-term reporting notes **100 key stakeholders** (approximate participation) participated. Interactive participation tools (e.g., Mentimeter and a SIANI survey) were used to capture reflections and feedback.
- **Qualitative outcomes:** Stakeholders validated the relevance of the recommendations and identified practical next steps, including strengthening extension linkages, aligning with county/district planning cycles, and packaging dryland agroforestry as an investable climate adaptation option.

#### *Activity 1.2.4: Finalisation and end-of-project synthesis*

##### **Process:**

Towards project close, communications outputs, policy products and engagement evidence were systematically compiled and reviewed. A closing evaluation meeting was used to validate lessons learned, review visibility outcomes, and agree on forward-looking recommendations. Communication materials were curated to ensure consistency of messaging across platforms.

##### **Quantitative outputs:**

- 1 online end-of-project evaluation meeting conducted
- 9+ communication and knowledge products compiled and archived (policy brief, documentary film, op-eds, webinar recordings, web texts, radio recordings and social media assets)

##### **Qualitative outcomes:**

The synthesis clarified the Expert Group’s added value in bridging policy, practice and public

communication. It confirmed the effectiveness of combining policy tools with mass media and community-level formats to amplify drylands-specific evidence and strengthen uptake among diverse stakeholder groups.

The end-term evaluation of the SIANI East Africa Drylands Agroforestry Expert Group confirms that the initiative was highly effective, delivering strong results across policy engagement, media outreach, and knowledge exchange. The project successfully achieved its core objective of elevating dryland challenges and advancing sustainable land management, supported by very high levels of member satisfaction with leadership, strategic direction, and overall management. Policy influence was a key strength, particularly through well-received policy briefs, effective media engagement, and the strategic use of Kiswahili to enhance accessibility and reach. Major convenings, including the Musoma symposium, were rated as impactful, with practical field-based activities and networking consistently identified as high-value components. Overall, the evaluation demonstrates a solid foundation for sustainability, with strong consensus among members on the need for follow-up funding and formalisation of the Expert Group as a permanent regional network.

### Output 1.3: Push for recognition of dryland agroforestry

#### *Activity 1.3.1: Article or op-ed*




**Process:** The group prepared a public-facing articles/op-ed to frame why dryland agroforestry deserves increased attention in policy, investment, and programming. Drafting emphasised clear messaging, credible evidence, and locally relevant examples.

- **Quantitative outputs:** Two public-facing opinion pieces were produced and published. (1) An International Women’s Day op-ed, **“Women’s Grassroots Leadership – A catalyst for sustainable agriculture and economic development in East Africa”**, published in *People Daily* and *Daily Nation* on **8 March 2025**, and cross-posted on SIANI and Vi Agroforestry websites. (2) A second op-ed on dryland agroforestry and the new policy brief, published in print media in Kenya (*Saturday Nation*, **28 June 2025**).
- **Qualitative outcomes:** The piece helped position dryland agroforestry as both a resilience strategy and a livelihood investment (food/fodder/wood products), countering perceptions that agroforestry is only feasible in high-rainfall areas.

**Table A: Press & Mainstream Media Coverage (Print, TV, Radio)**

Platform	Media House	Country / Reach	Coverage Type	Link / Evidence
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<b>Print</b>	People Daily	Kenya (National)	Policy brief & symposium features	
<b>Print</b>	Daily Nation	Kenya (National)	Op-ed – International Women’s Day	<a href="https://nation.africa">https://nation.africa</a>
<b>Print</b>	The Standard	Kenya (National)	Photo feature – UNFSS+4	
<b>TV</b>	NTV Kenya (Online)	Kenya	Live post-policy dialogue	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-UYX7dXytU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-UYX7dXytU</a>
<b>Radio</b>	Tetemo FM 103.7	Tanzania (Musoma)	1-hour live expert show	

Print	People Daily	Kenya	Profile of expert	
Print	People Daily	Kenya	Profile and story on expert	
Print	People Daily	Kenya	Article on launch of expert group	
Print	Nation Newspaper	Kenya	Article on Agroforestry	


Print	Nation Newspaper	NATION NEWSPAPER Mar 8 25 OP-ED on Women's Grassroots Leadership Published	OP-ED on Women's Grassroots Leadership Published	
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Fig 5. East Africa Drylands Agroforestry Expert Group members during the Live Post Policy Brief Dialogue in Musoma, Tanzania.

*Activity 1.3.2: Public seminar (International Women's Day focus)*

**Process:** An online public seminar spotlighted dryland agroforestry from gender and youth perspectives, featuring women practitioners/experts and focusing on constraints (land rights, access to water and inputs, labour burdens, extension bias) and enabling actions (inclusive advisory services, youth enterprise support, and safeguarding benefits).

- **Quantitative outputs:** 1 online public webinar held: **“Enhancing climate resilience and food security in drylands: scaling agroforestry for sustainable livelihoods in Kenya, Uganda,**

**Tanzania.”** The webinar attracted **70+ registered participants**, with participation spanning government, research institutes, CSOs, universities and international stakeholders (including participants from Chad, Somalia, Burkina Faso and Benin).

- **Qualitative outcomes:** The seminar strengthened recognition that adoption hinges on intra-household decision-making and equitable access to resources. Participants highlighted practical design features: targeting women’s groups, labour-saving water harvesting, and linking tree products to local markets.

*Activity 1.3.3: Apply for UNFSS+4 side event*

**Process:** The group prepared an application for a UNFSS+4 side event to elevate dryland agroforestry in food systems discussions, aligning messaging with food security, climate resilience, and restoration commitments. Preparations included concept development, partner coordination, and speaker identification.

- **Quantitative outputs:** The UNFSS+4 side-event proposal, - **“Grounding Food Systems Transformation in Soil Health: Evidence and Cross-Sectoral Action”**- was submitted in **May 2025** and **approved** (communication received end of June). The side event took place on **28 July 2025** (13:00–14:15) during the UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktake. It was organised with partners including **National Planning Authority of Uganda** (lead), **Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH)**, **CIFOR-ICRAF**, **EIT Food**, **IUCN**, **SIANI**, **Vi Agroforestry**, **Alliance Biodiversity International** and **CIAT**, **YPARD**, **Conscious Planet – Save Soil**, **WBCSD**, and **FAO**.
- **Qualitative outcomes:** The session reinforced soil health as a foundation for sustainable and resilient food systems and emphasised four pillars for action: **evidence-informed strategies**, **cross-sector partnerships**, **inclusive investment pathways**, and **policy coherence**. It highlighted the need for consistent monitoring frameworks (e.g., LDSF and regenerative agriculture metrics), long-term funding for scaling and monitoring, and structured roles for youth in decision-making and implementation, alongside inclusive financing targeting land managers and youth-led projects.

*Activity 1.3.4: Engagement with FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS)*

**Process:** The group explored opportunities to connect dryland agroforestry evidence and recommendations to CFS processes (side events, consultations, and knowledge-sharing channels), with emphasis on family farming and climate-resilient food systems. Unfortunately, this was not delivered as Travel was cancelled after the expert could not obtain the required official invitation letter within the available timeframe (despite prior confirmation/QR code).

*Activity 1.3.5: Participation in an international event*

**Process:** Selected experts sought to participate in the 6th World Agroforestry Congress in Rwanda to share the group’s emerging messages and products, and to build networks with complementary initiatives working on drylands, restoration, and climate adaptation.

- **Quantitative outputs:** 1 international event represented: the **6th World Agroforestry Congress (WCA 2025)**, held **20–24 October 2025** in **Kigali, Rwanda**. A group expert (Sarah Kezia Nambalirwa) delivered **1 research presentation** titled **“Climate-Resilient Agroforestry Systems for Drylands: Comparative Insights from Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania.”** Participation included engagement in parallel technical sessions, side events, exhibitions and poster sessions, and a field visit to **Bugesera** to observe dry-lands agroforestry and soil conservation demonstrations (including a CIFOR-ICRAF site and the Rwanda Institute of Conservation Agriculture).
- **Qualitative outcomes:** WCA 2025 provided a high-level platform for knowledge exchange and networking with farmers, researchers, policymakers, private sector and civil society actors around the congress theme **“Agroforestry for People, Planet & Profit.”** The expert reported

strengthened visibility for East African dryland priorities and gained insights across nine congress sub-themes (including agroforestry in a changing climate, finance and policy frameworks, and silvopastoral systems). Learning from Rwanda’s field demonstrations (Bugesera) helped validate practical approaches relevant to dryland contexts, while networking conversations generated new ideas and partnership leads to inform future research, advocacy and scaling of climate-smart agroforestry in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

*Activity 1.3.6: Input to platforms*

Process: Expert Group outputs and messages were shared through selected regional and global knowledge and policy platforms aligned with food systems, agroforestry and drylands agendas. These included dissemination of the regional policy brief, promotion of the virtual policy brief launch, sharing of expert reflections and op-eds, and linking of project outputs (film, radio discussion and webinar recordings). Content was curated to ensure alignment with the policy brief’s recommendations, while framing and messaging were adapted to suit platform specific audiences, including policymakers, researchers, practitioners and civil society actors.

The symposium based Knowledge Cocreation Hub and several recognised regional and international platforms were used. These examples have now been named explicitly.

**Quantitative outputs:**

- Contributions shared through **SIANI platforms**, expert organisational channels and associated knowledge networks
- Web articles, policy brief links and event announcements circulated through these platforms
- Analytics were platform-dependent and not consistently available

**Qualitative outcomes:**

Platform engagement extended the project’s reach beyond direct participants and reinforced the credibility of dryland agroforestry messages through alignment with recognised **regional and international knowledge hubs**. These included the **Agroforestry Knowledge Cocreation Hub** convened during the Tanzania Annual Agroforestry Symposium, SIANI’s expert group platforms, media hosted dialogue forums linked to the post policy brief engagement, and global policy spaces such as the **UN Food Systems Summit +4** side event. Together, these platforms strengthened linkages between research, practice and policy audiences.

**Table B: Digital / Web Publications & Expert-Led Platforms**

<b>Platform</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Country / Scope</b>	<b>Content Type</b>	<b>Link</b>
Website	Vi Agroforestry	Regional	Project articles & blogs	<a href="https://www.viagroforestry.org/projects/dry-land-expert-group/">https://www.viagroforestry.org/projects/dry-land-expert-group/</a>
Website	SIANI	Global	Expert group op-eds	<a href="https://www.siani.se/news-story/5-ways-to-accelerate-gender-equality-in-farming/">https://www.siani.se/news-story/5-ways-to-accelerate-gender-equality-in-farming/</a>

Website	Paran Women Group	Kenya	Policy article	<a href="https://paranwomen.org/2025/09/24/empowering-women-restoring-land-agroforestry-as-a-climate-solution-in-east-africa/">https://paranwomen.org/2025/09/24/empowering-women-restoring-land-agroforestry-as-a-climate-solution-in-east-africa/</a>
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Website	Technical University of Kenya	Kenya	Expert commentary	<a href="https://tukenya.ac.ke">https://tukenya.ac.ke</a>
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#### *Activity 1.3.7: Visibility in experts' channels*

- **Process:** Experts amplified project outputs through their professional networks, institutional mailing lists, newsletters, social media pages and thematic working groups. Materials shared included the policy brief, documentary film, webinar invitations and media coverage.

#### **Quantitative outputs:**

#### **Quantitative outputs: .**

Content and invitations were disseminated through at least seven expert led institutional, media and knowledge platforms across Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. These included:

- SIANI expert group and network platforms
- Vi Agroforestry organisational channels
- National Television platforms (NTV Kenya, NTV Uganda, Mwananchi TV – online/live streamed content)
- Print and digital media platforms linked to Nation Media Group (published op-eds and follow-up engagement)
- Symposium based knowledge hubs, including the Agroforestry Knowledge Cocreation Hub
- UN Food Systems Summit +4 side event platform
- Partner institutional channels (universities, CSOs and practitioner networks)

#### **Qualitative outcomes:**

Use of expert-led channels enabled the project to reach audiences not directly connected to Vi Agroforestry convenings, strengthening peer-to-peer diffusion and positioning the Expert Group as a credible regional voice on dryland agroforestry.

#### Outcome 2: Increased knowledge on adoption of dryland agroforestry

##### *Activity 2.1.1: Engage practitioners at Symposium*

**Process:** Practitioner engagement at the 10th National Agroforestry symposium in Tanzania focused on peer learning and policy engagement. Methods included experience sharing (through the Vi Agroforestry's Agroforestry Training Centre in Musoma- where demonstrations of different agroforestry technologies were showcased), case examples, and facilitated reflection on adoption constraints.

**Quantitative outputs:** 1 knowledge hub with three sessions 3 policy and practitioner-focused session; over 6,000 practitioners engaged; 4 case studies/shared/ captured.

The symposium attracted **6,000+ participants**, with the event’s disaggregated attendance records indicating **6,873 total participants**. Of these, **5,592** were **farmers and community members** (including farmers, youth and children), while **450** were **practitioners/technical actors** (extension services, college students and researchers). The symposium also engaged **private sector and entrepreneurship actors (831)**, strengthening market and value chain linkages. Policy engagement was substantial — including national and regional government leadership — however, the symposium report records policymakers primarily by institutional participation rather than individual headcounts.

**Qualitative outcomes:**

- Strengthened **shared understanding** among policy actors and practitioners on priority thematic issues, with sessions enabling participants to align evidence, field experiences, and policy perspectives across contexts.
- Enhanced capacity of practitioners to apply knowledge from the sessions in policy engagement and programme design, particularly through exposure to real-life case studies and peer exchange.
- Improved linkages between policy and practice, as the sessions created a dedicated space for dialogue, reflection, and mutual learning between researchers, implementers, farmers, agropastoral and decision-makers.

Publicly accessible examples include the SIANI expert group webpage and partner institutional websites hosting policy related content; event based platforms (e.g. symposium hubs and UNFSS+4 side events) were accessed through official registration and convening mechanisms.

*Activity 2.1.2: Engage practitioners at Agroforestry Open Learning Week-*

The activity was cancelled and funds reallocation was requested to support with the post policy brief launch dialogues and visibility enhancement.

*Activity 2.1.3: Filming at Symposium*

**Process:** Interviews with expert group members and selected practitioners were filmed during the symposium to document key messages on what drives adoption in drylands. A question guide ensured consistent coverage of technical and enabling factors (policy and natural resource management/protection, incentives, gender and youth inclusion).

**Quantitative outputs:** 12+ interviews conducted across **two countries**, resulting in a **~7-minute documentary film**, and over a dozen short videos, as well as recordings of online and in person engagements. The outputs are outlined in the table below. It is important to note that 10 short videos are in the process of being developed and will be completed shortly.

TITLE	FORMAT & PLATFORM	LINK TO CONTENT
<b>Resilient Drylands: East Africa’s</b>	Video format on YouTube (Vi	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ii6l5j_pF_c">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ii6l5j_pF_c</a>

<b>Journey to Sustainability</b>	Agroforestry's YouTube platform)	
<b>East Africa Dryland Agroforestry Expert Group by SIANI and VI Agroforestry</b>	Video format on YouTube (NTV Kenya's YouTube platform)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-UYX7dXytU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-UYX7dXytU</a>
<b>10th Annual Agroforestry Symposium   Full Highlights &amp; Expert Insights</b>	Video format on YouTube (Vi Agroforestry's YouTube platform)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNIBFRDqQr56rtLJULE9sJJPUSNHYSdhB">https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNIBFRDqQr56rtLJULE9sJJPUSNHYSdhB</a>
<b>#LIVE: East African Dryland Agroforestry Expert Group by SIANI and Vi Agroforestry</b>	Video format on YouTube (Mwananchi Digital's YouTube platform)	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/live/btIx-cOpOkM?si=z6Kg4gHs9SfN49bC">https://www.youtube.com/live/btIx-cOpOkM?si=z6Kg4gHs9SfN49bC</a>
<b>Dryland agroforestry in East Africa - A Post Policy Brief Dialogue</b>	Video format on YouTube (Vi Agroforestry's YouTube platform)	<a href="https://youtu.be/1pAdjmUqems?si=zvbHBMdI01FIIdYnQ">https://youtu.be/1pAdjmUqems?si=zvbHBMdI01FIIdYnQ</a>
<b>Drylands Agroforestry: Solutions for a Resilient Future</b>	Video format on YouTube (Vi Agroforestry's YouTube platform)	<a href="https://youtu.be/ii6I5j_pF_c?si=uHm6WQqBX7cCe0et">https://youtu.be/ii6I5j_pF_c?si=uHm6WQqBX7cCe0et</a>

<b>STORY ZETU   Dr. Monica Nderitu: How climate action &amp; agroecology can transform our future</b>	Video format on YouTube (K24TV's YouTube platform)	<a href="#">STORY ZETU   Dr. Monica Nderitu: How climate action &amp; agroecology can transform our future</a>

This table below highlights the coverage by media and press in various platforms across the region:

**Qualitative outcomes:** Filming helped distil consistent, practitioner-relevant messages and created a reusable communication asset that can reach audiences beyond physical events.

*Activity 2.1.4: Finalise film*

**Process:** Additional filming was undertaken to address content gaps identified during initial editing. The communications team conducted follow-up field recordings with experts, farmers, agro-pastoralists, community representatives and policymakers in Narok County in Kenya. The film was edited into a concise, narrative-driven documentary suitable for online dissemination, policy events and community screenings. Technical review ensured accuracy, while branding and subtitles enhanced accessibility and usability across settings.

- **Quantitative outputs:** 1 documentary film finalised (approximately **7 minutes**), capturing narratives from farmers, pastoralists, youth advocates, researchers and policymakers on dryland transformation through agroforestry.
- **Qualitative outcomes:** Stakeholders noted that short video stories made adoption constraints and solutions easier to understand than text-only products, especially for non-technical audiences.

*Activity 2.1.5: Communication materials*

- **Process:** Supporting communication materials were developed to reinforce key messages from the policy brief and documentary film. These included social media graphics, short summaries, expert quotes and event highlights, designed for easy sharing by partners.

**Quantitative outputs:**

- **10+** communication assets produced
- Materials disseminated through Vi Agroforestry, SIANI and partner channels
- Engagement metrics varied by platform and were not consolidated centrally

**Table C: Social Media Coverage (Vi Agroforestry & Partners)**

<b>Platform</b>	<b>Account</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Link</b>
<b>Facebook</b>	Vi Agroforestry	Regional	Live dialogue clips	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/share/v/19tHPiXeFp/">https://www.facebook.com/share/v/19tHPiXeFp/</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	NTV Kenya Online	Kenya	Live broadcast	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/100053076714173/videos/2839404766265984">https://www.facebook.com/100053076714173/videos/2839404766265984</a>
<b>YouTube</b>	Vi Agroforestry	Regional	Documentary film	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ii6I5j_pF_c">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ii6I5j_pF_c</a>
<b>YouTube</b>	Mwananchi Digital	Tanzania	Post-political dialogue	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/live/btIx-cOpOkM">https://www.youtube.com/live/btIx-cOpOkM</a>

**Qualitative outcomes:**

The materials increased message consistency and reduced the effort required for partners to share validated dryland agroforestry content, supporting wider dissemination and sustained visibility.

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<b>Platform</b>	<b>Account</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Link</b>
<b>Facebook</b>	Vi Agroforestry	Regional	Live dialogue clips	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/share/v/19tHPiXeFp/">https://www.facebook.com/share/v/19tHPiXeFp/</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	NTV Kenya Online	Kenya	Live broadcast	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/100053076714173/videos/2839404766265984">https://www.facebook.com/100053076714173/videos/2839404766265984</a>
<b>YouTube</b>	Vi Agroforestry	Regional	Documentary film	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ii6I5j_pF_c">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ii6I5j_pF_c</a>
<b>YouTube</b>	Mwananchi Digital	Tanzania	Post-political dialogue	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/live/btIx-cOpOkM">https://www.youtube.com/live/btIx-cOpOkM</a>

### Activity 2.1.6: Community radio

**Process:** Community radio was used to reach wider practitioner and farmer audiences, including those with limited internet access. Recording was undertaken during Symposium periods where field voices could be captured. Broadcast planning considered language, airtime, and opportunities for call-ins or follow-up discussions.

- **Quantitative outputs:** A strategic community radio engagement was delivered via a **one-hour live show on Tetemo FM Radio 103.7** (Musoma), reaching **5,000+ listeners**, with real-time listener feedback during the programme. Additional multi-platform media engagement included a **live online broadcast** across Kenya (NTV Kenya Online), Uganda (NTV Uganda) and Tanzania (Mwananchi TV), and one of the broadcasts recorded **570 live views** on a channel with **3.01 million subscribers**.
- **Qualitative outcomes:** Radio created an accessible channel to share practical advice and to normalise dryland agroforestry as a feasible option. Feedback indicated that farmer voices increased credibility and relevance.

### Communication, visibility and advocacy results (summary)

- **Policy brief launched:** Regional policy brief launched online on 3 July 2025 with **~100 stakeholders**, positioning dryland agroforestry as a nature-based solution for climate resilience and food security and calling for inclusive investment and cross-border policy coherence.
- **Policy brief launched:** Regional policy brief launched online on 3 July 2025 with ~100 stakeholders, positioning dryland agroforestry as a nature-based solution for climate resilience and food security and calling for inclusive investment and cross border policy coherence. **A Kiswahili version of the policy brief was produced and disseminated to enhance accessibility for practitioners, local government actors and community level stakeholders, supporting wider understanding and practical uptake beyond English-speaking policy audiences.**
- **Knowledge exchange webinar:** 70+ registered participants joined an expert dialogue on scaling agroforestry in drylands (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania), including government, research, CSOs, universities and international participants.
- **Mainstream media and web visibility:** Two op-eds published (8 March 2025; 28 June 2025) and additional mainstream media coverage around the policy brief and expert messages; selected experts also published web texts through their organisations' platforms.
- **Community outreach:** Community radio engagement included a one-hour live show on Tetemo FM (Musoma) reaching 5,000+ listeners, plus cross-border online broadcast engagements.
- **Documentary film:** A ~7-minute documentary produced to humanise evidence and amplify voices from dryland communities and decision-makers as well as 10 short videos highlighting various issues addressed by the expert group such as youth involvement, gender-based approach, conflict resource management and so on.

### Cross-cutting lessons learned

- **Bridge policy and practice deliberately:** Mixed-audience sessions (decision-makers + practitioners) were most effective when anchored in concrete examples and followed by clear “asks” and implementation pathways.
- **Drylands need distinct recommendations:** Messages that acknowledged establishment risk, water constraints, and livestock interactions resonated more than generic agroforestry narratives.
- **Adoption is a system issue:** Uptake depends as much on enabling conditions (tenure, extension capacity, finance/incentives, markets) as on technical options.

- **Gender and youth lenses improve quality:** Bringing women and youth perspectives early strengthened relevance, highlighted hidden constraints, and led to more inclusive policy recommendations.
- **Multiple formats increase reach:** Combining a policy brief (decision-makers), film (broad audiences), and radio (rural outreach) improved accessibility across connectivity contexts.

#### Governance, coordination and MEL (monitoring, evaluation and learning)

The Expert Group operated as a voluntary, multi-country coalition coordinated by Vi Agroforestry. Participation risks were recognised early—most notably potential drop-off due to competing institutional priorities. Over the project period, participation remained largely consistent; however, **one expert dropped off and a replacement expert was onboarded**. To maintain delivery, the coordinators used clear task delegation (e.g., lead authors and reference reviewers for the policy brief), agreed timelines with specific deliverables, and routine check-ins. Progress against MEL indicators showed strong advances in (i) stakeholder engagement (symposium convening and webinars), (ii) knowledge generation and exchange (policy brief, film, media outputs), and (iii) policy influence signals (high-level participation and endorsement at the policy brief launch; sustained engagement of ministries and local government representatives). Implementation was further strengthened by structured support from the SIANI Coordinating Team, including training on the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA), guidance on impact story/case development, and monthly updates/check-ins to track progress and provide timely direction. Continued interest among experts in the subject matter supported sustained engagement throughout the project period.

#### Safeguarding (anti-corruption and SEAH)

To safeguard against corruption and Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH), the Expert Group integrated clear ethical standards and accountability measures from the outset. Members were oriented on a code of conduct aligned with Vi Agroforestry and SIANI standards, emphasising zero tolerance for corruption and SEAH. The project lead participated in a SIANI training on a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) and shared relevant practices with the team. To support transparency and manage expectations, the detailed budget and timelines were shared and discussed with experts, alongside continued financial tracking and peer accountability. During the reporting period, **no allegations** of corruption or SEAH were reported; the group remained proactive by promoting awareness of reporting channels and protection protocols.

#### Challenges encountered and mitigation

- **Limited availability of communication analytics:** Not all media, digital and community level communication channels systematically captured analytics such as reach, views, downloads or listenership, particularly for radio broadcasts, live TV dialogues and partner hosted web platforms.
- **Mitigation:** The team applied a pragmatic communication tracking approach, using attendance figures, platform provided view counts where available, qualitative audience feedback, and documented media placements. Where exact analytics were not accessible, conservative estimates were transparently labelled and triangulated with narrative evidence of engagement.
- **Competing schedules and coordination across organisations/countries:** Aligning calendars for drafting and reviews took time. **Mitigation:** early scheduling, clear editorial ownership, and light-touch review cycles with deadlines.
- **Balancing technical depth with accessibility:** Some materials risked being too technical for broad audiences. **Mitigation:** layered messaging (short key points + optional technical annex/links) and use of stories/visual media.

- **Engaging decision-makers consistently:** having all the policy makers from all the three countries when we need them all was a challenge. **Mitigation:** targeted briefings, leveraging existing convenings, and documenting clear policy asks that can be handed over.
- **Dryland field realities (distance, cost,):** Field engagement can be resource-intensive due to the vastness of these areas. **Mitigation:** piggybacking on Symposium and using radio/film to extend reach beyond in-person events.

#### Sustainability and recommended next steps

The project created a strong foundation for continued regional collaboration on dryland agroforestry through an active expert network, a credible policy brief, and a set of reusable communication assets (film, media content, webinar materials). Key recommended next steps include: (1) follow-up with relevant ministries and regional bodies to advance policy coherence and explore an East African coordination mechanism/platform on agroforestry; (2) deepen practitioner-to-practitioner learning around context-specific dryland models, including farmer-managed natural regeneration and water-smart establishment; (3) continue targeted advocacy for inclusive financing, land tenure security (especially for women and marginalised groups), and strengthened extension services; and (4) maintain systematic capture of analytics (reach, downloads, uptake) to strengthen evidence of influence and learning over time.