

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Elaboration
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المنظمة الإفريقية للفلاحين

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*PAFO Annual Report - 2019***LIST OF ACRONYMS**

AfDB	African Development Bank
AU	African Union
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
EAFF	Eastern African Farmers Federation
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FO	Farmer's Organization
FO4ACP	Farmers' Organizations for the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries
GA	General Assembly
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PAFO	Pan-African Farmers' Organization
PROPAC	Plateforme sous-Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale
RFO	Regional Farmer's Organization
ROPFA	Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs Agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest
SACAU	Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions
UMNAGRI	Union Maghrébine et Nord-Africaine des Agriculteurs

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I.FOLLOW-UP OF THE STATUTORY MEETINGS DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2019 activity report refers in a first part to the follow-up of the PAFO statutory meetings decisions and recommendations, in a second part it raises the actions undertaken in 2019, and, in a third part, the ongoing projects.

During 2019, PAFO held an extraordinary Board meeting on 21st June in Rome, an ordinary Board meeting on 21-22 July, an ordinary General Assembly (GA) on 23rd July, an extraordinary Board meeting on 23rd July, and an ordinary Board meeting on 24th July, in Kigali.

Monitoring of Board and GA decisions takes account of the following elements:

1.Registration of PAFO and opening of its bank account

The PAFO Board held in Johannesburg on 28th June 2018, noted the accumulated backlog for the PAFO registration in Ethiopia. The members then unanimously chose Kigali in Rwanda as PAFO headquarters and a mandate was given to PAFO's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to initiate the registration procedures.

The mission of the CEO in Kigali was held from 11 to 15 February 2019, and the registration of PAFO in Rwanda was a first because PAFO is the first international organization registered as a headquarter in Rwanda.

We were not able to register PAFO online, which is the required legal procedure. Following our various contacts with Rwandan Governance Board (RGB) officials, they did not understand what was blocking their system. The CEO mission in Rwanda allowed to understand the challenge: in fact, Rwandan law provided for the registration of

International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO) wishing to open a branch in Rwanda. However, it did not provide for the registration of a headquarter of an INGO.

Such a legal vacuum was resolved by the Rwandan authorities in two days. The solution was found and the registration of PAFO's headquarters was finalized as long as PAFO had all the required documents, updated, signed and authenticated. The RGB, led by Dr. Usta Kaitesi, was mobilized to honor the choice of their country as the headquarter of an international NGO. PAFO has entered the history of this country being the 1st International Organization to have established its headquarters in Rwanda.

The Board held in Rome on 19th December 2018 also mandated the PAFO CEO and the EAFF President to proceed with the opening of a bank account specific to PAFO in Kigali. The PAFO account has been operational since May 2019.

The PAFO GA held in July, endorsed the new Headquarter city and agreed the amendment of the PAFO Constitution's article 2 to mention Kigali as PAFO Headquarters. It also agreed on the PAFO Internal regulations.

2.Establishment of PAFO HQ Office

Following the finalization of the PAFO registration, and within the framework of the establishment of its headquarters in Kigali, the small grant of FO4ACP contributed to the rent payment of the PAFO office for August and September as well as the security month. The rental of the PAFO office allowed the PAFO CEO to move to Kigali in September 2019 thanks to the EAFF contribution by purchasing the CEO air ticket under part of its 2019 membership fees. PROPAC's transfer

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I.FOLLOW-UP OF THE STATUTORY MEETINGS DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

of part of its 2019 membership fees also enabled the secretariat to operate from the PAFO headquarters country.

The opening of the office in 1st October 2019 allowed an appropriate working condition. The secretariat shared with PAFO members, partners and other stakeholders its postal and phone contacts. It started acquiring some basic office equipment or renting a vehicle to facilitate the first requirements of opening an office. PAFO began recruiting the Secretariat staff. It recruited first the CEO assistants (the first was volunteering during October and November and the second began in December 2019). Then, as part of the effective and efficient upkeep of PAFO accounts and financial accountability, PAFO had recruited a part-time accountant to be handling the finance issues. PAFO was waiting for other funds to hire more staff.

However, the PAFO equity didn't allow to support all the functioning of the office and the delay in receiving the FO4ACP funds challenged this functioning. Some expenses, among which the payment of the office rent, cannot wait. As such, ROPPA supported PAFO by loaning the amount of the office rent from October to December 2019.

Also, several courtesy visits were held to promote the PAFO office opening and to introduce its programs and projects. The visits were held with the Ministry of Agriculture, FAO, the Delegation of the European Union, We-Effect, Agriterra, Civil society organizations, etc. The PAFO secretariat was also in continuous contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture regarding the Host Agreement between PAFO and the Government of Rwanda.

Otherwise, PAFO has improved its visibility by increasing the dynamicity of its Facebook page, whereby some information was updated. The PAFO followers increased from 1750 to more than 2300, however, the involvement of members remains very weak and this number of followers can't translate the importance of a continental Platform. On the other hand, an IT consultant began updating the PAFO website but was stopped till the recruitment of a communication officer.

3.Strategy for mobilizing financial resources

The PAFO GA decided that PAFO being officially installed with its own office and Bank account, the membership fees are eligible since 2019. The payment of the annual membership fees must be done before the 31st of March of the following year and all arrears of membership fees before 2019 are cancelled.

The Board members considered that there are 3 levels for fundraising. The first should secure the PAFO functioning, the second should cover the interested partners actions and the third should deal with the themes of members common interest. As such, the fundraising strategy should be aligned with the PAFO strategic plan. The negotiations for fundraising must be supported by all members networks and this should be easier with regards to the new situation of PAFO as independent and established platform.

Negotiations started in 2019 have resulted in two agreements which should be signed in early 2020.

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The first with the International Land Coalition (ILC) for an overall budget of 300.000 USD for African networks. It was confirmed by the planning workshop co-organized by PAFO and ILC 21-22 July on the side-lines of its other events. The coordination of CBI 2 is entrusted to PAFO as an umbrella organization. ILC will sign institutional agreements with the five RFOs and PAFO for a budget of 50.000 USD each.

The second with COLEACP with whom PAFO negotiated a partnership for 3 years. The objective of the COLEACP-PAFO collaboration in 2020 is to contribute to the design of PAFO's five-year strategic plan and its action plan. To this end, it aims specifically for COLEACP to strengthen PAFO's financial and technical capacities and to facilitate the process of preparing its strategic documents for a budget of 80.000€.



4. Contractual situation of the PAFO CEO

The PAFO Board decided to renew the CEO Contract for 2 additional years while a committee composed of RFOs members CEOs will improve the Terms of References and prepare the assessment indicators criteria of the PAFO CEO.

5. Renewal of the PAFO Board

The 4th General Assembly of PAFO, held on 23rd July in Kigali, confirmed the alternation at the PAFO head, with the election of the new members of the Board and the PAFO presidency change-over from UMNAGRI to EAFF.

The new elected PAFO Board is as follows:



- President: Mrs Elizabeth Nsimadala – EAFF
- Treasurer: Mr Ibrahima Coulibaly – ROPPA
- Vice-President: Mr Abdelmajid Ezzar – UMNAGRI
- Network in charge of rural women: PROPAC
- Network in charge of youth: SACAU



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II. ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN IN 2019

1. Statutory meetings of the AfDB-CSO Committee (15-16 January, 6 May, and 5-7 November, 2019 in Abidjan)

The African Development Bank's (AfDB) formal engagement with civil society led to the creation of the AfDB-civil society committee to advise and facilitate the Bank's collaboration with civil society organizations (CSO). As part of the two-year rotation of the ADB-CSO Committee, PAFO was selected in 2018 among the 11 members of the civil society with sectoral expertise in Agriculture.

The mandate of the AfDB-CSO Committee is to build stronger partnerships with African civil society by strengthening communication and awareness about the Bank's work in their respective regions.

The statutory meeting of the AfDB-CSO Committee members of 15-16 January allowed to discuss the role of the civil society in achieving the AfDB Top 5, discuss the communication and outreach strategy of the civil society, commit for the Bank's African Development Fund (ADF) -15 replenishment process, define and approve the rules of procedure and the work program of the Committee, and discuss guidelines for the preparation of AfDB Civil Society Forum 2019.

The 2nd statutory meeting allowed to recall and update the work plan and ongoing events of the AfDB civil society Division. It also provided a short presentation and discussion of the civil society mobilization strategy for the Bank's ADF-15 replenishment process.

The 3rd Statutory meeting allowed to discuss the integration of civil society in the Bank policies and programs, the contribution of CSOs in implementation of the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA),

and to evaluate the CSO-AfDB committee actions. This meeting was followed by a design-thinking workshop for Strengthening the capacities on Civil Society Engagement (CSE) in the Bank's policies and operations.



2. PAFO Delegation to the agricultural exhibitions SIMA & SIA (24-27 February 2019 in Paris)

Seizing the opportunity of having the PAFO CEO invited to take part in a round table organized at the International Agricultural Machinery Exhibition (SIMA), PAFO requested the partnership of CTA and Agricord to respond to the recommendations of the PAFO members and partners following the November 2018 workshop.

CTA responded favourably to the partnership solicitation. In fact, the SIMA and the Paris International Agricultural Exhibition (SIA), organized in concomitance, represent a good opportunity to implement some of these recommendations. By collaborating in record time, we were able to organize the visit of a small delegation to the two exhibitions. The choice of participants met two requirements: (i) the experiences supported by the partnership with CTA; and (ii) the time constraint that required participants already having valid Schengen visas.

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II. ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN IN 2019

Considering the interests of the delegation members, they were encouraged to start their advocacy, networking or commercial contacts in both exhibitions individually or by joining the institutional meetings held by PAFO whose main objective has been to develop its partnerships with exhibition organizers as well as with other attending organizations.



3. Round Table on Enhanced Agriculture (25 February in Paris)

The PAFO ceo was asked to participate in the round table " Enhanced Agriculture: a reality of today and tomorrow", held on 25 February in the framework of SIMA. This round table was articulated between the demands of the agricultural production actors (in particular the farmers) and the supply of digital tools by different technologies suppliers.

The PAFO CEO was panellist of the round table on the farmers demand. She highlighted the capacity of African family farmers to innovate through their own knowledge or openness to innovation. However, these innovations must be desired, chosen, meeting concrete needs, adapted, affordable and accessible.

4. 6th Global Conference on Family Farming (25-30 March in Bilbao)

The World Rural Forum (WRF) organized the 6th Global Conference on Family Farming entitled "A Decade to Improve the Livelihoods of Family Farmers". The event brought together representatives of Farmers' Organizations (FOs) and other CSOs, Governments, International Organizations and Research Centers. The Conference was organized in the context of the Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028, formally declared by the United Nations General Assembly (A/RES/72/239) and was intended to be a preparatory event for its launch.

The PAFO CEO has been designated to moderate the women's session "Towards a Decade action plan for rural women". This session allowed to discuss the requirements to make the pillar 2 of the global action plan of the Decade truly transversal as well as the proposals to improve this action plan through concrete measures. Following this session, the representative of women on the World Consultative Committee on Family Farming was elected in the person of Mrs. Josephine Francis Vice-President of ROPPA.



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5. Intervention at the Global Forum for Agricultural Innovation (GFIA) (1st April in Abu Dhabi)

The PAFO CEO was invited by GODAN to intervene on the occasion of GFIA 2019. The presentation entitled "Empowering rural women in Africa, a way to close the gender gap in access to data and innovations" emphasized that although women play an important role in agricultural production and processing in Africa, their access to data and innovations is very low.

Rural women are capable and able to adopt new technologies and new practices. Several experiments conducted by FOs in a multi-stakeholder partnership context have shown that such a result can be great. But funding for civil society initiatives to develop good experiences or to launch others is the most difficult.

In addition, to reduce the gap in access to technologies and innovations, women must be involved in active participation in the development of relevant policies and programs, in the implementation and evaluation of these programs. Policy makers must demonstrate concrete commitment to effectively consider the gender component as an essential element in defining policies, legislation and equal opportunities.



6. High level event against food crises (2-3 April in Brussels)

This event, which brought together leaders from all African FO networks, focused on "Food and Agriculture in times of crisis, Working better together for long-term solutions". Different panels allowed the leaders to bring their proposals to the topics discussed.

At the opening session, the PAFO CEO was invited to introduce the perspective of FOs in the face of food crises. This opening session showcasing the current and the projected situations to prevent food crises and mitigate the effects, the intervention of the CEO wanted to be a projection in the year 2030 with optimistic images of the rural areas and agriculture situation in Africa. However, these images will only be accessible if concrete actions are implemented immediately.

7. Sommet international des jeunes agriculteurs (15-17 avril à Paris)

The Summit brought together youth from all continents including Africa from which 2 young farmers represented PAFO. The 2019 Summit is the third organized by the French young farmers and has allowed youth representatives to discuss topics of common interest such as climate change, agricultural value chains, the settlement of youth in agriculture and the future of an international platform for young farmers.

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At the end of the Summit, it was decided that a rotation across the continents be carried out for the organization of the next summits. Thus, the Young Africans have proposed to host the 2021 Summit in Africa. The ROPPA President and the PAFO CEO, who were invited to the Summit, supported the proposal of young Africans which was endorsed by the PAFO Board.



8. AfDB Civil Society Forum (07-09 May in Abidjan)

In response to the increased engagement of African civil society, the AfDB annually organizes the Civil Society Forum, a platform for dialogue between AfDB and CSOs. The 2019 Forum was organized under the theme "Regional Integration for Africa's Economic Prosperity".

Regional economic integration aims to create larger and more attractive markets, link landlocked countries to international markets and support intra-African trade. The forum explored the practical and sustainable ways to achieve this. It has identified CSOs' best practices and specific roles in this process through CSO sessions.

At the end of the Forum, the social mobilization campaign in support to the ADB's strategic objectives for 2019 was launched. The PAFO CEO has been chosen among the AfDB Ambassadors for this campaign.



9. Agricord General Assembly (15-16 May in Rotterdam)

The PAFO CEO attended the Agricord GA. This participation was an opportunity to confirm the strategic partnership between PAFO and Agricord notably in the next joint project FO4ACP. It was also an opportunity to take part in a discussion around the report of the Rural Africa Task Force in the presence of Commissioner Phil Hogan.

In addition, as part of the assembly program, participants had the opportunity to spend a night in a Dutch farm. This experience allowed to know the daily life of farmers in the Netherlands.

10. Global launch of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (27-29 May in Rome)

Family farming has gained increasing attention since 2014, the year designated by the United Nations as the International Year

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II. ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN IN 2019

of Family Farming (IYFF). This was the first International Year of the United Nations proposed and promoted by CSOs. In recognition of the achievements of the Year and the subsequent IYFF+10 campaign, the United Nations General Assembly, at its 72nd Session on 20 December 2017, declared the Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 (UNDF). The final resolution declaring the Decade was presented with the support of 104 countries and was unanimously approved. To oversee the implementation of the Decade, an international steering committee has been established and is supported by a joint secretariat of FAO and IFAD. PAFO is a member and has mandated ROPPA to represent it.

In the process of preparing the Global Action Plan for the Decade, CSOs have defined their priorities and the specific goals that the Decade should address. The global launch of the Decade allowed to present this global action plan. The African FOs attending this event participated in the different panels and expressed their expectations for this Decade. They also stressed the need to promote the establishment of national action plans.

The PAFO CEO was panellist in the Africa Working Group which main objective was to provide a broad perspective on the potential of family farmers as active agents of healthy, resilient and sustainable food systems in Africa. She emphasized the importance of the work of family farmers' organizations and the rural services they provide.



11. Third Ministerial Conference African Union (AU)-European Union (EU) on Agriculture (21 June in Rome)

The African FOs representatives were invited to this Conference by the EU and took part in 4 high-level parallel thematic sessions. The PAFO CEO participated in the Panel on the Use of Digital Solutions in Agriculture. She highlighted the challenges facing smallholders in using digital innovations, and the role that FOs play in promoting digitization in agriculture. She emphasized the importance of data and the differentiation between public data that must be open, accessible and free, and private farmer data that must be protected and appropriate by farmers.

12. AGRF (03-06 September in Accra)

The PAFO President attended the 9th African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) which theme was "Grow digital: Leveraging digital transformation to drive sustainable food systems in Africa". AGRF 2019 highlighted the Agribusiness Room where private and public sector stakeholders executed commitments to develop and strengthen several value chains in the continent.



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II. ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN IN 2019

13. Capitalization Workshop on Farmer5-led successful business cases & Brussels Briefing (09-13 September in Brussels)

CTA, PAFO and its regional members have developed programmes and activities focused on leveraging economic opportunities for African FOs. Based upon the collaboration in support of selected FOs-led businesses supported by CTA and partners, the workshop aimed to review the results and lessons learned from the supported cases at national level after the support provided by CTA and PAFO members, and to identify further business cases which could be documented and benefit from support in the coming years.

20 participants from the four eligible sub-Saharan members of PAFO attended the workshop and actively contributed to enrich the discussions around capitalization experiences, selecting and analysing business cases, the communication strategy, as well as presenting the workshop results to partners.

In the margin of the Workshop, PAFO and members participants were invited to attend the Brussels Policy Briefing N.57 on "Smallholder agriculture: key to food security/nutrition and sustainable food systems" while inviting the CEOs of SACA and PAFO to moderate the two Panels of the Briefing.

As one of the Panellists, the PAFO President intervened on "Creating livelihoods for rural youth in rural economies". She presented the factors limiting youth involvement in agriculture, what should be done and the good practices at PAFO and its members levels.

14. Workshop on enforcement and compliance with sanitary standards. (28-30 October in Windhoek)

The objective of the workshop organised by AU-IBAR was to facilitate peer learning, experience and knowledge sharing to deepen understanding and raise awareness for improved enforcement and compliance with sanitary requirements of Animal commodities as a vital source of income for Rural and Coastal communities.

The importance of compliance has gained momentum with the entry into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The livestock producers in the continent will not reap the benefits of the AfCFTA unless they produce safe and quality animal commodities. Import and export products moving within the African Common Market will be required to meet sanitary specifications before market access can be granted.

PAFO was invited to make opening remarks and fully participate in the workshop deliberations. The focus of discussions was mainly around development of International Standards on Animal health, compliance with sanitary standards and standard actions. The rationale of the workshop was to provide a broad-based awareness creation and agreement on actions that should be taken. Specific action points would be taken up by RECs and National governments.



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15. 5th meeting of the AU-EU high level policy dialogue on science, technology and innovation (6-8 November in Addis-Ababa)

The PAFO President attended the meeting organised by AU and EU. The discussions concerned the progress achieved and potential collaboration in Science, Technology and Innovation; the implementation of joint research and innovations; and the priorities for a Research and Innovation map.

The AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) is a platform for regular exchanges on research and innovation policy. The meeting aimed to formulate and implement long-term priorities to strengthen Africa-Europe cooperation on STI.

The PAFO President discussed the support for the continental women strategy and youth strategy, including resource mobilization for gender related activities at regional level. Action is to further the discussions and develop a concept note on the support required which would be used to mobilize resources.



16. The Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (RESAKSS) annual conference (11-13 November in Lomé)

The 2019 RESAKSS was organized under the theme "Gender Equality in Rural Africa: From commitments to outcomes". The meeting brought together different stakeholders across the agricultural value chain.

The PAFO President was invited to chair and moderate the panel on Gendered livelihoods that focused on building inclusive market systems and strengthening gender equality in agricultural value chains, building livelihoods for rural youth giving a gendered perspective in Africa.

17. Services de communication rurale inclusifs pour l'agriculture familiale (10-12 décembre à Rome)

Inclusive Rural Communication Strategy for family farming was an interactive workshop organized to build on the recommendations of the 2014 forum on communication and community media for family farming and aimed at providing an operational framework to achieve outcome 4.4 of the UNDF action plan which calls for improved communication and increased awareness on family farmers roles and challenges.

The PAFO President attended the meeting which brought together communication experts and leaders from organizations and institutions that are actively involved in the field of communication and family farming.

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III. ONGOING PROJECTS

FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC COUNTRIES PROJECT (FO4ACP)

Following the Board meeting on 19 December 2018 in Rome, the members decided to request to IFAD a "small grant" for the inception phase to enable networks and PAFO identify, draft and validate their respective regional and continental projects.

On 11-12 April 2019, a methodological workshop was held in Kigali. It brought together technical staff and consultants from PAFO, African RFOs members, AgriCord and PIFON. The event was organized in working sessions to discuss the methodology and approach for the detailed program design in terms of indicators, harmonization of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system, planning of activities under the identified components and budget templates. The agreed methodology will serve as a basis for the development of regional design proposals, which will be reviewed and consolidated by IFAD.

The PAFO CEO has thus formulated the PAFO project document which has been submitted to the consultation of the members. The PAFO General Assembly organized on 23rd July approved the PAFO Continental design of FO4ACP.

The implementation phase was launched during a start-up workshop in Kigali organized by PAFO and IFAD on 24th July. The start-up workshop was the opportunity for delegates to disseminate knowledge on activities planned for the FO4ACP implementation related to African and Pacific FOs. The workshop targeted the coordination and synergy of FOs and Agri-agencies at the national level, which had encountered some challenges in the past.



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