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Panafrican farmers' organization  
Organisation panafricaine des agriculteurs  
المنظمة الإفريقية للفلاحين

NEWSLETTER N° 5 :

## AFRICAN FOOD SYSTEMS

<https://bit.ly/36XUIxQ>



### Message from PAFO President Ms. Elizabeth Nsimadala :

To date according to the State of Food Security and Nutrition report 2021, more than one third of the World's malnourished are found in Africa, in the year 2020 46m more people in Africa were affected by Hunger resulting from impact of the pandemic, extreme shocks and political instability.

On the other hand, many farmer's worlds over are today unable to produce because they have no control of the food system, it has been hijacked by oligopolistic players or what we can call the "big guys" - who

have been consolidating their businesses for over time and have slowly locked out farmers from the market.

As Africans, we cannot be proud today of a food system dominated by a few when we well know that more than 70% of Africans are employed in the agricultural sector. So, as we rethink of transforming the food systems, we also need to revolutionize it and make it "Farmer led". And to achieve all of this, it is imperative that farmers and organizations like Pan Africa Farmers Organization and its member Regional Farmers Organizations play a key role.

we should all keep in mind that sustainable Food systems are a shared responsibility, therefore a multi-stakeholder approach is key. We must formalize an ecosystem of partners from farm to folk so that opportunities and challenges across the food value chain be it under trade, production, policy, information or capacity related are handled by the partnership. This approach can transform the agriculture and food supply chain due to reduction in transactions costs, having a common bond and purpose of the partnership.

Aware of the challenges and issues of food systems, PAFO carried out a study on "African food systems" in order to support African farmers through the organization's respective members' networks at going into deep and analyzing the complexity of the food systems in Africa, and provide general and preliminary information for advocacy for a better African food system

# Editorial Fatma Ben Rejeb

## PAFO Executive Secretary



Adopting an inclusive approach to food systems is crucial to effectively address systemic challenges related to food, and can greatly benefit practitioners and policy makers to analyze, diagnose and help make adequate decisions in food systems.

Although remarkable progress has been made in terms of economic growth and nutrition in some regions and countries of the world, the overall food security and nutrition situation in Africa presents challenges compared to the rest of the world. Also, the study of PAFO on "African food systems", through its recommendations, is a call for new measures to fight against the scourge of hunger and against all forms of malnutrition on the continent.

Africa is a continent rich in land, fishing, natural resources and bio-cultural diversity, all of which are essential assets for the proper functioning of food systems. However, Africa remains the least food secure continent.

It must be recognized that the majority of African farmers are small farmers with less financial resources, limited access to infrastructure and disparate access to information. Therefore, becoming competitive and attractive business partners in local, national, and continental markets is a major challenge for small farmers. It is therefore necessary to promote much more adequate policies and strategies which will have to be thought out inclusively with farmers' organizations.

A sustainable African food system, or several sustainable African food systems based on regional specificities, on local diets and products, requires ensuring the sufficiency and accessibility of food products. But still, it is necessary that the food is healthy, nutritious, and balanced; that operations along the food value chain are sustainable and that surplus food produced by family farming is sold at fair prices.

To do this, it is imperative to certify land tenure that is inclusive of women and young people. It is also inevitable to mobilize more skills, resources and investments in production, storage, processing and market infrastructure. Finally, it is essential to guarantee farmers and all actors in agricultural value chains access to financial services, inputs, means of production, training, new technologies and information.

The affordability and accessibility of these means and services will in turn ensure that high quality food products are obtained in sufficient quantity and more competitive in the markets.





# African Food Systems

**For more information please click here :**

<https://bit.ly/36XUIxQ>

## A STUDY TO UNDERSTAND, ANALYSE AND INFORM

The PAFO study “African food systems” discusses the constraints that farmers face along the value chain through production, processing and distribution up to the final market. It then examines the impact of infrastructures on food systems and identifies key gaps in knowledge and information analysis and dissemination. The study also looks at the opportunities for expanding smallholder access to Africa’s rapidly growing commercial agricultural markets. Finally, this report highlights the key policy, strategies as well as public and private investments that are critical in stimulating successful food systems in Africa.

PAFO (Pan African Farmers ‘organization) is concerned with the basic needs of human life. It has ordered a study aimed at going in deep and analyzing the complexity of the food systems in Africa with the objective of updating and informing its members on the constellation of activities which involves various actors including the producers. The different actors in the sectors such as farmers, collectors, processors, transporters, etc. are not autonomous entities, that is, the more they are linked, the more effective they are. The more these stakeholders are disconnected, the more opportunities they miss and the food system becomes ephemeral.

The link between food and human life is so important that it has an impact on healthy food, the environment, economies and culture. In Africa, despite the fact that the continent has immense arable land with small plots per household, Africa still faces high rates of malnutrition and death, especially in conflicts caused by the control of resources. or political power. The goal of PAFO was to collect information on the issues and challenges affecting food systems in Africa. The study focuses on the five African regional peasant networks which are among the most committed organizations and which represent the voice of the tens of millions of peasants who, day and night, must fight against food insecurity,



# African Food Systems

## OVERVIEW OF AFRICAN FOOD SYSTEMS

... This is a complex approach of the food system. As is proposed, the study concerns mainly the actors in the supply chain who are, as mentioned in the terms of reference, the producers—collectors—processors—transporters—consumers. However, these are not individuals who stand alone but the more they are linked, the more efficient the system is. The more these players are disconnected, the more they lack opportunities, which makes the system not sustainable. All those players do not have the same power; that is why government interventions are so necessary to get a fair system where all the players enjoy benefits of being in the supply value chain. In most African countries the food supply chain is not complex especially for local products and has easily to be fairly developed with optimal advantages for all actors in the supply value chain.

The food system will also include processes and infrastructures involved in feeding the growing population, such as harvesting, processing, packaging, transporting, marketing, consumption, distribution and disposal of food and food-related items. It also includes the inputs needed and outputs generated at each of these steps. . Among the actors, farmers especially in Africa play an important role as producers and are the main focus of PAFO as described in its mandate.

## ISSUES /FINDINGS

Small-scale farmers face a big challenge when it comes to assets and financial resources. Expanding access to financial services such as credit, insurance and financial saving mechanisms can help farmers of all sizes but particularly those like smallholder farmers that are more susceptible to risk and do not have independent sources of private capital

Agricultural markets are considered to be very risky and frequently weak in Africa and farmers' potential to increase productivity and income is often inhibited by the deficiency of information about efficient agricultural production technologies and market opportunities.

Quality data and information gathering, analysis and dissemination and easily accessible market information can inform better decision making along the entire value chain, including on the farm. Concerted efforts are also needed to simplify the rules of origin, reduce NTBs, the roadblocks and checkpoints that impede cross-border trade and address red tape at the borders...



# African Food Systems

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EFFICIENT FUNCTIONING OF AFRICAN FOOD SYSTEMS

- Mobilizing resources for demand driven research in agriculture: Universities and research institutes are key partners of governments and the private sector in research in the agricultural sector.
- Encouraging innovative approaches to sustain agriculture project interventions: It is time to find an approach that involves a medium to long term solution as community agents who will take responsibility and lead the project once it is completed Alleviating food insecurity in rural areas
- Designing and implementing strategies that foster competitiveness of locally produced food
- Adoption of policies, establishment of infrastructure to increase production and facilitate logistics for local products
- Promoting inclusion of youth and women in agriculture : Agriculture and food systems must be treated as profitable and viable businesses to become more attractive to African youth and women
- Fostering enabling policies that break down barriers to securing land tenure: Resolving conflicts between traditional and modern land rights
- Encouraging funds mobilization under CAADP
- Mitigating the climate change effect : Presence of Peasants in Global Forums
- Strengthening and improving inclusivity of agricultural value chains : Adopting a value chain approach by prioritizing strategic and complementary investments and strengthening the capacities of farmers
- Invest in market infrastructure including e-commerce
- Reducing regional trade barriers: Harnessing the Enormous Potential to Expand Regional Markets and Encourage Intra-African Food Trade

# PAFO NEWS

## BOARD MEETINGS

PAFO held two Board meetings in a hybrid platform with both physical and virtual participation. An ordinary Board of Directors took place in April 2021, at the PAFO headquarters in Kigali and an extraordinary meeting was held in June 2021, and was entirely devoted to the organization of the next PAFO regular General Assembly to take place in October 2021.

## PAFO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 5th Ordinary General Assembly of PAFO will be held in October 2021, in Kigali, in accordance with the health measures and the protection framework put in place by the Rwandan Government. The purpose of the GA is to provide a forum for PAFO's governing bodies to discuss and approve the reports, programs, plans and activities implemented between two assemblies; inform members, farmers and partners of PAFO's commitment at continental and global levels and offer a platform for knowledge sharing, exchanges, advocacy and lobbying between Farmer Organizations and with technical and financial partners. The GA will be held from October 18-23 and will include several events, namely Rural Women's Forum and knowledge management sessions.

## THE FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY

Just as a reminder, PAFO's strategy (2021-2025) is available on the following link: <https://bit.ly/3fugoFY>



# PAFO NEWS

## PAFO AT THE RWANDAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL RESOURCES

Dr Jean-Chrysostome Ngabitsinze, Minister of State at the Rwandan Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), received a courtesy visit of Ms Fatma Ben Rejeb, Executive Secretary of PAFO. The CEO commended the leadership of Rwanda for providing an enabling environment for PAFO and the unwavering efforts to advance Pan-Africanism.

Dr Ngabitsinze thanked PAFO for choosing Rwanda to establish the headquarters of the pan-African farmers organization and promised to provide the support of the ministry to PAFO in order to carry out its mission of strengthening the capacities of peasants on the African continent.



# CURRENT PROJECTS



## 3RD CONTINENTAL COORDINATION MEETING OF FO4ACP & SAFE2020

The 3rd FO4ACP continental coordination virtual meeting was organized by PAFO and Agricord, during the month of June 2021. Virtual meeting between #PAFO and its member networks and #AgriCord and its Agri agencies to ensure better coordination of their efforts within the framework of FO4ACP and SAFE2020 programs while identifying key priority actions to accelerate their implementation and achieve the expected results. Representatives of OACPS, the European Union and IFAD participated in the coordination meeting.



The 3rd virtual FO4ACP continental coordination meeting was an opportunity for PAFO and Agricord to organize a discussion on the ABC fund. As such, the president of PAFO explained that the objective of the meeting is to bring together farmers' organizations and ABC fund management institutions in order to provide the necessary information to producer organizations to get involved in the process and to make heard, moreover, the point of view of the farmers on this fund.

# TECHNICAL SUPERVISION MISSION BY IFAD

The 2nd supervision mission since the launch of the implementation of the F04ACP program in 2019, was held from June 14 to 16, 2021. It is also the first mission within the framework of SAFE 2020, approved in July 2020 under IFAD's Rural Stimulation Facility (FPSR).

For PAFO, the mission focused on the activities and achievements of the program; monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management, communication and overall financial management.

Program implementation is proceeding at a slower pace than expected due to force majeure circumstances (covid-19 pandemic), but adhering as much as possible to the originally approved work plan. The related restrictive measures have led to the rescheduling of certain activities such as missions, workshops and face-to-face events.





## PAFO-COLECAP INNOVATION SERIES

The 4th Innovations Session organized by PAFO and COLEACP was held on May 20, 2021. This virtual session focused on “sustainable food systems: the key role of SMEs and businesses”. In addition, the 5th session was held in July and opted for the theme: “Food and nutritional security: the contribution of SMEs and entrepreneurs”. For more information on the Innovation Series organized by PAFO and COLEACP

Click here <https://bit.ly/3BPRTx4>

## ENTREPRENEURS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

undreds of participants from over 100 countries around the world took part in the first four sessions of the Innovations Series, organized by PAFO and COLEACP.

The recordings of all the Innovations Sessions are available on the PAFO and COLEACP YouTube channels.

Company profiles have been developed to present each company and its development. Meet (again) these African entrepreneurs, and (re) discover their inspirational stories : <https://bit.ly/3qNniex>

## ONLINE FORMATION

PAFO and COLEACP are collaborating on advanced online training series on crop protection and the safe use of pesticides. Launched since last April, the training continued during the month of July with the registration of 29 participants including 16 French speakers and 13 English speakers. At the end of this training, participants received certificates of appreciation for their attendance. The English and French trainers were unanimous in affirming that this training works very well because the participants were motivated and committed and they seem very satisfied with the content they have received.





## COMMUNITY BASED INITIATIVE 2 (CBI2)

PAFO has just completed a new study on “Specificities of family farming and land governance process”. A study carried out with the support of the International Land Coalition (ILC) within the framework of the CBI 2 project, the purpose is to improve the participation of peasant organizations in the agrarian reform process by ensuring the equitable distribution of land and public investment for family farmers. This report of study is intended to provide general and preliminary information on PAFO's efforts to assist African farmers through member networks to assess the specific factors affecting Africa's smallholder family farming in land governance processes and to help put in place appropriate policies and measures. The study also highlights the key role played by PAFO and Farmers' Organizations in helping small landowners to regularize their land tenure and to make the voice of farmers heard by lobbying for small landowners who are still under control. customary land law.

Link : <https://bit.ly/3oiwWGI>





## YENKASA UNDFE

A new awareness campaign for UNDFE under YenKasa Africa was endorsed by family farmer organizations, FAO and communication networks and institutions.

The campaign was launched in June 2021. and focuses on the contribution of family farming to building sustainable food systems, particular, this campaign aims to give visibility to the progress of the UNDFE through national action plans, political dialogues and parliamentary actions in African countries. The campaign also presents the experiences of family farmers and producer organizations and the results obtained in ongoing projects as well as initiatives to strengthen the family farming in the context of sustainable food systems. The campaign will pursue the dual objective of raising awareness and providing information on the role of family farming in sustainable food systems and the progress of UNDFE, while giving a voice to farmers and their organizations.

The main theme of the campaign is "Family farming at the heart of sustainable food systems" and builds on the ongoing activities and results of the implementation of the UNDFE; regional political dialogues; parliamentary initiatives and alliances, and the experiences of peasant organizations and projects in the field of family farming.

Video : <https://bit.ly/3znuD7Q>



# Special PAFO- UNFSS 2021

## 1- PAN-AFRICAN INDEPENDANT DIALOGUE

All the views of African farmers have been brought together in a single document which is submitted to the Food Systems Summit secretariat for consideration. In addition, the pan-African dialogue participants validated a common position document for all the farmers of the continent. The Pan-African Independent Dialogue is registered on the Summit Dialogue's Gateway on Food Systems, to enable the results obtained during the Independent Dialogues of African Farmers' Organizations to be taken into account. PAFO as a higher body representing farmers on the continent, joined the AUDA-NEPAD initiative to co-organize the dialogue in order to support information and the construction of a common understanding of the United Nations Summit on Food Systems and the various fields of action leading to the September 2021 Summit.

For more info: <https://bit.ly/3yTAVex>



## 2- INDEPENDENT DIALOGUE OF FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS

PAFO, the World Farmers Organization and the Asian Farmers Association organized online, the "Independent Dialogue of Farmers Organizations at the World Food Systems Summit" which focused on common challenges that need to be addressed, as well as on the common solutions which change the situation, which must be implemented, on the basis of concrete examples reported by the various farmer organizations involved. Participants also had the opportunity to collectively engage, make proposals and contribute to a farmers' declaration that will feed into the solutions of the United Nations Summit on Food Systems. On this occasion PAFO's president said she expected the dialogue to be useful in shaping producers' commitments, demands and call to action for the sustainable global food systems summit. So now is the time to unleash the potential of the World Food System, the need to work together is more important than ever to be able to find the exact lock to press that will give us light at the end of the tunnel.

For more info: <https://bit.ly/3E2zoqv>

### 3- DIALOGUE WITH FARMERS, FISHERMEN, PASTORALISTS AND OTHER PRODUCERS

PAFO participated in the World Summit dialogue with farmers, fishermen, pastoralists and other producers. Co-organized by Dr Agnes Kalibata, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General to the Food Systems Summit, in collaboration with WFP, PAFO, SACAU, AFA and Farmers' Forum India. The dialogue aims to capture multiple aspects of the challenges, contributions, responsibilities and expectations of producers in transforming our food systems in order to embrace their complexity and interrelationships and jointly build more equitable, sustainable and resilient food systems. The president of PAFO called for policies and investments aimed at farmers that target different genders, with particular attention to disadvantaged youth, women, people with disabilities and a mechanism to monitor the implementation of concrete actions so that the United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021 is not another talk show but a commitment from all stakeholders.

For more info: <https://bit.ly/3tr143e>

### 4- PRE-SUMMIT IN ROME, ITALY



Elizabeth nsimadala, President of PAFO participated in the United Nations pre-summit on food systems, held in Rome, July 26-28, 2021. During this event, the president of PAFO reaffirmed that farmers are the solution for an inclusive food system and that without them the world would not be what it is. Because, they are the ones who feed the world and their role is essential in sustainable food systems. The president also participated in the opening session of the pre-summit, where she indicated that there is no transformation of Food Systems without peasants, fishermen, pastoralists and other producers. The president wore not only the voice of more than 80 million small farmers that she represents within PAFO But also the voices of global producers who have been involved in the independent dialogue... "

For more information on PAFO's participation please see these links:

<https://bit.ly/2V77Q0Y//>

<https://bit.ly/3j4AV5D>

<https://bit.ly/3jbGKYH>

# PAFO AT THE PRE-SUMMIT IN PHOTOS



UNITED NATIONS  
FOOD SYSTEMS  
SUMMIT 2021 **PRE-SUMMIT**

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!  
#UNFSS2021



“It's the first time that I'm seeing a UN process that is inclusive, diverse and open to all stakeholders.”

ELIZABETH NSIMADALA,  
PRESIDENT, PAFO AND PRESIDENT, EAFF

## 5- UNFSS 2021, SEPTEMBER 2021



As the president of the highest representative body of African farmers, and member of the multi-stakeholder advisory committee chaired by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Elizabeth Nsimadala, President of PAFO participated in the United Nations Food Systems Summit, held on September 23, 2021, in New York. The president indicated, during a video broadcast during the Summit that "PAFO is committed to continuing to represent the voice of African producers within the framework of inclusive multi-partnerships in food systems".

On the occasion of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit, PAFO and its member Regional Farmer Organizations have developed a common position of farmers on the African continent to advance food systems in Africa.

The common position makes recommendations on several issues including agricultural policies; access to inputs and means of production; resilience; agricultural land; agricultural finance, etc.

The Summit was also an opportunity for producers around the world to speak with one collective voice, and to present their concerns, solutions and expectations to the United Nations Food Systems Summit. Solutions that are the result of a series of independent dialogues of the United Nations Food Systems Summit, led by organizations representing farmers across each continent, as part of the preparations for the Summit.

Video highlighting the Farmers commitment at the UN Food Systems Summit 2021: <https://bit.ly/3AQB2Ju>



# TRIBUTE MR. GUSTAVE EWOLE, PROGRAMS OFFICER OF PROPAC



## Goodbye friend

It was with great sorrow that we learned of the departure for a better world from our colleague, friend and programs officer at PROPAC, Mr. Gustave Ewole.

Gustave has always made sure that all his colleagues, whether they are at PROPAC, within other member networks or even within PAFO, feel at ease. Helpful, cordial, available, with a smile always on his face, Gustave never missed an opportunity to be at the side of his colleagues and help them in the accomplishment of their task.

Its constant concern is to support African farmers and more particularly those of Central Africa. Gustave has always been attentive to ensuring that the role and place of agricultural organizations are recognized and respected.

A man of method, within PROPAC, Gustave has been able to lead numerous projects and programs and to open or strengthen important partnerships.

Our sincere condolences to his small and extended family, our most saddened thoughts to his colleagues from PROPAC, to his colleagues in African networks, and to the large family of PAFO, leaders, technicians, farmers, and partners.

Rest in peace Gustave, we already miss you.



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