

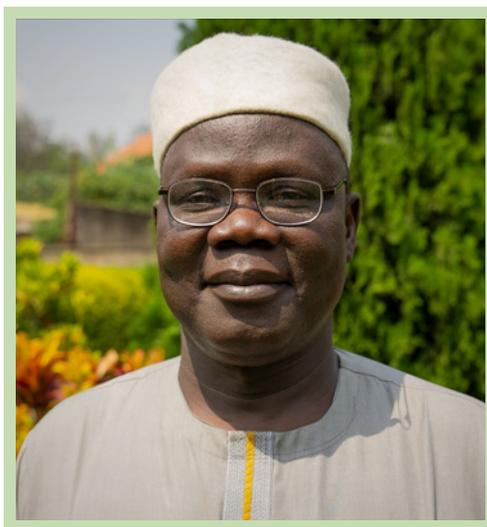
JUNE 2022



Panafrican farmers' organization
Organisation panafricaine des agriculteurs
المنظمة الإفريقية للفلاحين

NEWSLETTER N°8

MID-TERM REVIEW (MTR) FO4ACP-SAFE2020



Message from PAFO President Kolyang Palebele

PAFO and its member networks in Africa are delighted with the progress made and the impacts observed on grassroots African farmers' organizations thanks to the implementation of the FO4ACP project.

Despite the COVID 19 pandemic and the Russo-Ukrainian crisis, PAFO and its members were able to conduct the FO4ACP project with professionalism and selflessness. Today, a substantial increase in the economy in rural areas and in farm families is estimated. The economic component of the FO4ACP project would have triggered this dynamic at the level of grassroots farmers' organizations which are in the process of managing an agricultural business. It should also be noted that there is increased visibility of Farmers organization (FOs), networks and PAFO thanks to training and advocacy, but

also the active participation of farmers' organizations in the development of policies, programs and projects as well as monitoring and evaluation in the countries.

FO4ACP has produced positive results that help beneficiary farmer organizations to position themselves in the various agricultural markets. This is the place to salute the commitment of our partners who are always willing to support us. These results obtained should serve as examples for others: grassroots FOs provide services to their members and they manage partnership relations and technical and financial cooperation. This shows the improvement in their level of professionalism. May the European Union and IFAD be thanked for the efforts provided in the unfailing technical and financial support of farmers' organizations and their networks. The achievements of the FO4ACP project are capitalized on and serve as a tool in the fight against food insecurity and poverty in Africa

Emmerance Tuyishime, Acting CEO & Programs Officer



FO4ACP: unwavering support for African farmers

Thanks to the FO4ACP program, PAFO was able to set up its Secretariat and recruiting the staff necessary for its proper functioning. PAFO signed the host agreement with the Rwandan Government which gave it a diplomatic status. Since then, PAFO strengthened its financial management by carrying out its financial and institutional audits for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021. PAFO was able to develop the needed institutional documents including the Administrative and Financial Procedures Manual.

PAFO carried out 4 thematic studies with unique position papers for each; (i) Impact of COVID- 19 on African Farmers (ii) Positioning of African Farmers' Organizations in the context of the AfCFTA ; (iii) Family farming specificities and land governance process.” , (iv) African Food Systems; (v) Financing of agricultural value chains to empower rural women.

As the year 2020 marked by the end of its 5years strategic plan, In 2020 PAFO developed its new five-year strategy 2021-2025 and its operational plan 2021-2022, under the support of COLEACP.

In addition, PAFO worked on strengthening the collaboration with its traditional partners and create new ones, in this regard PAFO signed a new agreements with FAO, COLEACP, WFO, ILC, AGRA and Akademiya2063, etc. Besides, PAFO is in discussions with AUDA-NEPAD to put in place a joint action plan and to formalize its collaboration with African Union.

In terms of policy advocacy and influence, as well as participation in policy deliberations and decision-making, PAFO has actively participated in various committees and institutions in which it sits. PAFO, actively participated in the UNFSS processes in which, in addition to being a member of the advisory committee and the producers' group, it took an initiative to lead the UNFSS consultation process with farmers' organizations. in Africa. On the other hand, PAFO has participated in more than a hundred events at the continental and international level,

In October 2021, PAFO organized a full week of advocacy and knowledge sharing events, around the PAFO General Assembly. Within this context, the Rural Women Forum was organized, including a peer-to-peer field visit, followed by a full day of knowledge sharing activities in Kigali, Rwanda. The third day was dedicated to the FO4ACP and SAFE 2020 coordination and sharing of experiences and lessons learned at National, regional and continental level. The fourth day worked around on the knowledge Management events around the partnership with COLEACP and Climakers and during the fifth day was a thematic meeting on different studies

PAFO does not intend to stop at this level. Admittedly, with FO4ACP, it has succeeded in undertaking various actions and activities in favor of farmers and their organizations in Africa. Indeed, the orientations and perspectives of PAFO focus on the second part of the FO4ACP program, but also on the mobilization of funds; strengthening the capacities and positioning of PAFO with African Union and other international partners through lobbying and advocacy; the promotion of agriculture as a “business-enterprise” to insure the health and sustainable food systems; strengthening the resilience of farmers to the climate change and other crisis.



Special MTR Focus on the FO4ACP -SAFE2020

FO4ACP PROGRAM



The Farmer Organizations in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (FO4ACP/OPenACP) program, supported by the EU, is the result of a joint effort and consultations among all stakeholders. In Africa, it is based on the experience and results of the "Farmers' Africa" program and, in particular, on the lessons learned from the implementation of the "Support to Farmers Organizations in Africa Programme" (SFOAP) in its pilot (2009-2013) and main (2013-2018) phases, implemented by the Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO), the five regional farmers' organizations (RFOs) and their members at the national level (NFO).

Through the 5 regional FO networks in East Africa (EAFF), Central Africa (PROPAC), West Africa (ROPPA), Southern Africa (SACAU) and North Africa (UMNAGRI) and their continental platform (PAFO), the program will support their activities for 5 years (2019 - 2023). The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) acts as intermediary executing agency for the EU contribution, co-financing of the program and will thus ensure the coordination and supervision of the programme. FO4ACP/OPenACP) aims to increase incomes, improve livelihoods and enhance food and nutrition security, including food safety, of organized smallholders and family farmers in African countries, of the Caribbean and the Pacific by consolidating the farmer organizations regional, national and local. It is implemented by six regional farmers' organizations, the Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO), AgriCord and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, who work closely with national farmers' organizations, agri-agencies and implementing partners in some 70 countries, benefiting more than 52 million smallholders. It emphasizes economic service delivery, advocacy and institutional development of farmer organizations.



OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The overall objective of the FO4ACP program is to increase incomes and improve the livelihoods, food security as well as nutritional security of smallholders and organized family farmers in the target areas of ACP countries. More specifically, FO4ACP aspires to achieve the following objectives:

- FOs and farmer-led enterprises improve the technical and economic services provided to their members along value chains;
- FOs influence policies and business environments for the transformation of family farming and the development of economic, sustainable and adaptive initiatives and farmer-led enterprises;
- FOs are accountable organizations capable of effectively carrying out their institutional functions.

The expected results for the PAFO are:

- (i) Improving the business climate and competitiveness of smallholders by increasing the influence of PAFO on the development, implementation and monitoring of policies concerning agriculture, rural development and trade at continental levels and global through an improvement of its process of analysis and formulation of shared proposals;
- (ii) Strengthening the institutional and professional capacities of PAFO;
- (iii) Knowledge management, exchanges between peers, and the promotion of successful experiences in order to reproduce and scale them.



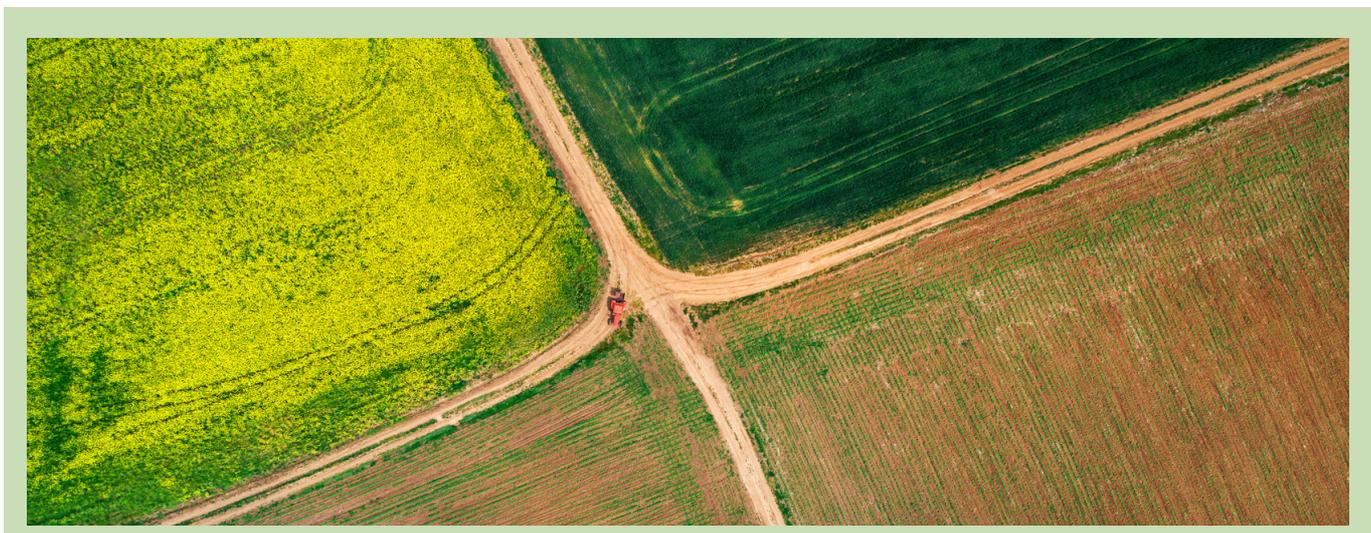
SAFE 2020



Completed in 2021, the SAFE 2020 program is the targeted, coordinated and rapid response of African FOs to mitigate the threats and impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on their members and on local food systems, guaranteeing the production capacity and marketing through quick access to inputs, information, markets and liquidity.

Specifically, SAFE 2020 will enable FOs to support their vulnerable members by (i) adapting and restoring food production through rapid access to inputs, information, markets and cash in compliance with containment measures in target countries, and (ii) widely disseminating reliable and up-to-date information on food availability and security, thanks to two closely related elements.

First, a targeted COVID-19 response action built for and by farmers in a few targeted countries, to support the most vulnerable grassroots FOs during the crisis, keep markets functioning and ensure food security. Second, a multi-level communication and coordination platform in more countries to monitor and disseminate accurate and up-to-date information and coordinate effective and targeted action.



MID-TERM REVIEW MISSION (MTR), MARCH 2022

The FO4ACP/OPenACP has reached its cruising speed. The Program RMP and SAFE 2020 Completion Process are finished. Due to the alignment and co-financing linking the two programs (in Africa), the two missions were combined to ensure efficiency of resources and efficient use of the time of the farmers' organizations involved in the two programs. The RMP was prepared and carried out in partnership with the beneficiaries who were consulted at several stages of the process.

The RMP was ensured by 8 missions which took place with the 6 beneficiaries in Africa, one in the Pacific and in Europe. Missions in physical presence were also carried out with the secretariats of EAFF, PROPAC, ROPPA, SACAU and UMNAGRI; PAFO, PIFON and AgriCord, respectively in Nairobi, Yaoundé, Ouagadougou, Pretoria, Tunis, Kigali, Nadi and Brussels.

Regarding PAFO, the mission took place fromto, at the headquarters of the organization, in Kigali, Rwanda.

THIERRY LASSALLE, IFAD EXPERT, HEAD OF THE MTR MISSION



1 : Between the Post SFOAP evaluation of PAFO, the formulation of the FO4ACP program and your visit to PAFO headquarters in Kigali, how have you experienced the evolution of PAFO? Knowing that you were the expert who worked on the consolidation of the self-assessment of African networks within the framework of SFOAP, and in the formulation team of the FO4ACP program.

TL : Indeed, I was part of the team of advisers who accompanied the self-assessment of the previous support program for farmers' organizations, the SFOAP, from which lessons were drawn to formulate OPenACP. PAFO at the time had a sort of flying existence. From planes to hotels in major African

capitals. From Lilongwe in Malawi, the desire of regional FOs to create this continental platform was embodied in its executive secretary, who, from exchanges to meetings of leaders and founders, took over the decisions of the previous meeting. The process seemed a bit bogged down in the maze of sometimes contradictory recommendations that were often difficult to follow. It is difficult to make an organization exist without being able to resort to the simple marks of institutionalization: an address with a large sign, a signature on a bank account, a dedicated team that works in this space where the organization lives and thinks of itself and therefore where it exists. The decision to set up PAFO in Kigali at the end of SFOAP fully benefited from the launch of OPenACP. PAFO has finally put on the clothes of an institutionalized organization. It always has new challenges but it is now anchored while keeping its flying know-how, which knows how to think alongside African peasant leaders wherever they are. And who knows she can come home. Rework the ideas collected and transform them into actions. The decision to set up PAFO in Kigali at the end of SFOAP fully benefited from the launch of OPenACP. PAFO has finally put on the clothes of an institutionalized organization. It always has new challenges but it is now anchored while keeping its flying know-how, which knows how to think alongside African peasant leaders wherever they are. And who knows she can come home. Rework the ideas collected and transform them into actions. The decision to set up PAFO in Kigali at the end of SFOAP fully benefited from the launch of OPenACP. PAFO has finally put on the clothes of an institutionalized organization. It always has new challenges but it is now anchored while keeping its flying know-how, which knows how to think alongside African peasant leaders wherever they are. And who knows she can come home. Rework the ideas collected and transform them into actions. And who knows she can come home. Rework the ideas collected and transform them into actions.

2 : 1- As part of FO4ACP and given the two difficult years marked by Covid-19, how do you assess the work done by PAFO at MTR?

TL : The COVID years have shaken up the world and not just PAFO and FO4ACP. PAFO had to invent how it works, and above all had the intuition to collect the testimony of FOs from all over the continent and to make it a publication that was disseminated very quickly carrying the voice of African peasants loud. Each organization, from its country, was able to refer to it and be recognized for an original contribution. The FOs were no longer in the position of observers of an uncontrolled situation but had become actors capable of testifying and proposing their solutions. It happened at the right time and it made an impression. Internally, the collection of all these testimonies also made it possible to concretely realize that PAFO existed through the contributions of its members and through its ability to put together in the same book what a group of young people from Eswatini and a women's association thought from Burkina Faso. And to conclude with a dozen specific recommendations addressed to politicians, one urgent, the other medium-term. All this has appeared on the screens of all the confined people of the world! and taken up by many as a reference...

3 : 1- Regarding what needs to be done and the perspectives of FO4ACP, how do you see the evolution of PAFO, in the coming years, as an external expert?

TL : Being still under contract, my particular point of view hardly matters. On the other hand, I can only reiterate the conclusions shared with Mr. Kolyang Palebele, President of PAFO during the final debriefing session of the mid-term review which he chaired. Any development must be understood with short-term imperatives (complete and finance the secretariat team), medium-term (continue involvement in continental and international political dialogue processes on the challenges of the continent: climate change and soils, free trade area of the african continent, evaluation of CAADPP of its future post Malabo and mobilize regional platforms on these issues) and finally in the long term (supporting African peasant leaders and including new generations to embody the challenges of PAFO, dust off the statutes of a organization to guarantee its international credibility). And keep open the intuition of the leaders, to listen and seize the word of the peasant or the African peasant who, at the turn of a long discussion, founds the next strategic pillar of the organization!!



JACQUELINE NNAM, KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION CONSULTANT



1 - 1.What is the importance of Knowledge Management and communication in the work of Farmer's Organizations, in general?

JN : There are varied contexts in which knowledge management and communication could be of importance to farmer's organizations depending on their objectives.

Knowledge Management focuses on the creation, sharing and use of knowledge. In the context of farmer organizations, it can increase their ability to learn from each other, and their environment, and use this knowledge to

improve their practices. Knowledge is not a static commodity and the process of using it, may, in turn, create new knowledge which when captured and shared feeds into a continuous learning loop. Through facilitating the documentation of farmers' experiences, Knowledge Management also provides a credible evidence base to support advocacy activities of farmer organizations.

Communication on the other hand focuses on the transfer of messages through appropriate channels to target audiences. Effective communication helps to raise the visibility of farmer organizations, share their results, knowledge, impacts and innovations through media such as websites, press releases, social media, events and newsletters.

Although Knowledge Management and Communication are sometimes treated separately, they are mutually supportive processes. Knowledge management relies on effective communication processes to disseminate knowledge products, while knowledge products provide the content for communication exchanges.

2 - What assessment do you make of the communication & visibility done by PAFO as well as of KM despite sometimes the challenges of access to information?

JN : The first visibility test I often perform for any organization is to search for them on Google and analyze their ranking. I am happy to report that when I searched for the term "PAFO", out of more than eight million search results, the very first result was a link to the Pan African Farmers' Organisation website. Google did not think it was a misspelled word, nor did it list other entities with the same acronyms ahead of it. That goes to show that PAFO has claimed its place online. I hope it remains that way.

Generally, I would say that PAFO has done well in terms of creating awareness about its work, increasing its visibility, as well as giving a voice to the experiences, innovations and issues affecting farmers in Africa. Buttressed by the use of social media, PAFO's online presence has grown exponentially in the past two years, moreover, it has made great effort to ensure that both its anglophone and francophone stakeholders are accommodated. It is impressive that even posts on social media are made in both English and French.

Knowledge Management is still a budding area of development within PAFO, but with the recently developed Knowledge Management Strategy, I believe they will make strides in that area.

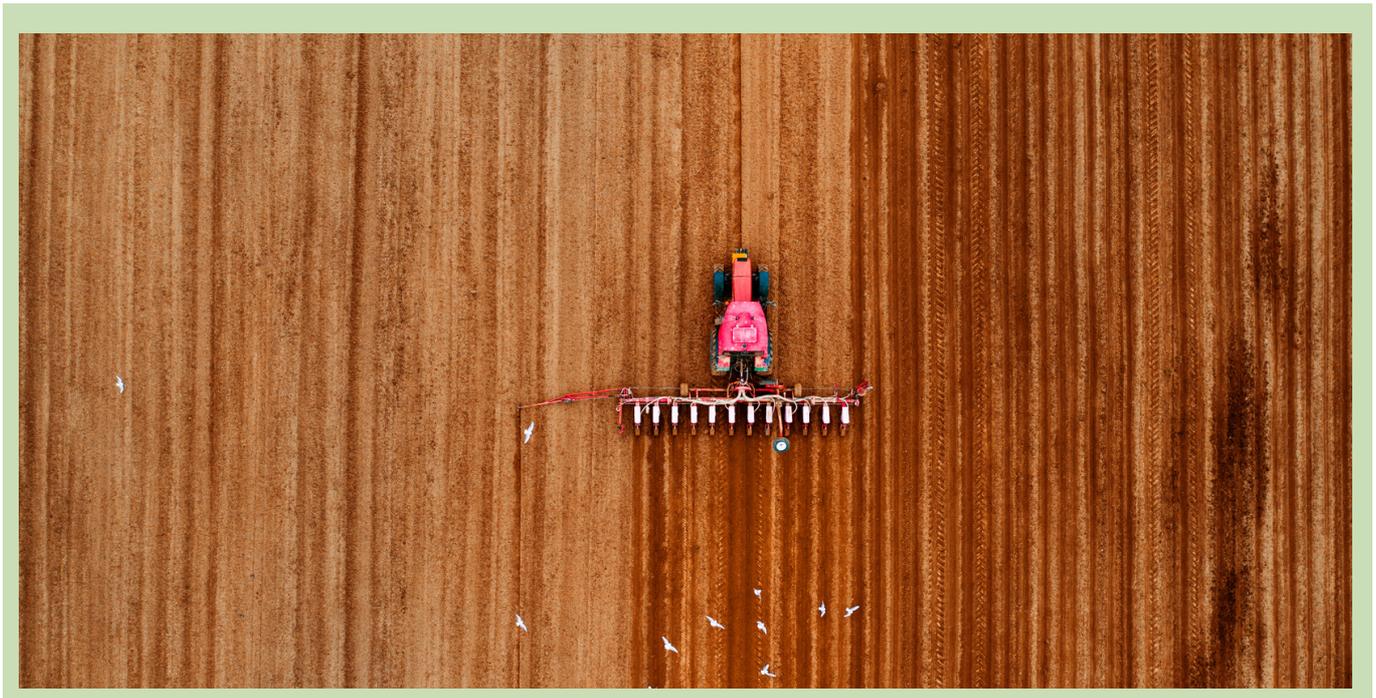
3- What needs to be improved within PAFO to improve communication and KM

JN : As the voice of over 80 million African family farmers I would like to see more stories told by and about farmers, highlighting their experiences, innovations and issues affecting them.

I would also like to see a stronger learning culture within the PAFO Network, where members value their own knowledge and experiences, and constantly reflect, document and share their experiences with each other.

Social media is one of the cornerstones, of PAFO's digital communication strategy. I would like to see it harnessed to share more knowledge outputs of the network and its followership grow from the current numbers. If we have millions of family farmers feeding the continent, why do we not have millions of people following the organisation that represents them?

I could have developed a longer wish list, but the good news is that these three priorities and others I could have added are already part of the activities that are being supported under various PAFO programs, most prominently F04ACP a program coordinated by IFAD that aims to support small-scale and family farmers in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries by strengthening farmers' organizations. PAFO just needs to continue on the current trajectory as laid out in its Knowledge Management and Communication strategies, but pick up momentum where implementation has been slow.



PAFO NEWS

PAFO ADOPTS ITS ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL PROCEDURES MANUAL



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The PAFO Administrative and financial procedure Manual was validated by the members at the beginning of May 2022. It is a work tool for the Organization that raise awareness of PAFO's vision and mission; provide standardization of daily operations procedures and help in the formalization of its operation.

YOUNG FARMERS FORUM POSTPONED TO OCTOBER 2022

The Young Farmers Summit originally scheduled for May 2022 will be postponed to October 2022. The Young Farmers Summit aims to promote, strengthen and disseminate the voice of young farmers on the international stage. The event will consist of 3 parts: first, a forum of young African farmers, then a debate of young European and African farmers on the partnership between Africa and Europe and finally, the international summit of young farmers which will bring together young African, Asian, American and European farmers.

Expected attendance:

- For young African farmers: Young African farmers and relevant partners.
- For the meeting of young African and European farmers: young African and European farmers and partners concerned.
- For the international summit: Young African and European farmers, Young farmers from the rest of the continents and partners concerned.

PARTNERSHIPS

CURRENT PARTNERSHIPS



PAFO-COLEACP INNOVATION SERIES

The 9th Innovations Session organized by PAFO and COLEACP, the second for the year 2022, was held on April 26th. This virtual session focused on the theme “: Success of women-led agribusinesses in Africa”.

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

Session participants were able to discuss key points on SME and enterprise promotion including the success factors of women-led SMEs in the agribusiness sector; ways to develop investments and enterprises led by women in rural areas; the incentives to be put in place to attract and retain SMEs led by women in the creation of added value in local and export markets....

All information relating to the last 9 sessions is available on PAFO’s website:

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



BUSINESS PROFILES OF THE SMES SHOWCASED IN THE PAFO-COLEACP INNOVATION SESSIONS

Business profiles have been developed to showcase each successful business and development model. Meet (again) the featured African entrepreneurs, many of whom are members of COLEACP, and (re)discover their inspiring stories on this link: <https://bit.ly/3qNniex>



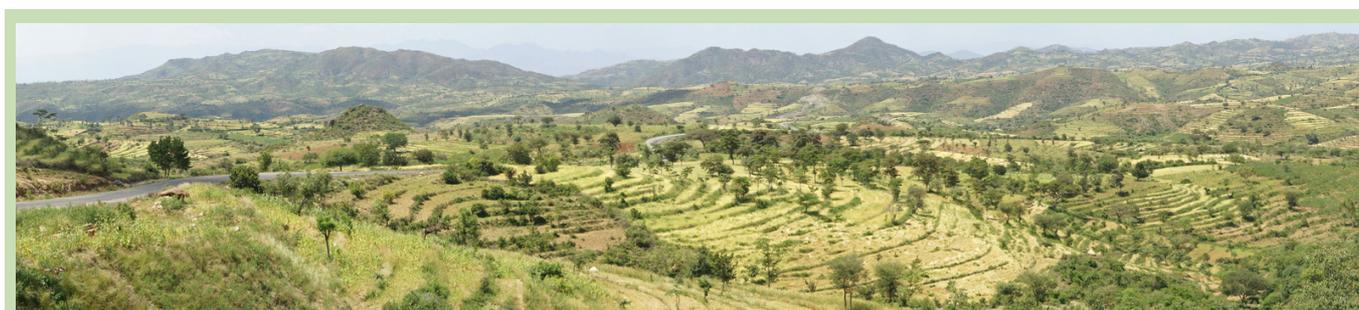
NEWS FROM MEMBERS



Mid-term review of the FO4ACP project: EAFF CEO, Mr. Stephen Muchiri, with the team of experts from IFAD and the Cooperative Alliance of Kenya (CAK) on a field visit to Mt dairies Kenya, Mt. Kenya Dairy Farmers



Exchanges between the EAFF team and IFAD experts during the Mid-Term Review of the FO4ACP project





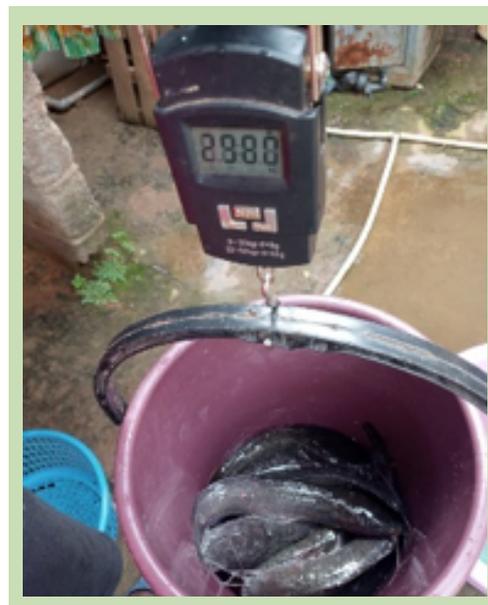
MID-TERM REVIEW FO4ACP-SAFE2020

The Regional Platform of Farmers' Organizations in Central Africa (PROPAC) received the team of IFAD experts as part of the mid-term review of FO4ACP program. Objective: to examine the overall progress of the program, the results achieved. The MTR was able to identify the external factors that contributed to achieving achievements as well as the challenges encountered while examining and appreciating the synergies between IFAD's national programs on the one hand, and the partnerships between agricultural organizations and IFAD, on the other hand, as well as other financial and technical partnerships made.

The mission also worked on the financial management of the program at the level of the Regional Coordination of PROPAC, in particular the accounting procedures in progress, and the quality of the internal control system.



In order to discover the progress of the economic projects of the program, the mission visited the pilot station of above-ground production of 13,500 kg of *Clarias gariepinus* per year (catfish/catfish). It is an initiative of the National Concertation of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture Actors in Cameroon (CONAPAAC) which brings together young people from several regions of Cameroon. CONAPAAC's actions aim to contribute effectively and sustainably to meeting the protein needs of the Cameroonian population. Its actions also focus on the structuring and capacity building of members on the one hand, and on the other hand lobbying and advocacy for the improvement of policies aimed at the development of the aquaculture sector in Cameroon.



In Congo, the mission visited the facilities of Kiese services, which is a project for the transformation of agricultural products into enriched food flour. The monthly production is 12,000 boxes (300g) of food flour. The project also plans to market pre-cooked corn and soy porridge for babies. The mission also visited the headquarters of Santé Nature, which is an initiative to transform moringa products into therapeutic oil, soap and powder. Santé Nature currently has about ten sales agents and 03 points of sale in the Plateau, Mikalo and Bacongo districts of Brazzaville.

Given the difficulties of visiting several countries, the mission encouraged the NFOs to document experiences in the field by recording simple videos in order to collect testimonies on the impact of program activities.

The mission also assessed the relevance of PROPAC interventions through the SAFE 2020 program, in response to COVID19.





ROPPA President, Mr. Ibrahima COULIBALY was the guest of the BURKINA INFO newspaper of Saturday, May 7, 2022. Mr. Coulibaly raised national and regional public opinion on the perception of ROPPA and its members concerning the various crises, in particular fertilizer shortages for the 2022/2023 campaign. He also shared the proposals of ROPPA and Farmers' Organizations concerning the immediate actions to be implemented and the structural policies to be built within the framework of the interventions of regional institutions and national structures in charge of agricultural development.

Full interview at this link: <https://bit.ly/37BVkxi>



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