

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

PAFO-AHA sign a memorandum of understanding to support Farmers Organization in Africa

Kigali, 05 December 2022: The Pan-African Farmers Organization (PAFO) and Andreas Hermes Akademie (AHA) have signed today, a **Memorandum of Understanding** (MoU), Cooperation to strengthen the capacity of farmer organizations (FO), in Africa under the umbrella of PAFO at the continental, regional and national level, to best implement their mandate in times of great challenges to the agriculture sector.

In times of major global challenges including climate change, the effect of conflict on global food supplies, energy prices and economies, changing food systems, and many more, farmers' organizations (FOs) have a vital role to play. On the one hand, FOs are expected to bring the farmers needs to the attention of policy makers at national, regional, or global level. From the national dialogues on food system change, to regional trade negotiations, right up to global platforms such as the UNFSS and the COP – the farmers' voices must be heard. On the other hand, FOs need to be competent to serve their members, provide them with requisite information and services to better react to the challenges and ensure the sustainable production and distribution of nutritious food. However, FOs at national (NFO) and regional levels (RFO) are equipped to a varying degree to adequately address the urgency, diversity, and complexity of the issues at hand.

Therefore, this MoU aims to lay the foundation for a joint cooperation between PAFO and AHA to strengthen farmers' organizations in Africa through a peer-to-

peer learning approach, mutual exchange between African Farmer Organizations, including non-African counterparts, and increased individual and organizational professionalism. AHA and PAFO shall support the growing capacity network amongst Regional Farmers' Organizations (RFOs), and National Farmers' Organizations (NFOs), men, women and youth.

This agreement was signed at a virtual ceremony, on 5 December 2022, by, PAFO president, M. Kolyang Palébélé, and the Director of Académie Andreas Hermes, M. Dr Andreas Quiring.

During the signing ceremony, **M. Kolyang Palébélé**, said “I applaud the new partnership between PAFO and AHA that brings the two institutions together, to support farmer organizations (FO), in Africa and to support the efforts at promoting food security in the continent, in the context of the various crises, which farmers are facing”.

“This partnership is a major step, in strengthening RFOs and NFOs capacities so they can be better equipped to fulfil their mandate, to respond to the challenges of today, to bring the farmers' voice to the world and to serve their members,” he added.

Dr. Andreas Quiring, Andreas Hermes Academy, highlighted the peer-to-peer approach of learning, as farmers worldwide have a wealth of expertise and experience. Trust and courage are at the basis for change and development. Therefore, learning from people you understand is most effective. AHA, with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, BMZ, and the expert support of the German Farmer Organization, is delighted to forge closer ties with PAFO to help ensure that Africa Farmer Organizations unfold their strength and shape the future of agriculture and food in Africa and the world.

About PAFO

The Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO) is a continental organization with a membership base composed of Regional Farmers Networks. PAFO is the voice of more than 80 million African farmers integrated into nearly 70 national organizations, unions, federations, cooperatives, associations, etc., present in more than 45 countries on the continent, and united in five regional networks operating at the heart of African agriculture: EAFF; PROPAC; ROPPA; SACAU and UMNAGRI.

PAFO has a fundamental coordinating function both with its member networks and with continental and international organizations. It is thus able to facilitate dialogue and cooperation with the various continental and international institutions, but also with financial and technical partners. PAFO is recognized as a reliable and representative partner of African

Farmers, able to provide common positions on issues and themes dealing with agriculture and rural development in Africa. PAFO is also able to contribute to the formulation of projects and the development of the capacities necessary to follow them up.

Website: <http://www.pafo-africa.org/>

About AHA

Andreas Hermes Academy (AHA) is a German capacity building institution, based in the farming sector in Germany, with key stakeholders such as the German Farmers Association, the Association of German Rural Women, the Association of Rural Youth, and many more. AHA has made an important contribution to the professionalization of the associative life, leadership, and the further education of German farmers for over 70 years. At an international level, AHA is promoting the professionalization of the organized farming sector and fostering an entrepreneurial mind-set for farmers and farmers' organizations, aiming at organizational sustainability and ultimately increased food security and vibrant rural areas. AHA, with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) strengthens member-based farmers' organizations in Africa and India to serve their members according to their needs, assume responsibility, develop appropriate services, and enter into a dialogue with government, trade, industry and society.

Website : <https://www.andreas-hermes-akademie.de/>

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