



Panafrican farmers' organization
Organisation panafricaine des agriculteurs
المنظمة الإفريقية للفلاحين



Sommet International
des Jeunes Agriculteurs
International Summit of
Young Farmers

20
22



INTERNATIONAL YOUNG FARMERS SUMMIT (IYFS)

“YOUTH IN AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH INNOVATION”

24-29th October 2022 | Kigali-Rwanda

GLOBAL REPORT 2022

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

PAFO would like to thank all of its members and partners for their contribution to the success of the organization of the International Young Farmers Summit (IYFS).

PAFO would also wish to extend its gratitude to the young farmers' representatives who dedicated their time and energy to prepare this summit through the PAFO young farmers' steering committee.



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AAYS	Agribusiness Youth Strategy
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFDI	Agriculteurs français et développement international
AGRA	Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa
AHA	Andreas Hermes Akademie
AU	African Union
AU-DARBE	African Union Commission- Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Development
AUC-ARBE.	African Union Commission- Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE).
AUDA-NEPAD	African Union Development Agency
COLEACP	The Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee
EAFF	Eastern African Farmers Federation
EU	European Union
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
MINAGRI	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources- Government of Rwanda
IYFS	International Young Farmers Summit
PAFO	Pan African Farmers Organization
PROPAC	Regional Platform of Farmers Organizations of Central Africa
RFOs	Regional Farmers Organizations
ROPFA	Network of Farmers and Producers Organization in West Africa
SDGs	United Nations Sustainable Development Goal
SACAU	Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions
UMNAGRI	Maghreb and North Africa Union of Farmers

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I. INTRODUCTION

After Europe, from 24-29th October 2022 Africa hosted the International Young Farmers' Summit (IYFS), Organized by the Pan African Farmers Organization (PAFO) in Kigali-Rwanda. The week-long event held under the theme “Youth leadership in agricultural transformation through innovation”. The IYFS brought together 176 people including 107 young farmers from the five continents (Africa, Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia). A full week event was dedicated to the promotion, strengthening and spreading the voice of young farmers on international fora. The week was marked by the three main events; (i) an African Young Farmers' Forum. (ii) an Africa-Europe Young Farmers' meeting. and (iii) an International Young Farmers' Summit. Besides a field visit to the Rwandan young agripreneur was organized, followed by the visit to Kigali Genocide memorial site and an evening cocktail. The summit also hosted the launch of the African Union Agribusiness Youth Strategy (AAYS), by the AUC-DARBE.

The summit program was guided by three thematic areas including;

- Support measures and policies for young farmers: land tenure security; access to factors of production including land and funding for young farmers; recognition of the farming profession; facilitating representation of young farmers in negotiation spaces;
- The resilience of young farmers to different crises: climate change, health crisis, increasing insecurity, including risk management;
- Place/position of young farmers in value chains, including farmers' incomes and commercial relations.

Transversal innovations and particularly the use of new technologies and digitalization were promoted in each subject. Towards the end, a workshop led by young farmers was dedicate elaborating [the International Manifesto of Young Farmers 2022](#).



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PAFO Overview

PAFO was created in October 2010 by its constituent assembly under the sponsorship of the African Union. This constitutive assembly was the culmination of a process begun several years ago in collaboration with the five regional networks of farmers' organizations in Eastern Africa (EAFF), Central Africa (PROPAC), Western Africa (ROPPA), Southern Africa (SACAU) and Northern Africa (UMNAGRI).



PAFO is registered in Rwanda as an international non-governmental organization and is certified by the Rwanda Governance Board to operate legally and establish its headquarters in Rwanda under number 001/RGB/19. PAFO is recognized as the representative body of African farmers' organizations at the highest continental level. It brings the voice of dozens of millions of African farmers integrated into about 70 national organizations, unions, federations, cooperatives, associations, etc., present in almost 50 African countries, and united in five regional networks operating at the heart of African agriculture.

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II. DAY1-2: AFRICAN YOUNG FARMERS FORUM

African Young Farmers Forum is an annual event organized each year by PAFO to bring together young farmers' representatives from the five PAFO regional networks to creating a condition for consultation between young farmers to enable them examining and address their specific concerns.

Attended by 142 participants, including young farmers including 74 young farmers from different African countries. The 2022 African Young Farmers forum was hosted in Kigali- Rwanda in sideline with the IYFS. The forum objective was to improve young farmers' organizations' capacities and to develop actions to be implemented by PAFO and its members in favor of young farmers. The forum hosted the launch of AU-DARBE AAYS; It provided an opportunity for young farmers to have initial discussions on the create of PAFO youth platform; and provided a space for experience and knowledge sharing.

The opening ceremony have been market by an opening remark from the President of PAFO, Mr. Kolyang Palebele. Who expressed the excitement of PAFO to hosting the IYFS and thanked the Government of Rwanda, PAFO members, partners and young farmers for their support and participation. Mr. President pointed out on the value granted by PAFO in supporting its youth, and reiterated on importance of listening to young farmers concerns and taking them into consideration. was conducted by the Rwandan Minister of He was followed by a representative of the AUC-ARBE, Dr. Janet Edeme who is the head of division for AUC-DARBE. In her remarks; she highlighted some of challenges faced by young farmers on continent. She expressed the vision of African Union Commission to creating economically resilient and dynamic job opportunities and training programs for the young farmers, as drivers of an innovative and productive future of the continent". For the Official opening by the representative of the Government of Rwanda, Minister for MINAGRI; Hon. Dr. Geraldine Mukeshima; she reiterated on need for youth to occupy leadership roles on the continent. The African food system is an untapped reservoir of youth employment opportunities. It is therefore important to emphasize on promoting the involvement of youth in Agriculture to sustain Africa's food security and nutrition

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II. DAY1-2: AFRICAN YOUNG FARMERS FORUM



In two days, Young African farmers debated several things, through different sessions. To set the scene, a presentation of overview on involvement of youth in Agriculture was made, which forward a base of discussions around challenges and opportunities for youth involvement in agriculture.

Only eight years left to achieve the goal of zero hunger by 2030; the world is now facing a dramatic increase of hunger. Besides, the demand for food is going to increase: how are we come to meet that demand of health, safety food produced sustainably?

Africa has what it needs to produce, with its abundant arable lands, enough clean water and young population, it has the greatest growth potential.

Even though, the challenges and constraints are multiple and cannot be solved by one stakeholder, so collaboration is necessary. Young farmers should find a way to be united, to be a representative entity so, they can be involved in decision-making and program development. Young farmers have limited involvement in policies and programs designed for them. Moreover, they have many difficulties in accessing markets, resources, and funding. African young farmers aspire to change this context of agriculture, to make it more attractive. Therefore, they have defined four potential areas for invention: (i) Strengthen structures of youth for engagement; (ii) Lobby for dedicated resources to support young agriprenuers; (iii) Better targeting of resources and promote innovation in education and training to support entrepreneurs.

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II. DAY1-2: AFRICAN YOUNG FARMERS FORUM

1. Young Agripreneurs: success stories and scaling up lessons and innovations

Thus, during the forum, PAFO involved young farmers in the reflection on the common position resulting from its study “young African agripreneurs: success story and scaling up lessons and innovations”.

The expert presented the results of the PAFO Youth Study and interacted with the Young African Farmers. The PAFO study aims to: (i) capitalize on the profiles of different successful young Agripreneurs through the FOs network, in Africa; (ii) to identify the common characteristics that make these young farmers successful in terms of internal (personal) factors and external support systems; (iii) Sensitization of young people and the general public to the opportunities offered by the agricultural sector for youth employment and job creation; (iv) to present the positive stories as business models to other young people who see no hope in the agricultural sector.

From the discussions around the results of the study. Young farmers pointed out on the need of clarity on the aspect of processing and agro-industrial practices concerning family farming. They expressed their concern on young farms entering agriculture as a desperate option because they haven't found alternative job and the needs to campaign on that and the need to increase young farmers capacities. Young farmers recommended further analysis to understand how many years it takes for agripreneurs to achieve good result; and to go deep into the research and find out why females are less active compared to males.

2. Policy and programs to support young farmers in Africa

Most, if not all, young farmers are aware of their responsibilities to provide nutritious and healthy food, to the growing population. But the question is: How can African and international institutions go to support the youth to carry out those responsibilities of providing nutritious, safe, and healthy food to the growing population? So, the African Farmers Forum had a session ware by various institutions: AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, IFAD, FAO, and RAB Rwanda- presented programs and policies which are in place, in Africa, to support youth: “POLICY AND PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT YOUNG FARMERS IN AFRICA”. The session focused especially on the existing opportunities to support young farmers in Africa, and how young farmers can benefit from them. It was an opportunity for young farmers to hear from different PAFO partners: on what they are currently doing in favor of young farmers and what they are planning to do in near future.

Partners valued the support provided to young farmers by the different programs, strategies, and projects implemented to support and build their capacity such as the AFDB strategy for agricultural transformation in Africa for the period 2016 to 20245, known as the Feed Africa strategy; the “enable youth program”, which is designed to empower young people at each stage;

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The IFAD target to youth in a specific way; the FAO projects and programs under continents, almost 26 projects in Somalia, Senegal, Uganda, and Rwanda. The Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB) with its policy and strategy focuses on among others on capacity building for youth, an example was bilateral agreements between Rwanda and Israel governments in which benefit 200 youth annually for a one-year Agricultural internship in Israel.

From the open discussion, it was clear that Africa is not devoid of programs and policies for youth. But the challenge expresses by young farmers were a level of impact it brings to them. Most of these programs are not well known by youth, and this poses a question to whom are in policy-making positions: what should be done so, these programs and policies speak to the means interests, and demands of the youth? It was also clear that these programs and policies are formulated without the consultancy of the youth themselves so there is a need of putting in place a structure that can facilitate youth involvement in policy processes, especially in the agriculture sector.

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II. DAY1-2: AFRICAN YOUNG FARMERS FORUM

3. The role of technology in transforming agriculture in Africa



Young farmers discussed the role of technology in contempt of the potential in transforming agriculture in Africa. EAFF (PAFO member) presented its programs on promoting technology for Agriculture transformation - An e-granary platform, as an example of a digital solution for agriculture.

The e-GRANARY platform seeks a unified approach to transforming the agricultural ecosystems of target countries through a comprehensive demand-driven model featuring four key elements: Access to finance; Access to inputs; Access to agronomic training and access to market for marketable surplus - through forward contracts secured with large off-takers.

In the open discussions, young farmers expressed the challenges they face to accessing market; finance, technology, and digital services, and they proposed suggestions on what to be done:

- The energetic young individuals that want to farm should be identified and resources should be allocated to them. They should also be monitored and helped throughout the process;
- Providing internet facility mostly in rural areas
- Facilitating online-based education
- Facilitating an online based financing option for young farmers
- The monitoring and evaluation of the young farming projects partnered with mentorship

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II. DAY1-2: AFRICAN YOUNG FARMERS FORUM

- Encourage an agricultural program in schools that is fun and exciting and aims “to attract youth”.
- Technology at the service of Africa

4. Climakers workshop: Farmers resilience to climate change and other crisis.



Seizing the occasion of youth summit, PAFO on sponsorship of WFO under climakers alliance; organized a Climakers Africa workshop”, under the theme: “Building the capacity of African young farmers to effectively and successfully tackle the climate change and its associated impact - the role of youth and the organizations”. The objective of the workshop was to understand the changing climatic conditions under which young farmers work and the associated impact on their agriculture and agribusiness activities as well as existing adaptation options employed by the young farmers. The discussions by participants revealed that climate change and extremes such as droughts, floods, rising temperature, erratic rainfall volumes, and patterns as well as the rise in pests and diseases have increased the susceptibility of agriculture on the continent. Most important, Climate change has been shown to have a complex impact on young African farmers and their communities in particular. From the discussion, young farmers came up with

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a “[Young African Farmers Position on Climate Change](#)”, for the Conference of Parties (COP 27) held in “Sharm El Sheikh”, Egypt.

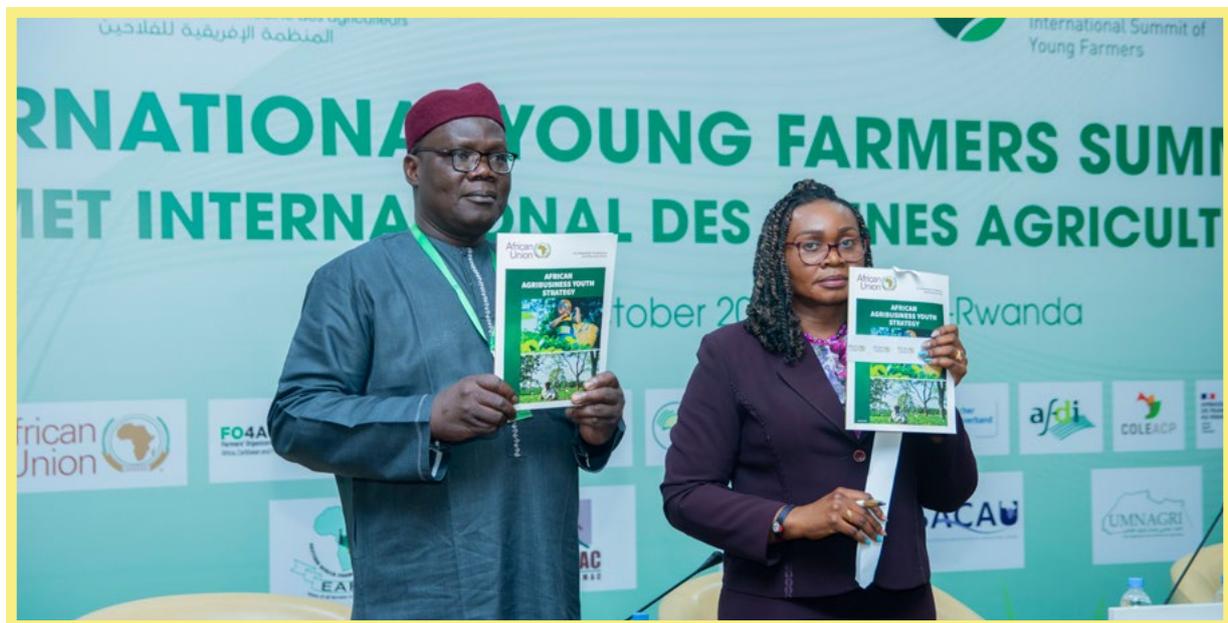


African farmers have been hardly heated by the COVID-19 pandemic. However much, the challenging situation have been an opportunity for farmers to be more innovative. In this context and under the sponsorship of IFAD, PAFO through its members produced a documentary to identify the most successful farmers led innovations in recovery to COVID-19 Impact. The African young farmers summit, has been an opportunity to PAFO for presenting the inspiring story of farmers on innovative solutions they established to adapt on COVID-19 situation. During this event; the consolidated [video](#) produced by PAFO was disseminated and five success cases at the National level have been presented

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II. DAY1-2: AFRICAN YOUNG FARMERS FORUM

5. Launch of African youth in agribusiness strategy by AU- DARBE



The African young farmers summit hosted the launch the [African Union youth in agribusiness strategy](#) (AAYS); developed by AU-DARBE with Support from GIZ as part of the implementation plan for the broader Continental Agribusiness Strategy for Africa and the Malabo declaration. The objective of this strategy, is to determine strategic intervention and to inform the implementation of Agriculture youth strategies at the National and Regional Levels as well as identify strategic actions to be implemented at the continental level up to 2025 and beyond to create an enabling environment for the youth to engage in Agribusiness.

The official opening was conducted by Mr. Kolyang Palebele, PAFO President, Dr. Janet Edeme, Head, Rural Development Division, DARBE, and a representative of GIZ. PAFO President highlighted the dynamic partnership between PAFO and the AU which is consolidating and strengthening over the years. He reiterated the importance of implementing the required policies for the transformation of agriculture in Africa, especially through the creation of employment opportunities for youth in agricultural value chains; and to support and facilitate the participation of women and youth in gainful and attractive agri-business opportunities. The AU representative pointed out on young people as the key actors for future

change. Getting youth involved in agribusiness is one of the most crucial opportunities to create the much-needed jobs for youth and strengthen economy.

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The African Agribusiness Youth Strategy was presented by the Policy Officer at the rural division for DARBE, who explain that over 450 million, young Africans aged 15-34 years represent over one-third of the continent's population. With unemployment rates of up to 25% in some countries, African Youth has become a central focus of decision-makers. Given that up to 70% of jobs in Africa can be found in agriculture, it became evident to African Heads of State that Agribusiness provides youth the opportunity to create jobs, grow economies and improve food security. They determined not only to develop a Continental Agribusiness Strategy but to go further and develop an African Agribusiness Youth Strategy. The AAYS reflects this focus by situating the Empowerment of Young Agripreneurs as the fulcrum of the strategy.

The strategy covers four important thematic which are;

- Building system for implementation
- Transform Market
- Strengthen the value chain

The presentation was followed by a panel discussion which focused more on implementation of the strategy, and the role of different stakeholders. The following are the panel discussions outcomes.

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Recommendations	Implementation at continental level	Implementation at Regional level	Implementation at National level	African union message
Implement a framework for evaluating the partnership between the actors of the African sector by valuing innovation in the transfer of skills.	Roll out the strategy at regional and national levels and obtain the buy-in of all stakeholders	Customize and operationalize the AAYS at the regional level and Build the AAYS around the Strategic Value Chain Strategy of the region	Mobilize all key stakeholders around the AAYS	African Union must bring out more clarification on the status of family farming and agribusiness to break the division between family farming and entrepreneurship
Implement a framework for evaluating the partnership between the actors of the African sector by valuing innovation in the transfer of skills.	Provide technical support to regional and national levels as they adapt and operationalize the strategy	Provide technical support for implementation at the national level	Customize and operationalize the AAYS to develop a National Youth Agribusiness Strategy (NYAS)	Follow-up on the innovation and knowledge exchanges in to see how that knowledge is being locally adopted
The African Union, in collaboration with PAFO and youth structures, must set up a reflection cell on youth funding criteria.	Mobilize resources for the implementation of the AAYS at all levels	Mobilize resources for implementation at regional and national levels	Build the NYAS around the country's Strategic Value Chains and integrate it into other national planning and budgeting frameworks	Separate indicator for youth and women in the biennial review of African unions to have a clear involvement of youth and women in agriculture

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synergy of action of the A public-private partnership (PPP).	Ensure the mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation at a continental level that incentivize and oblige Member states to implement, monitor , and evaluate the AAYS at national and subnational levels;	Ensure the mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation at the regional level that incentivize and oblige Member States to implement, monitor, and evaluate	Mobilize technical and financial resources for implementation at national and sub-national levels.	Involved actively Youth in the agricultural sector and more awareness of the youth agricultural innovation, to bridge the gap between the physical and intellectual gap
Involvement of youth in policy formulation and implementation		Ensure mechanisms for knowledge management and showcasing excellence at the regional level;	mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation at a national level that incentivize and oblige subnational levels to implement, monitor, and evaluate the NYAS at subnational levels	Agri-tech incubation and agribusiness training
PAFO strategies to strengthen for young farmers to have a strong voice.			Ensure mechanisms for knowledge management and showcasing excellence at subnational and national levels	Creation of a fund to facilitate fund access to young beginners to raise their business
			Provide data and knowledge management information to the regional and continental levels.	

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II. DAY1-2: AFRICAN YOUNG FARMERS FORUM

6. Positioning youth in farmers organizations leadership- Reflection on creation of PAFO Youth platform



Young farmers discussed on how they can get organized at continental, regional, national, and subnational levels to strengthen their voice. The session was on “how to integrate youth spaces in FOs decision-making structures and programs taking an example of ROPPA colleague for youth. The session started with a presentation on the history of the creation of ROPPA colleges for youth. It is a space for consultation, dialogue, and exchange of experiences within the Network to ensure the representation, coordination, and defense of the interests and specificities of young farmers, in family farms, farmers’ organizations, and institutions, at national, regional, and international levels.

The clear message from African youth Farmers is: *“Do not do things for us, we want you- policy makers- to do things with us. We are not subjects of research; we are not recipients of grant. We are not victims of anything. We are part of the solutions. We want to provide solutions to some of the challenges that we are facing”.*

Youth from different countries on the African continent discussed the possibilities of creating a structure to represent them, so they can be able to participate in the decisions and policies dedicated to them. They reflect on the “PAFO youth platform” and comes up with the below conclusion and decisions on how it will be structured:

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Linkage with PAFO operations	Decision-making structure Structure criteria	Systematic criteria for creating leadership position Governance	Organization Committee	The Roadmap towards the Implementation
<p>- PAFO should establish an ex-official's position to sustain the legacy of the young farmer's movement and mentorship for the upcoming young farmers.</p> <p>- Young farmers should be affiliated with PAFO for mentorship and support</p> <p>- PAFO should mobilize funding for youth to establish or strengthen young farmers platforms at regional and national levels.</p>	<p>To join, you must first be: Farmer (livestock, fishery, farming, etc.)</p> <p>o member of a national platform affiliated with the regional platform</p> <p>The general assembly is made up of 10 people by the regional organization</p> <p>The office of the continental platform is made up of 15 young people (3 young people per sub-regional organization of PAFO)</p> <p>Youth platform is a space that is not autonomous</p> <p>The age of the young farmer is limited to 40 years</p>	<p>Mandate: 2 years rotation (Geopolitics according to PAFO)</p> <p>The delegation must have 2 people</p> <p>Parity must be effective in governance</p>	<p>President Vise-preside in charge of training and revitalization General Secretary Monitoring and evaluation officer Entrepreneurship and installation of young people officer.</p>	<p>Step I: Appointing an interim - committee: - Meetings * Time frame: October 2022-January 2023</p> <p>Step II: meeting with PAFO, and stakeholders and bring feedback to the youth</p> <p>Step III: To review the documentation to see how the youth wing will merge with PAFO's existing structure.</p> <p>Step IV: use the existing youth structure at PAFO to identify the youth representative at all regions then we map them and mobilize sensibilize, and then recruit them to join PAFO, and finally come up with a data template to capture the number of youths at all regions.</p> <p>The PAFO youth platform for young Africans in agriculture should focus on support, participation, teamwork, influence, representation, innovation, and interest.</p>

The above discussions are considered as an initial phase which will have further discussions and decision processes according to the PAFO Policy and regulations. It was proposed for PAFO to involve youth in this process and for the launch of the platform to be announced during the next African Young Farmers' Forum scheduled in October 2023.

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III. DAY 3: AFRICAN – EUROPE YOUNG FARMERS MEETING



The Africa-Europe young farmers meeting, brought together 120 participants including 75 young farmers from Africa and Europe. To discuss on collective knowledge about Africa-Europe partnership issues and to make proposals on how young African and European farmers can be integrated and benefit from partnership. The meeting was officially opened by the representative of PAFO Board director in charge of youth -Mr. Phinius Gumedé, Vice President-SAGAU and Dr. Janet Edeme, Head of the Rural Development Division of AU-DARBE.

In his remarks, Mr. Phinius, welcome the participants from Africa and Europe in the IYFS. He stated Youth being the future of the agriculture sector and the future of FOs. Without youth there is no successful and sustainable food system. It is important to exchange experience to have a vision and determination for youth to reach their destination. In her remarks, Dr. Janet, pointed out that Africa-Europe partnership strives to bring the two continent closer together through strengthening economic cooperation and promoting sustainable development. The Abidjan Youth Declaration as the major outcome of the 5th Africa - EU Summit gave several recommendations to the heads of states arguing for them to invest in youth to guarantee a safe sustainable environment for generations to come. Opportunity was provided to the representatives of African and European young farmers to also address the audience. A representative of young African farmers summarized the work of the African Young Farmers' Forum with highlights on main outcomes, while a young European farmer, a member of CEJA, thanked PAFO's effort in gathering young farmers from all over the world in Kigali. In the Africa-Europe dialogue. The current social, environmental and political context on the two continents must be taken into account.

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III. DAY 3: AFRICAN – EUROPE YOUNG FARMERS MEETING

1. Contextualize the Africa/Europe partnership: its bases, principles and objectives



The discussions started with a panel on Africa-Europe partnerships, whereby representatives of FOs- ROPPA, a representative of AUDA-NEPAD, representative of AU, and a representative of AHA and an African young farmer discussed on issues around the importance of renewed partnership in the current context, on how to promote the construction of dialogue between Africa and Europe on the agricultural level and inclusion of youth.

During this panel, young farmers were able to learn about the areas covered by the Africa-Europe partnership, at the institutional level. For AUDA-NEPAD, partnership is focus on very transformational-oriented package of innovations; building resilient innovative systems regarding challenges related to climate change and other global shocks, partnerships and markets and more nature-positive regenerative ecosystems.

For the last 22 years, the AU and EU have 6 Summits and that indicates this cooperation has very long ties. It aims for the solidarity and security of the 2 Unions. The basis under which the African Continent and the European continent cooperate are sustainable economic development, and prosperity.

Discussions like this are a great opportunity for young farmers to look at things in the actually reality. The major problem that young farmers are facing is on the policy making and decision-making level that limits the voice of young farmers. There is a need to shape the future of the

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III. DAY 3: AFRICAN – EUROPE YOUNG FARMERS MEETING

agriculture in Africa; this requires for young farmers to directly access the resources and funds coming in to support the agricultural sector. There a need, also, to form partnerships between the 2 continents to exchange the raw materials and the supply of the food being produced in terms of easy access to the market.

2. Models of value chains supported in framework of AU/ EU partnership

In terms of models of value chains supported in framework of AU/EU partnership. Young farmers in the group work exchanged on global value chains between Europe and Africa: current functioning and future improvements; on how integrate family farming and smallholders' agriculture in local and global value chains; the role of Farmers' Organizations and Contract Farming in Value-Chain Development. They also, debated about improving the access to innovation and information/ communication technologies to develop resilient value chains;

The following are main outcomes from the discussions;

- Young farmers are pledging for the allocation of at least 3% of national budget for AU-EU member states to finance youth in Agriculture projects.
- Inclusive private and public finance for the development of local, regional and global value chain for the benefit of young farmers.
- Establishment of digital based marketing to improve communication and profit realization to the farmers
- Introduction of contract farming (farmers sells their farm products on one price)
- Work with agro-insurance companies to mitigate the risks (from farmer to consumer) who have sub sized farmers insurance products and benefits
- Revision and formulation of agriculture credit facilities looking on interest rates and affordable payments
- Building and strengthening of commodity associations of all value chains in regions
- Empowerment of farmers organization
- Provision of more training on financial management tools to the associations on value chains by the public and private sector.

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III. DAY 3: AFRICAN – EUROPE YOUNG FARMERS MEETING

3. Business opportunities for African young entrepreneurs in African and European market



Seizing the opportunity of IYFS and in the context of existing partnership between PAFO and COLEACP. The sessions focused on exploring the Business opportunities for African young entrepreneurs in African and European markets. Young farmers from Africa and Europe shared their experience on how they were able to explore those opportunities. The joint session featured three African young entrepreneurs (see [biodata](#)). Mwangi Muturi presented his business Lusoi Greens Limited in the [PAFO and COLEACP Innovations Session n°8](#), while Moussa Faye's and Sandrine Vasselín Kabonga's respective companies Moussa's Bissap and MISAO KIVU were recently featured in the [African Diaspora Agrofood Entrepreneurs Compendium](#) published and developed by The Food Bridge and COLEACP. They shared their experiences from Africa and Europe in business development and intercontinental trade (specifically between Africa and Europe). The three African young entrepreneurs interact with participants at IYFS who expressed their interest on how to access the European market.

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III. DAY 3: AFRICAN – EUROPE YOUNG FARMERS MEETING

Following the discussions, young entrepreneurs who presented shared key messages that guided their journey to success;

- **Moussa from Moussa's Bissap:** *"Building trust through the quality of products is essential, as these will represent the country that they are exported from and will pave the way for others."*
- **Sandrine from MISAO KIVU:** *"Niche markets are the future of the agricultural market in Africa, and the uniqueness of a product will help to ensure it stands out on global markets. Quality and food safety standards and certifications are key for accessing these (export) markets."*
- **Mwangi from Lusoi Greens Limited:** *"Investing in labelling and branding is key as it supports the produce to be associated with high quality, consistency and sustainability. Branding is especially of importance when entering new markets to create recognition."*

4. International Young Farmers Manifesto- Part 1

The last session for Africa-Europe young farmers summit, was dedicate to work on initiation draft for the IYFS manifesto. Young farmers from Africa and Europe compiled key outcomes from the three days of discussions, including the young farmers preoccupations and message to different stakeholders. These elements formed a base of discussions with young farmers from other continents and key messages to come out in the [IYFS manifesto](#).

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IV. DAY 4-6 INTERNATIONAL YOUNG FARMERS SUMMIT



From 27th -29th October 2022, young farmers from Africa, Europe, Asia, North America and Latin America joined together in Kigali (Rwanda) for the third international young farmer's summit. The IYFS brought together 139 people including 91 young farmers from the five continents. Since the two past editions, major crises have occurred (Covid-19 pandemic, wars, droughts, price increase) and after this summit, we confirm that the issues young farmers are facing, are global and need more interchange between the regions.

The official opening was done by Mr. Kolyang Palebele, the President of PAFO who in his remarks expressed the enthusiasm of PAFO to hosting the young farmers from the 5 continents of the world. The young farmers are the key driver for the sustainability of agriculture sector and food security thus they require to have a favorable and conducive environment. IYFS is an opportunity for young farmers to on global issues affecting them and together find solution on how to address them. It is expected for the IYFS to address global issues such as the climate change, policy youth installation value chain, land, etc.

The following speaker was Mr. Jeremy Decerle, who is a member of EU Parliament. In his remark, he congratulated PAFO for the success of organizations of the IYFS. Young farmers no matter what continent they are coming from needs to learn from others and they should pledge in this context. From the 2019 IFYS Manifesto, some of the elements came out of it still needs attention. These elements are Access to land; Recognition of agriculture as a profession by decision makers and the public; allowing the present of young farmers on decision making table and consider their views and concerns; Stable and solid strategy to accompany the needed changes

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on agriculture practices for the long-term and ambitious politics for the management of the climate change impacts.

The next speaker was Mr. Thierry MAZIMA who is the representative of AU Chairperson special envoy for youth. In his remarks, he presented the mission of the AU youth envoy office which is to creating a pathway that makes the Africa we want realistic for all African youth. Helping to translate the agenda 2063 into a more tangible action plan through collaboration. Jointly implementing policies, and a continental strategy that serves the interests of the youth and preferable led by youth.

In his conclusion, he stressed on the fact that the world needs young farmers now more than ever before to feeding the growing population. He called for policy makers to support youth effort for the better future of all.

The Ambassador of France in Rwanda, H.E Antoine ANFRÉ in his remarks appreciated the effort made by young farmers coming together to discussing issues affecting them, and congratulated PAFO for the successful orientation of the event.

For the official opening, Mr. Jean Claude MUSABYIMANA; The state minister in MINAGRI, Government of Rwanda spoke about different challenges faced by young farmers. The Rwandan government has invested several efforts to find solutions to these challenges, and among the solutions invest more resources in Agriculture. To facilitate access to agricultural finance, the Rwandan government has set up a guarantee fund for agriculture, young farmers can benefit from this fund 75% of credit and projects initiated by young people are prioritized.

1. Policy in Favor of Young Farmers

In this session, young farmers from the five continents shared their experience on how in their organizations are advocating to influence policies, for a favorable environment for young farmers. From different testimonies, it was clear that an easy way for young farmers to express their concern is through their associations. Even if young farmers are working hard to build their structures, they are still facing different challenges and those includes (i) limited inclusion and consideration by decision makers in policy processes. (ii) Problem of illiteracy among young farmers mostly in rural areas. (iii) limited facilities to allow information sharing among young farmers.

Young farmers need to be united to become stronger for advocating better policies. They need to not only present the challenges but to be part of solutions by providing proposals that can bring a positive change. Existing young farmers' structure should provide opportunities for young farmers to express their concern and should ensure the transmission of youth message to decision makers, because decisions needs to be taken with youth not for youth. Partners needs

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to also be involved and support youth organizations capacities to be able influencing decisions. It was noted that; the promotion of digitalization and involvement of new technologies is required to facilitate the connection with rural communities.

2. Climate Change and Food Security

The session focused on the global food systems and its sustainability in face of climate change. Young farmers discussed on challenges imposed to the global food systems, the situation of climate change impacts and measures to be taken.

According to FAO, food security has four pillars which are availability, access, utilization, and stability. Young farmers exchanged on challenges affecting food security. In terms of food accessibility, the rising price of fertilizers is highly affecting food price in most of countries and this is causing increase of food price and as results contributing to food inaccessibility. Besides, the presence of middle man who buys food on low price from farmers and sells on higher price to consumers are also contributing to the food price inflation. In some countries, and this is the case of Mauritius, consumers life style drives them to prefer imported food compare to local produced food. And this affect accessibility to market for producers. To address the said issues, young farmers propose (i) to promote agroecology practices and organic farming as an alternative solution to the fertility of the soil and sustainable solution for fertility scarcity. Promotion of agroecology will also come with further advantages such as production of safe and nutritious food as well as protection of environment. (ii) To promote the post-harvest mechanism to protect farmers and improve their bargaining power to market. (iii) To advocate for harmonized food pricing system that protects locally produced food from imported ones.

Climate changes is causing a lot of challenges to the already vulnerable food system. Its impact is now imposing heavy burden to farmers including floods, surgency of locusts etc. Industrial agriculture is contributing to environmental stress. While the rising of insecurity in different part of Africa is affecting the resilience and adaptation capacities of Farmers in rural communities. Young farmers argued that Climate change should not only be seen as a challenge, but also an opportunity to think out of box to come up with new innovations to mitigate impact. Farmers through different technics have potential to contribute on decrease of carbon emission, but more resource is needed to promote and scaleup innovations. It is important for the global economic systems to be reformed to hold decision makers accountable for the needed change. Now that young farmers are aware of the challenges, they hope solutions can be provided but this is only possible if all actors come together thus more advocacy is needed.

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3. International Manifesto of Young Farmers (IYFS)- Part 2

The last session of the day has been to exchange on the [International Manifesto of Young Farmers](#). Led by young farmers, themselves the discussions started with a presentation of proposed element for manifesto from Africa-Europe young farmers meeting, which later formed a base of debate for a global wide issue. Young farmers set a committee composed by representatives of young farmers from all continent, who were assigned to work on the document and present the final manifesto for validation by all young farmers present.

Among many topics proposed, the following emerged as common and primary to all continents;

- Adaptation to climate change
- Renewal of the farming generations
- Use and secure access to land
- Access to finance
- Development and access to innovations and technologies
- The need for public and private partnerships to promote capacity-building solutions for young farmers

One of the main recommendations come out in the manifesto are;

- The need for a global network of young farmers where they can share experiences, approaches, proposes solutions. This could eventually lead to the creation of a structured youth governance body. The organization and effective implementation of this global network of young farmers is a challenge that young farmers should address together. The starting point can to have online working meetings between each summit. A Representative from each continent will be in charge of organizing each of the meetings. The objective of these meetings is to bring the opportunity to discuss altogether and share experiences, perspectives and challenges to raise the voice of young farmers at the international level.
- It was proposed to set 29th of October as the young farmers international day to increase their visibility on the international scene while deploying their forces locally to increase communication on the global challenges faced by young farmers.
- Through this manifesto, young farmers call for a better consideration of the youth in agricultural and highlight that young farmers are not only the future but the present of agriculture. Young farmers believe to be the foundation on which a growing world population is going to be fed sustainably.

For the last day of the IYFS, the Manifesto document was validated for the public declaration and mechanisms to promote it was adopted. PAFO as the host institutions prepared a press statement to communicate on the manifesto and have been published to the PAFO communication channels.

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4. Field visit to the young farmers innovations in Rwanda



On the second day of the IYFS, the Pan African Farmers Organization (PAFO) organized a field visit for young farmers to visit their counterpart in Rwanda. The objective was for young farmers to learn from their Rwandan counterparts on different innovation and experiences.

The field visit was also an opportunity for young farmers to exchange on common issues affecting their farming activities and other shared interests.

Young farmers visited a youth in Agriculture company called Yen company, which is a company cultivating vegetables.

The Yen company have different innovations they employ in their vegetable farming business those includes;

- Vegetable farming in greenhouse without use of Soil and Less Water
- Spiral gardening

Yen company, contributes to the food security of the country and provide employment to many young farmers. Whereby so far it has 8 permanent employees and it provided employment casually for about 1000 people.

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The main outcome from the visit have been that young farmers were able to learning new vegetable farming technics, mostly on acquiring higher production using small land.

Following the visit to Rwandan young agripreneurss, young farmers went Visit Kigali Genocide memorial. From there, they were able to learn dark history of Rwanda and how the country was able to recovery from the horror of Genocide against Tutsis in 1994. The experience helped young farmers to learn history but also to take lessons that can help in their home countries.

In the evening, Cocktail was provisioned for young farmers to have time for networking and entertainment. Hosted by the NORRSKEN foundation; young farmers were able to enjoy Kigali night, to relax with some good music.

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V. CONCLUSION

The IYFS concluded on Saturday 29 October, after a full week of events dedicated to young farmers. In his closing remarks, PAFO President expressed the pride of PAFO and its secretariat in having been able to successfully organize the IYFS. He also expressed his gratitude to PAFO members and partners for their support.

The Next International Young Farmers Summit, will be held in Canada in 2024.



Panafrican farmers' organization
 Organisation panafricaine des agriculteurs
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