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Panafrican farmers' organization
Organisation panafricaine des agriculteurs
المنظمة الإفريقية للفلاحين

NEWSLETTER N° 11

Focus: YOUNG AFRICAN AGRIPRENEURS: SUCCESS STORY AND SCALING UP LESSONS AND INNOVATIONS



Message from PAFO president Kolyang Palebele

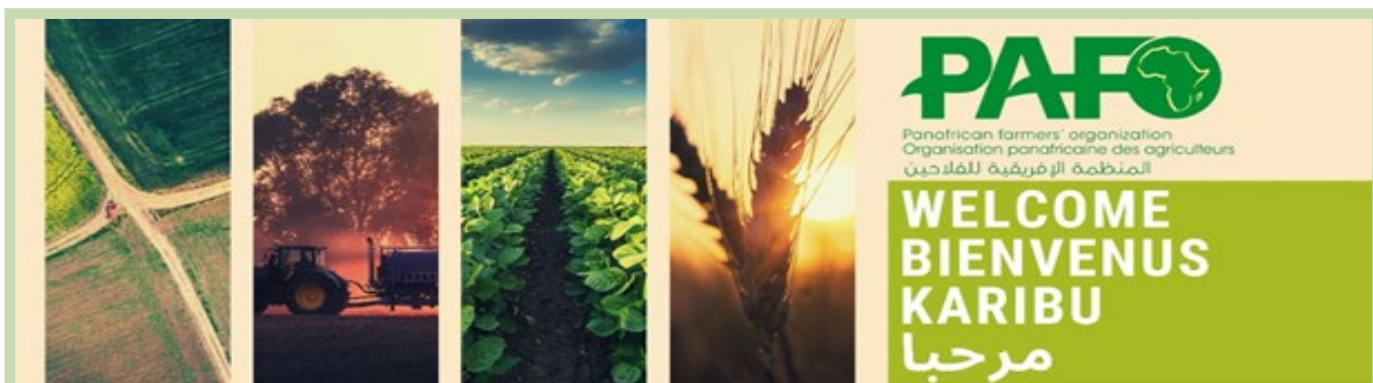
Despite the growing demand for food which offers enormous employment potential in the agricultural sector, agriculture in Africa is clearly not attractive to young people under current conditions. Agricultural research has developed many innovative technologies with proven potential benefits, but their adoption rates and impact remain low. However, Africa has enormous potential in terms of arable land, surface and underground water, solar and wind energy, and a dynamic youth. This should allow it to face not only the problem of food security and nutrition for its population and export to feed other continents, but also create wealth and employment and strengthen the African economy.

Unfortunately, these potentials have not yet brought tangible answers to the difficult situation that the African population is living. This is largely due to the weakness of various agricultural policies that are not adapted to the current context in our countries. We must add to

this climate change, local conflicts, and access to financing for youth and women.

PAFO conducted a continental study on: "African Youth Agri-Entrepreneurs: Success Stories and Scaling Up Lessons and Innovations" to identify and profile the success stories of African youth (men and women) operating in agriculture in order to scale up lessons and innovations. PAFO believes that lessons can be better learned from good examples than from failures in the system to better engage with the youths. In addition, success stories were compiled and presented as business models to other youths who see no career opportunities in the agricultural sector.

From the profiles identified, a synthesis was made to identify the common characteristics that make these young farmers/agri-entrepreneurs successful in terms of internal (personal) characteristics and external support systems. The study also raised awareness on the issues to be taken into account either to achieve PAFO's mission or to support its advocacy with regional and global institutions. This is in perfect harmony with PAFO's five-year strategy, which ensures that women and youth are at the center of PAFO and all agriculture-related activities and that they are integrated into all programs, receive resources, and are specifically integrated into all advocacy, both in written and practical policy advocacy. This clearly shows the great importance that PAFO attaches to young farmers on the continent. Viewing agriculture as a business and a pillar of economic, social and cultural development in Africa, PAFO emphasizes "agricultural entrepreneurship" with the objective of transforming smallholder agriculture into a rewarding investment opportunity, particularly for both youths and women.





CEO editorial

Dr. Babafemi Oyewole

I am pleased to welcome you to the first edition of our newsletter in this year. In line with its vigorous pursuit of the activities under its four strategic pillars, PAFO continues to implement and participate in international events that were in line with its objectives and goal outlined in its strategic plan. In this edition, the following activities have been highlighted for our members and stakeholders:

PAFO is passionate at engaging young farmers in Africa's agriculture sector because the youths are the foundation for the agriculture sector development and its future sustainability. They are creative, determined, and able to take risks. Youths are more open to training, to the acquisition of new skills and to the improvement of competences. Through the study, "Young African agripreneurs: Success story and scaling up lessons and innovations", PAFO wanted to capitalize and disseminate the success stories of young people that engage in agriculture so that many can learn from examples. It

identifies and profile success stories of young African farmers for scaling up and innovations.

As part of its advocacy function, PAFO participated in conferences and summits held outside and within Africa during the review period. Moreover, PAFO and some of its members were represented at the Dakar 2 Summit on Feed Africa: Food Sovereignty and Resilience held in Dakar Senegal from 22 to 25 January 2023. The Summit brought together Governments, Private Sector, Multilateral Organizations, NGOs, and scientists to discuss the challenges of food security in Africa. PAFO seized the opportunity to bring the voice of African farmers to the world leaders and participants in the Summit by a declaration that an urgent and concrete actions are needed to facilitate an investment that will ensure a more resilient, sustainable, and sovereign food that is inclusive, involving all food system actors is urgently required. The outcome of the event was the pledge of over \$30billion by governments and development partners to support food security, sovereignty and resilience in Africa.

Finally, PAFO and AKADEMIYA 2063, launched in February 2023 a Digitally Enabled Resilience and Nutrition Policy (DERPin)) to develop an innovative and integrated digital infrastructure to curate, customize and deploy relevant evidence to support planning and decision-making across food systems value chain segments. The three-year project will operate in five member countries of PAFO, and it is expected to build more holistic and ambitious disaster resilience framework for agriculture and ensure sustainable development.

PAFO assured the audience of its commitment to mobilize farmers in all the participating countries to ensure the success of the project.

PAFO thanks its members and partners stakeholders for their support and we request that they give us feedback so that we can improve on our deliverables with respect to our strategic plans and pillars.



YOUNG AFRICAN AGRIPRENEURS: SUCCESS STORY AND SCALING UP LESSONS AND INNOVATIONS



INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is a primal sector to generate income to the growing population and a major contributor to the GDP in Africa. Africa is known as young continent due to the fact that it has the largest number of young population in the world. This young people are energetic, have a fresh mind and innovative spirit. They are ambitious and willing to take initiative to get integrated in development process.

Young people are the foundation for the agriculture sector development and its future sustainability. They have a creative spirit, they are determined and able to take risks. They engage and adapt easily to the management of programs and projects. They are thus more open to training, to the acquisition of new skills and to the improvement of competences.

Africa still have a big number of young people with a negative perception of agriculture and find it difficult to engage in productive agricultural activities. This negative perception is amplified by a weak accessibility of information and communication. It is necessary to capitalize and disseminate the success stories of young people that engage in agriculture so that many can learn from examples.

AIM OF THE STUDY

PAFO committed this continental study on: “Young African Agripreneurs: Success Story and Scaling up Lessons and Innovations” to identify and profile success stories of young Africans (men and women) operating in agriculture for scaling up lessons and innovations. PAFO believes that lessons can be learned better from good examples than from failures of the system to better involve young people. The specific objectives of the study include:

- Capitalize the profiles of different successful young Agripreneurs (men and women) by network, in Africa
- Identify the common characteristics that make these young farmers/ Agripreneurs successful in terms of internal (personal) factors and external support systems.
- Sensitization of young people and the general public to the opportunities offered by the agricultural sector for youth employment and job creation.
- Present the positive stories as business models to other young people who see no hope in the agricultural sector. • Present innovations by young African farmers and Agripreneurs in supporting sustainable food production and security in Africa
- Provide advocacy tools to African farmers’ organizations



YOUTH AGRIPRENEURSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

Youth agripreneurship contributes to development in Africa as shown by the perception of young agripreneurs in Figure 6. About 97.9 percent of the young agripreneurs reported that their agripreneurship contributes to development across the continent. On the basis of the level of agripreneurship contribution to development, the majority of young agripreneurs made substantial contribution at both the local (47.9%) and national (43.8%) levels, even though about 5.1 percent of young agripreneurs believed that their agripreneurship contribute to development at the global level. The level of contribution of agripreneurship to development could be partly explained by the territories within which many young agripreneurs in Africa operate their business. As reported earlier, the majority of young agripreneurs operate largely at the local and national levels. [\(Read More\)](#)

YOUTH AND AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN AFRICA

Considering agriculture as a business has a potential to pull African youth who are largely unemployed into agriculture. As indicated earlier, the unattractiveness of agriculture in Africa among the youth has been a major factor hindering their participation in agriculture sector. Indeed, as reported by the World Bank (2019), a vibrant agripreneurship sector in Africa could triple the value of the continent's food market, which was valued at US\$313 billion each year in 2013. By 2030, Africa's agriculture and agripreneurship sector is expected to yield about US\$1 trillion for the continent (World Bank, 2013). Currently, the agripreneurship value chain alone (i.e., supply of inputs, marketing, processing and retail) contribute about 20% to Africa's GDP.

Promoting a vibrant agripreneurship sector requires the uptake of robust innovations and technologies coupled with reforms that enhance accessible markets, improved and climate resilient seedlings, other farm inputs, and high quality human resources (World Bank, 2019b, 2019a). With respect to human resources, there is no doubt that African youth have the greatest potential to streamline and sustain a vibrant agripreneurship sector. The youth are considered energetic, risk takers, adventurous, enterprising and have strong passion to adopt innovations and technology compared to the aging African farmers' population (AGRA, 2014; Mo Ibrahim Foundation, 2021). More so, the size of the population of the African youth can be leveraged on as an asset for promoting and scaling up agripreneurship on the continent. [\(Read More\)](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

....Similarly, given the centrality of young agripreneurs in the African Continental Free Trade Area, it is essential for PAFO to rely on its member networks and partners to increase access to markets for young agripreneurs under the AfCFTA. Workshops on how young agripreneurs can effectively and sustainably take advantage of the AfCFTA should be prioritized by PAFO. Additionally, governments should promote trade facilitation on the continent with particular emphasis on ensuring ease of doing business among young agripreneurs. It is established from this study that young African agripreneurs have success stories that can be leveraged on to attract and retain other youth into agripreneurship. Most importantly, apart from their contribution to development on the continent, young agripreneurs have also achieved financial independence, accumulated assets, created employment opportunities, and participated effectively in local and national policymaking processes. Thus, young agripreneurs have improved and transformed their living conditions through agripreneurship. It is therefore, recommended for PAFO and its regional and national parties to rely on the success stories of young agripreneurs to boost the general participation of youth in agriculture and agripreneurship in Africa. To achieve this, successful young agripreneurs can serve as ambassadors of change by advocating and disseminating relevant and positive information necessary to develop the interest of other Africa youth to engage in agripreneurship....[\(Read More\)](#)



PAFO NEWS

PAFO celebrates International Women's Day with African Rural Women

On International Women's Day, it is important to remember that African women are disproportionately marginalized digitally. According to the [World Bank](#), "digital skills and tools are increasingly essential for accessing services such as health, education, social protection, and financial services. Furthermore, digital technologies are a key driver of employment on a continent with a growing workforce: in sub-Saharan Africa, [an estimated 230 million jobs will require digital skills by 2030.](#)

As the voice of more than 80 million African farmers, most of whom are women, PAFO places great importance on women in its advocacy and management activities. Indeed, the orientations of [PAFO's strategic plan \(2021-2025\)](#) are implemented by integrating cross-cutting themes, including the promotion of innovation at all levels of the value chain: production, marketing, financing, etc.

Rural women are represented on PAFO's Board of Directors. They lead programs, National and Regional Farmers' Organizations.

[More Information](#)

Meetings and events undertaken in 2023

As part of its advocacy function, PAFO participated in meetings and events at the continental and international level, during the last period.

AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT



PAFO President Mr. Kolyang Palebele and Ms. Eelizabeth Nsimadala, PAFO Board Member in charge of Women's Affairs and President of EAFF, participated in the 42nd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and the 36th Ordinary Session of the General Assembly of the African Union, in Addis Ababa, organized under the theme "Accelerating the Implementation of the FTAA". They were invited to participate in the investor roundtable on the African Common Agricultural Park (ACAP) program. The expected results of the CAAP are critical to the successful implementation of the AfCFTA and to substantially reduce Africa's food imports. A zone that is still slow to be put in place, concretely.



Africa Food Security Platform- Technical Committee Meeting



At the invitation of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), and the African Union Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Environmental Sustainability (AUC-DARBE), Dr. Sinare Yusuf Sinare, PAFO Board Member and SACAU President, attended the meeting of the Platform for African Food Security Technical Committee (PSAA-TC).

Implemented by AGRA, in collaboration with (AUC-DARBE), the Africa Food Security Technical Committee (AFS-TC) will be the technical arm of the Platform for Africa Food Security (PSAA). The AFS-TC will be responsible for data generation and analysis of all issues related to food and nutrition security to support the strategic role of the PSAA. The objective of the meeting is to define a roadmap in the context of advancing the post-shock food security agenda, as well as to establish an appropriate coordination and monitoring architecture in relation to the roles and responsibilities of the technical committee. The meeting defined the rules of procedure and the review and validation of the TORs for the AFS-TC.

BAD : DAKAR2 Summit



The Dakar 2 summit convened about 34 heads of states, different partners of the AfDB, private sector and civil society. The objectives were to deliver private sector's investments to develop the critical value chains. PAFO attended the Dakar 2 summit with a delegation led by PAFO's president Mr. Kolyang Palebele. Following three days, exchanges between summit participants resulted in the [Dakar Declaration on Food Sovereignty and Resilience \(DAKAR 2\)](#) were especially the Dakar declaration on food sovereignty and resilience (DAKAR 2) Due to the fact that, PAFO not given an opportunity to make an intervention in the summit program to present farmers' views and priorities to the summit. And considering that PAFO made a preparatory consultation with its members which led to the elaboration of [PAFO declaration to the AFDB Dakar 2 Summit on "Feed Africa: Food Sovereignty and Resilience"](#). It was necessary to find an alternative to raise awareness of farmer's priorities. The PAFO team on site, and with assistance of ROPPA team distributed about 200 copies of its declaration with the participants.



In addition, PAFO convened a press conference which brought together about 15 media in Senegal (RSI, APS, ITV, TRADIO, TFM, JOX POP, SUDFA, WOLF TV, DAKAR ACTU, LE SOLEIL, SEN-TV, GRAND PLASE; L'OBS, ZSTV).The press conference have been an opportunity to announce the [PAFO declaration to the AFDB Dakar 2 Summit on "Feed Africa: Food Sovereignty and Resilience"](#) and to advocate for Farmers challenge and priority needs to be considered for the Dakar2 Summit.



IGREENFIN-OP- Workshop - Sénégal

At the invitation of ROPPA, PAFO participated in the two-day workshop organized by IFAD to launch the E-GREENFIN-OP project in Senegal. “Green and Inclusive Finance (IGREENFIN II) is an IFAD-supported program that aims to assist farmer organizations (FOs) and financial institutions to promote small-scale, climate-resilient, low-emission agriculture.

Participants discussed the context of agriculture financing. The last session of the two-day workshop was dedicated to ROPPA members, who had the opportunity to exchange on their expectations and recommendations for the Dakar 2 summit under the theme “Feeding Africa”: “Food Sovereignty and Resilience”. The discussions led to the [ROPPA DECLARATION AT THE DAKAR2 SUMMIT](#), from which PAFO was able to acquire some significant elements concerning the particularities of the West African region that fed into PAFO’s declaration at the same Summit.



GFFA Berlin

The PAFO President and CEO attended the Global Forum on Food and Agriculture (GFFA) in Berlin. During the event, Dr. Babafemi Oyewole, SE of PAFO, moderated a panel session, organized by the World Farmers Organization (WFO) and Andreas Hermes Akademie (AHA), on the theme “Investing in Local Farmers’ Solutions to the Challenges of the Global Food System”.



The panel was composed of representatives of farmers and multilateral financial partners. OMA and PAFO described the challenge and potential benefit of a strong and active role for FOs in the process. A representative of AgriCord highlighted potential ways to strengthen the financial, human and organizational capacities of FOs. The World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) provided an overview of possible facilities - and their limitations. The Food Systems Summit Coordination Center also analyzed this multilateral perspective to show how it should and can be implemented at the national level.





AFD Conference “The importance of public policies for food and nutrition security in Africa”



The PAFO president attended the event : “Place and needs of family farming for food and nutritional security”, within the framework of the Conference on [“The importance of public policies for food and nutritional security in Africa”](#), organized in PARIS, by the French Development Agency (AFD), on February 09, 2023. Kolyang Palebele, PAFO president, indicated that “in Africa, food and nutrition security is subject to structural, socio-economic, political and environmental, and even health constraints which, in order to be overcome, require important collaborations between all the actors of the society as well as in various sectors of activities, including research and innovation”. He added that PAFO wishes to work with the Special Envoy of the African

Union Commission for Food Systems to contribute to the achievement of the objectives set by the AU on food security. The Chairperson emphasized that farmers are the custodians of food systems and that they play a key role in contributing to the sustainability and collectivity of the food system. Therefore, their voice must be well organized and heard in food system governance and policy making, especially the voice of women, as they are most involved at very sensitive stages of each value chain.

FARM Foundation” conference

The PAFO president of took part in the [Conference “Agriculture\(s\): the time of mobilizations”](#), organized, in PARIS, by the “Fondation Farm”, January 17, 2023. The conference brought together all the actors - politicians, researchers, financiers, farmers, students, citizens... - who wish to make their contributions to the necessary transformations of agriculture and food systems.

The President said that “We must find appropriate forms of agricultural development for Africa”. And to add that it is necessary to involve all the actors, in the choices of system of production, in particular in the elaboration of the policies, the projects and the programs of development, adopted by the governments in our countries. Referring to the NORTH-SOUTH cooperation, the president of PAFO underlined that it will be necessary to work on the integration of the young people, who have difficulties to access to the financing, to the land It is also necessary to work on value chains, information and innovation as well as on the issues of agro-ecology and the reduction of trade barriers, through the AfCFTA, a mechanism already in use by the African Union.

**CONFÉRENCE
INTERNATIONALE DE LA
FONDATION FARM**
MARDI 17 JANVIER 2023
À L'OCDE (PARIS)

**AGRICULTURE(S)
LE TEMPS DES
MOBILISATIONS !**

FARM Fondation pour l'agriculture et la ruralité dans le monde
APEX AFRICAN PEASANT EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION
TEURACTIV LE MINISTÈRE DE L'AGRICULTURE, DE LA PÊCHE ET DE LA SÉCURITÉ ALIMENTAIRE

PARTNERSHIPS

FO4ACP Knowledge management event 16-18 May 2023- Kigali



PAFO, with the technical and financial support of IFAD, and within the framework of the FO4ACP program will organize a knowledge management event from May 16 to 18, 2023.

A knowledge share fair is a buzzing, interactive and collaborative workspace, with lively discussions and practical demonstrations. There are facilitated sessions to learn how others have improved the effectiveness and quality of their work, and opportunities for networking, allowing people to connect and link ideas as well as exchanging opinions in a natural way and relaxed setting. A share fair is not a goal in itself, but part of a process.

After the completion of the FO4ACP MTR, the program partners have come to an ideal moment to exchange on good and promising practices and to include improved approaches in the second half of the program implementation. The key topics identified for the KM Event are:

1. Climate change and resilience
2. Access to finance
3. Business plans and their implementation
4. Policy Engagement and Advocacy
5. Data collection for informed decisions



PAFO-COLEAD Innovation Series



The virtual [12e session](#) focused on the theme: “Entrepreneurial skills developed by successful African SMEs”. About 1000 people from different countries registered for this session, of which more than 217 were able to follow the speakers online.

In a complex and dynamic environment, it is crucial that entrepreneurs in the agri-food sector are supported to create, maintain and grow a profitable business. Successful African MSMEs typically develop various entrepreneurial skills, which can be grouped into several key areas including Adaptability and resilience skills; Business acumen skills; Continuous learning; financial management skills; Innovation skills..... To support these entrepreneurs and MSMEs, African governments and development partners need to implement policies and programs that improve access to finance, infrastructure, and market linkages, and provide technical assistance and training to MSMEs, farmers’ organizations, and entrepreneurs.



International Women's Rights Day

On this year's International Women's Rights Day, which has the theme "[DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality](#)", [COLEAD](#) - together with the Pan-African Farmers' Organization ([PAFO](#)) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture ([IICA](#)) - celebrates the 28 African and 16 Caribbean women farmers and entrepreneurs who have shared their experiences within the PAFO-COLEAD Innovations Series and the IICA-COLEAD Caribbean Agrifood Business Series. The PAFO-COLEAD Innovations Sessions and the IICA-COLEAD Caribbean Agrifood Business Sessions focus on innovations and successes of African and Caribbean farmer-led businesses and SMEs, respectively. These activities are supported by the [Fit For Market Plus programme](#), implemented by the COLEAD within the Framework of Development Cooperation between the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the European Union.

Find short presentations of these amazing women entrepreneurs below:

[African women agripreneurs](#)

[Caribbean women agripreneurs](#)





ANDREAS
HERMES
AKADEMIE



Deutscher
Bauernverband

The Global Forum on Food and Agriculture - GFFA 2023, which took place in Berlin from January 11 to 25, was an opportunity for PAFO and PAFO and Andreas Hermes Akademie (AHA) to sign face-to-face, [a memorandum of understanding and cooperation](#), the implementation of which started in January 2023.

Objective: To strengthen the capacity of farmers' organizations (FOs) in Africa, under the aegis of PAFO, at continental, regional and national levels, in order to better implement their mandate in times of great challenges for the agricultural sector.



This Memorandum of Understanding aims to lay the foundations for cooperation between PAFO and AHA to strengthen the skills of African Farmer Organizations (FOs), through a peer-to-peer learning approach; mutual exchange between African POs and their non-African counterparts, as well as higher individual and organizational professionalism. PAFO and AHA will support the growing network of skills, between regional farmers' organizations (RPOs), national farmers' organizations (NPOs), men, women and young people.

At the beginning of 2023, PAFO started the implementation of the two projects, included in the partnership agreement. The AHA and AKI team moved to Kigali for the launch of the Pan-African Farmers' Organization Exchange Platform project.

It is planned to organize a training session, in March 2023, for the Core team Moderation members, who will be in charge of the platform animation.

In the same context, PAFO will implement the "Women Leaders" program: 24 women in leadership positions are invited to capacity building, to go through an intensive training, peer learning and exposure phase. PAFO will host a training session for women leaders in Kigali during May 2023



Launch Event of DERPIIn project



[AKADEMIYA2063](#) and the Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO) are hosting an event in Kigali to mark the launch of the Digitally Enabled Resilience and Nutrition Policy Innovations (DERPIIn) Project.

The project will leverage advances in digital infrastructure, big data, machine learning, and artificial intelligence (AI) to identify innovative and lower-cost solutions to increase the resilience of food systems and communities to climatic shocks and stressors. The project is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It is supported through the Fund for the Promotion of Innovation in Agriculture (i4Ag) and, implemented by AKADEMIYA2063 on behalf of, the [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\) GmbH](#).


Speaking at the event, Dr Olivier Kamana, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) said that they expect a lot from this initiative in line with boosting food security and nutrition in the country. Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Founder and Executive Chairperson of AKADEMIYA 2063 says that they are happy to implement this project in Rwanda that is advancing in digital transformation. According to him, "With DERPIIn, AKADEMIYA2063 proposes the development of a suite of digital solutions to support policy innovations at the intersection of climate change and food and nutrition security in Africa," said Dr. Ousmane Badiane, AKADEMIYA2063's Executive Chairperson. "We are delighted to be implementing this project on behalf of [GIZ](#) and, optimistic that our collaboration with PAFO will drive the creation of integrated, customizable, and context-specific products and services to guide action by food system actors across the project countries."

In his remarks at the launch event, Dr. Babafemi Oyewole, the CEO of PAFO provided the perspectives of farmers on the project by emphasizing the need for data and information that would enable farmers to effectively mitigate the risks and effects of natural disasters and climate change on farming activities. He gave assurance to the partners that PAFO would mobilize all farmers within the three regions and five countries covered by the project in its network for the success of the project.


[More Information](#)



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