

"Women Lead": Women farmers' Leadership Program

"Enhancing women farmer's participation in decision—making



Although women make up well over half of the labor force in African agriculture, there is a lack of adequate representation for women and recognition of their voices and rights, in their Farmers Organizations. [The Pan-African Farmers' Federation \(PAFO\)](#) had identified this problem and wants to contribute to strengthening the role of women in leadership positions and their networking in the long term. Thus, PAFO recently signed an MoU with the [Andreas Hermes Academy \(AHA\)](#) to build the capacity of women in leadership and decision-making. The objectives of this programme is to build the capacity in order to have more capable women in leadership positions in regional and national farmers' associations; Networking and relationship building among women at the international level (Germany - African partner country), regional and national levels.

"Women Lead" is a project is implemented by PAFO-AHA in cooperation with the German Rural Women Association ([Deutscher LandFrauenverband e.V. - dlv](#)) to create pan-African role models for the empowerment of women in

agricultural associations and Farmers Organisations and to put them on the continental agenda.

The first leg of the program brings together 20 rural women, 15 from African farmers Organization and 5 members from dlV) for an intensive training, peer learning and study tour. This is followed by a tandem coaching phase lasting several months and a second leg of live program and a completion event that will highlight the achievements of the program and ensure that the women gain visibility as role models. The second phase of the live program will be held in Berlin, Germany.

PAFO and AHA are collaborating together **to strengthen the system of farmer organizations in Africa**, professionalize and capacitate regional and national farmer organizations, men, women, and youth, including **organizational and individual capacity building**. Through a continental approach, regional (RFO) and national FOs (NFO – approached through the RFO) shall be **better equipped to live up to their mandate, address today's challenges, raise the farmer's voice, and serve their members**.

The project “Women Lead” is implemented with the financial support of the [German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development \(BMZ\)](#).

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.

Read More under the website: <http://www.pafo-africa.org/>

Facebook: [Pan African Farmers Organisation](#)

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 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/>

Facebook: [AHA International](#)

About dlw

The German Association of Rural Women (dlw), founded in 1948, seeks to improve the quality of life, working conditions, as well as social and political participation of women in rural settings. The dlw comprises around 450,000 members who are organized into 22 regional chapters in Germany. As a strong nationwide network for women in rural areas, the dlw offers training programs, lobbies for women interests, implements projects and provides a supportive community.

Taking advantage of its collective strength and decades of experience, the dlw has been involved in international development cooperation since 2017. In collaboration with local partners dlw is implementing projects in African countries with the objective to empower women in rural areas and therefore promote equal participation, especially in the agricultural and food sector, to improve rural development, food security and agricultural production. The thematic focus is on association development, networking, lobbying and

advocacy, nutrition education as well as skill development (leadership, entrepreneurship, business development, agricultural practices, etc.).

Facebook: [German Association of Rural Women](#)

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