

## More Women farmer's in Leadership Position



Kigali, 09.05.2023 - Fifteen rural women from the five PAFO member networks and 5 rural women from the German Association of Rural Women (dlv) are currently in an international exchange and knowledge sharing programme in Kigali, Rwanda.

They are participants in the **Women farmers' Leadership Program: "Enhancing women farmer's participation in decision—making"**, implemented by **PAFO-AHA** in cooperation with the German Association of Rural Women (**Deutscher LandFrauenverband e.V. - dlv**), to create pan-African role models for the empowerment of women in agricultural associations and Farmers Organizations and to put them on the continental agenda.

The 20 rural women in leader positions from Africa and Germany are meeting in Kigali for a 5-day training workshop (8 - 12 May 2023). They will benefit from different sessions, among others, success leadership; Leadership styles; Leadership skills; Systems thinking; Circle of influence as well as a session on the role to be ensured in the Farmers organization. They will also have the opportunity to share their experience in managing FOs and their advocacy knowledge.

This workshop will be complemented by an online tandem coaching phase of several months. A final workshop will take place in Germany, in September 2023, to enhance the global networking of women.

"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", said **Babafemi, PAFO CEO**, at the launch of the training workshop.

**Nicole Bolomey, International Director at AHA, underlined that** "Nous apprendrons les uns des autres, en partageant nos expériences et en renforçant nos capacités pour que les Femmes soient au bon endroit au sein des Organisations Paysannes".

**Petra Bentkämper, President of dlw, said:** "Women play a key role, especially in the agricultural sector and the food system. Equal participation is essential to advance rural development, agricultural production and food security on a global scale.

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**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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