



AGRICORD



PRESS RELEASE

FARMER-led SIDE EVENT

"AU - EU partnership and the role of FOs in Resilient food systems and sustainable agri value chains "

The African Union - European Union Agriculture Ministers Conference

30 June 2023, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy

12:30 – 14:30

The Africa-EU Partnership, with its continental approach, is an instrument of political dialogue and cooperation, overarching and complementing existing development relationship frameworks between EU and African countries.

In the framework of the fifth African Union - European Union Agriculture Ministerial Conference in Rome (Italy), [PAFO](#) is on the lead, with the support of [Agricord](#), of a farmer-led side event, to showcase the role and value addition by African Farmers Organizations and Agri-Agencies operating in partnership.

The main objective of the session is to undertake a stocktaking of the key contributions and main achievements of the joint program : [The Farmers' Organizations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific \(FO4ACP\) program \(FO4ACP\)](#) and ["Farmers Organizations Leading Research & Innovation on agroecology for sustainable food systems" FORI](#) in strengthening the capacities of farmer's organizations and promoting sustainable rural development.

Under the Rural Transformation Agenda signed in 2019, strengthening Farmers Organizations and Farmers' Capacities and Promoting Sustainable Rural Development were key components of the action agenda.

In this context, Farmers Organizations have been strongly advocating to increase the incomes and improve livelihoods, food and nutrition security and safety of organized smallholders and family farmers in Africa by strengthening regional, national, and local farmer's organizations. This is how the **Farmers Organizations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (FO4ACP) program** was initiated (2019-2024) and its peer programs in Asia and Latin America. The emphasis is on economic services, advocacy, and institutional development of the membership-based farmers' organizations in order to strengthen the cooperation between African and European farmers. Similarly, to ensure the peer-to-peer approach, which has proven to be an effective way to work on many environmental, business development and financial sustainability topics. Another program was **co designed by Farmers**



Organizations Leading Research & Innovation on agroecology for sustainable food systems (FO-RI, 2022-2026). The purpose of this program is to foster a transition towards resilient, productive and sustainable agro-ecological food systems through farmer-led innovation and research.

The **FARMER SIDE EVENT, led by PAFO**, is on “AU - EU partnership and the role of FOs in Resilient food systems and sustainable agri- value chains” . The session is organised into three discussion blocks focus on:

- i) Keynote presentation on the role of Farmers Organisations in building resilient food systems and sustainable value chains.
- ii) Showcasing success stories of economic services of member-based farmers organizations.
- iii) A panel discussion on Agroecology practices and soil health maintenance for agricultural productivity.

The main objective of the session is to undertake a stocktaking of the key contributions and main achievements of the joint programs (FO4ACP and FORI) in strengthening the capacities of farmer’s organizations and promoting sustainable rural development.

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 73 national organizations, unions, federations, cooperatives, associations, etc., present in more than 48 countries on the continent, and united in five regional networks operating at the heart of African agriculture: EAFB; PROPAC; ROPPA; SACAU and UMNAGRI.

PAFO is the voice of more than 80 million African farmers integrated into nearly 73 national organizations, unions, federations, cooperatives, associations, etc., present in more than 48 countries on the continent, and united in five regional networks operating at the heart of African agriculture. PAFO is recognized as the highest representative body of African farmers involved in crop, livestock, and fishery.

The overarching objective of PAFO is: to effectively engage members in advocacy with policy-makers, and technical and financial partners and promote their participation in the formulation and implementation of the development policies and programs that affect agriculture and rural development in Africa.

[Read more under the website](#)

About Agricord

AgriCord is a global alliance of 12 agri-agencies mandated by farmers' organizations and their cooperative businesses from countries in Africa, Asia, Canada, the European Union, and Latin America. AgriCord was set up early 2002, after a 5-year period of gestation, and formally created in the beginning of 2003 by eight agri-agencies. The agri-agencies members of



AgriCord nowadays are: ACODEA (Spain), AFDI (France), AHA (Germany), AsiaDHRRA (Asia), Asprodeb (Senegal), CSA (Belgium), FERT (France), FFD (Finland), INFOCOS (Brazil), Trias (Belgium), UPA-DI (Canada) and We Effect (Sweden).

[Read more under the website](#)

About FO4ACP

The Farmers' Organizations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (FO4ACP) program aims to increase the incomes and improve the livelihoods, food and nutrition security, and safety of organized smallholders and family farmers in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries by strengthening regional, national and local farmers' organizations. The program is implemented by six regional farmers' organizations, PAFO, AgriCord and the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. They work closely with the national FOs, agri-agencies and sub-implementing partners in about 70 countries, with a potential outreach of over 52 million smallholder farmers. Great emphasis is put on economic services, advocacy and institutional development of the membership-based FOs. The program is funded by the European Union (EU), the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

[Read more under the website](#)

About FO-RI

FO-RI is a global program, entitled: "Farmers Organizations Leading Research & Innovation on agroecology for sustainable food systems",

The main goal of the Farmer-led Research and Innovation (FO-led R&I or FO-RI) program to secure a transition towards resilient, productive and sustainable agro-ecological agri-food systems through farmer-led innovation and research.

The AgriCord Alliance is implementing this action with the financial support of the European Commission (EC) and Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS).

[Read more under the website](#)