



Panafrican farmers' organization
Organisation panafricaine des agriculteurs
المنظمة الإفريقية للفلاحين

ToRs for a Study on :

“Exploring the Potential of Farmers’ Organizations for Agroecology: Opportunities and Challenges”.

July 2023

1. Introduction

Agroecology is a holistic and integrated approach that applies ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of sustainable agriculture and food systems. It seeks to optimize the interactions between plants, animals, humans, and the environment while addressing the need for socially equitable food systems. Research shows that agroecology has emerged as a viable response to the challenges facing Africa’s agricultural and food systems.

The current context of crises offers an opportunity to accelerate the change toward building agricultural models capable of responding sustainably to environmental emergencies and food price surges. The challenge of agroecology is to support the development of sustainable food systems in territories based on their demands, potential, and know-how.

A key constraint to the use of agroecology on the African continent is that the knowledge of farmers on the benefits and opportunities of applying agroecological practices is still inadequate. The continent also faces constraints such as land degradation, climate change, population growth, conflicts, political instability, and poverty. Decision-making efforts are insufficient to support the agroecological transition with farmers being excluded from the policy development process.

PAFO seeks to conduct a continental study on *“Exploring the Potential of Farmers’ Organizations for Agroecology: Opportunities and Challenges”* to identify and understand the situation of agroecology on the African continent.

1. Overview of PAFO

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.

PAFO is recognized as the representative body of African farmers' organizations at the highest continental level, based in Kigali. It brings the voice of 80 million African farmers integrated into nearly 70 national organizations, unions, federations, cooperatives, associations, etc., present in almost 50 African countries, and united in five regional networks: the East African Farmers

Organization (EAFF; the Regional Platform of farmers organizations from Central Africa (PROPAC); The Network of farmers Organization and Agricultural Producers of West Africa (ROPPA); The Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) and the Maghreb and North African Union of Farmers (UMNAGRI).

Additional information on Pan-African Farmers Organization can be found on:

<https://www.pafo-africa.org>

2. Study Objectives

The aim of the study is to:

- Identify the potential of farmers' organizations for agroecology
- Explore opportunities for farmers' organizations in promoting agroecology
- Understand challenges faced by farmers' organizations in promoting agroecology
- Propose solutions to overcome challenges faced by farmers' organizations in promoting agroecology

3. Qualifications, Scope, and Duties

3.1. Qualifications

Values and Skills

- Fundamental values: Integrity, professionalism, respect for diversity.
- Core Skills: Job-specific technical knowledge requirements;

Responsibilities

- Ability to coordinate with others;
- Ability to meet strict deadlines and solve problems;
- Personal motivation
- Excellent presentation skills.

Qualifications and experiences required for experts in policy studies and analysis;

- Nationality: African.
- Education: Graduate degree in development studies, humanities/social sciences, agricultural economics, legal or political studies, and other related studies. The Ph.D. degree will give an added advantage.
- Research: strong background in research, development economics, and agriculture.
- Experience in senior expertise: 8 to 10 years of experience in consulting on the theme of advocacy, agroecology; agricultural policy research and development.
- Knowledge and skills: research, exceptional written and verbal communication skills, policy analysis.
- Fluent in English and French. Any additional language is an asset.

3.2. Duties and Responsibilities

The expertise is under the direct supervision of the Chief Executive Officer of PAFO. The expected duties and responsibilities, among others, will comprise:

- Conduct research and analysis.
- Collaborate with the PAFO team to collect data from regional networks.
- Consolidate and synthesize research findings.
- Develop a study report and data visualizations for PAFO and its Regional Networks members.
- Develop a common position paper from the study outcomes.
- Proactively identify and propose alternatives to improve the performance and accuracy of the data.

3.3. Deliverables and timeline

Deliverables
Draft of the study report
Final study report and position paper
Presentation of the study’s main outcomes and facilitation of a workshop to elaborate a common position paper
The final document of the common position paper was validated by the PAFO Board

4. The financial requirements

The expert is required to provide the total cost of his/her expertise on this mission. PAFO reserves the right to negotiate the financial offer of the selected consultant.

5. Conduct the mission

The expert will use a desk review and interviews with farmers’ organizations members of PAFO and other relevant stakeholders. The interventions will require virtual exchange with PAFO Secretariat and member networks facilitated by the PAFO Secretariat.

The study will cover the African Continent and be conducted in targeted countries that will be identified in collaboration with regional networks.

The service will be the subject of a contract based on the price offer submitted and the terms of reference for the assignment. It will be issued in duplicate and signed by both parties.

The working languages will be French and English depending on the country and the regional organization concerned.

6. Applications process

Submission deadline: 30th July 2023.

Submission: Applications are accepted only by email headed “Expertise to conduct a study on Agroecology”; sent to ceo@pafo-africa.org and info@pafo-africa.org; by putting in copy program@pafo-africa.org and assistant@pafo-africa.org

Documents to be submitted as attachments in only in PDF documents:

- Cover letter including the financial offer;
- Technical offer stating the methodology to be used for the mission
- Resume;
- Professional references and publications

7. Confidentiality and copyright

The expert agrees to the confidential nature of the study and the findings of his mission. PAFO owns the rights to all of the materials that will be produced under this research.

PAFO reserves the right to request additional documents or explanations