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Panafrican farmers' organization  
Organisation panafricaine des agriculteurs  
المنظمة الإفريقية للفلاحين

NEWSLETTER N°13

## PAFO General Assembly & Side Events 23 -28 October 2023 13 years of service to African Farmers



### Word from Kolyang Palébélé – PAFO's Immediate Past President

Two years have passed and my term as 6th PAFO President has come to an end. The last two years have been marked by a complex context, with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the political and military crises, particularly the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, all threatening the continent's food systems. But despite these challenges, PROPAC's mandate, from 2021 to 2023, was a continuation of previous mandates. Actions such as training, communication and digitalization initiatives, as well as a focus on youth and women, have been undertaken to meet the challenges.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the new President, Mr. Ibrahima Coulibaly, an active advocate of agroecology and President of the Steering Committee of the Alliance for Agroecology in West Africa (3AO). I have no doubt that he will lead us well as President of the Board for the next two years, given the experience he acquired as President of ROPPA, bringing to PAFO a renewed vision that is also in line with the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Family Farming, with its emphasis on the economic and social empowerment of farmers.

It is everyone's responsibility to contribute through dedicated leadership, joint mobilization of resources, shared ideas and strategies. I am counting heavily on you, dear farmers of the continent, to support the new President and the entire Board, by ensuring that we strengthen PAFO to become an institution of which every African farmer will be proud.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Board, to the PAFO Secretariat and to the CEOs of our member RFOs and their secretariats, and to all our technical and financial partners for the support I received from them during my mandate.

To all the farmers of the continent, we appreciate your daily efforts to feed Africa and feed the world, your contribution is essential to ensure that we build a strong farmers' platform that will be the voice of every farmer in Africa to ensure food security for our people.



## Word from Mr. Ibrahima Coulibaly new PAFO President

I would like to express my deepest thanks to the PAFO member networks delegates, who placed their confidence in the ROPPA for the Presidency of PAFO during the PAFO General Assembly, held in Tunis, on 27 and 28 October 2023.

A special thanks to the outgoing President and Board members. Your unfailing support is an essential pillar for the success of our mandate and strengthens our ongoing commitment to PAFO's mission.

Our orientation to the future is based on a profound recognition of the organizational and functional challenges to achieving our mission. This commitment is reflected in concrete actions aimed at strengthening associative life and consolidating members' feeling of ownership. I would also like to emphasize the vital importance of governance, which means holding regular meetings, ensuring the active participation of all members in representation missions, and consolidating a culture of accountability, through reports and careful monitoring of the conclusions of missions and meetings. During our mandate, we will work to improve the conditions of governance within our network and to optimize the working conditions of the Secretariat, in order to establish strong mutual communication between our different networks.

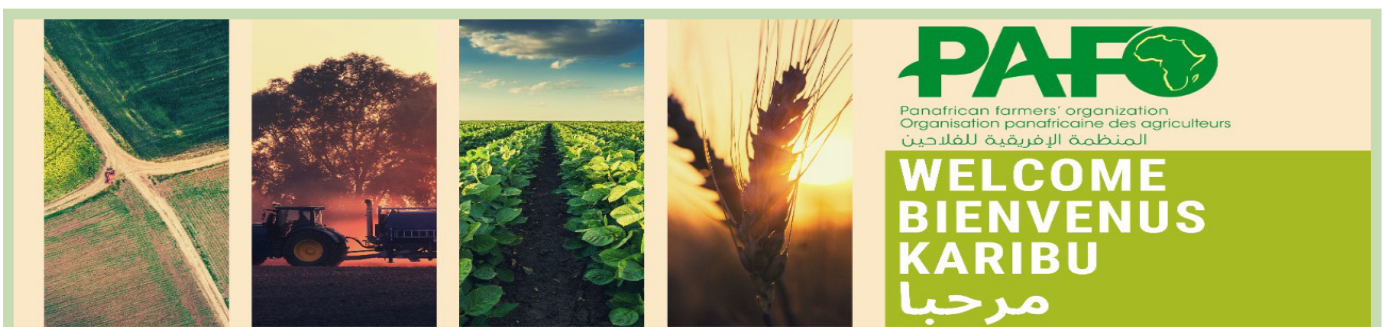
We also expect to continue and consolidate all the initiatives launched as part of PROPAC's mandate with my friend Kolyang Palebele, in particular the strengthening of strategic partnerships that are crucial to the implementation of the strategic plan.

Increasing PAFO's influence with major African institutions, such as the African Union, the African Development Bank and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, remains a key priority.

On the other hand, the inclusion of women and youth, who represent the future of our agriculture, is at the heart of our actions, with the determination to give them a predominant place in governance and to create significant opportunities for their professional development. To that end, we will ensure that a college for women and youth is established, to ensure that they are represented in all our structures and initiatives.

My warm thanks also go to our development partners, whose collaboration is crucial to achieving our common goals. In conclusion, I invite all members and partners to commit fully to this adventure. Let's work together, let's start from our own vision, let's maximize our resources and tools, and let's make our strategic plan a tangible reality. Let's commit ourselves, regional and national farmers' organizations, to taking ownership of PAFO and honoring our commitments at national, regional and continental levels. Together we are stronger, and together we can create a promising agricultural future for generations to come.

Thank you for your confidence, and we look forward to working with you to achieve these ambitious goals.





## Editorial Babafemi PAFO CEO

The conclusion of PAFO's 6th General Assembly & Side Events in Tunis, from 23-28 October 2023, marks a key moment in our shared history. This event was more than a simple meeting: it was an opportunity to celebrate our collective successes, to reflect on the challenges we face, to announce innovative initiatives for the future, and above all, to renew our governance bodies.

The active participation of over sixty delegates from 30 African countries and various partners, underlined the breadth of our network and the crucial importance of each voice in our decision-making. The election of the new President, Mr. Ibrahima Coulibaly, who is also President of ROPPA, has added a significant dimension to this event,

promising dynamic and innovative leadership that will guide our organization to new heights.

I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to the new PAFO President. His exceptional commitment to our common mission and his dynamic vision will be a great asset to PAFO. Mr. Coulibaly brings a wealth of experience and an unwavering dedication to the agricultural sector in Africa, and we are confident that he will play a key role in our ongoing quest for excellence.

I would like to take this opportunity to express the PAFO Secretariat's gratitude to the outgoing President, Mr. Kolyang Palebele, for the support and guidance he has given the team during his tenure. We are delighted that he is still on the Board, and we will continue to benefit from his experience and networks.

This newsletter provides a clear overview of the General Assembly and its Side Events: The PAFO rural women's forum, a workshop on agro-ecology, another on the mapping of farmers' organizations, moments of exchange rich in learning and experience sharing that helped strengthen our network and deepen our knowledge.

PAFO is committed to remaining at the forefront of innovation, contributing to the sustainability and growth of agriculture on our continent, and in particular to mobilizing its members to ensure food and nutrition security and improve the well-being of farmers.

Together, we are ready to meet future challenges, seize opportunities and build an even brighter future for PAFO and the African farmer.





# 6th PAFO GENERAL ASSEMBLY



PAFO held its 6th Ordinary General Assembly on 27 and 28 October 2023 in the Tunisian capital, Tunis. The GA took place in a hybrid format, combining physical and virtual meetings, and was attended by 63 delegates from 30 countries, including 25 women, 30 men and 8 youth representatives from PAFO's five member networks: EAFF, PROPAC, ROPPA, SACAU and UMNAGRI.



The opening ceremony of the 6th Ordinary General Assembly was chaired by Mr. Abdelmonaam BELATI, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Halieutic Resources of the Republic of Tunisia, and was punctuated by four (4) speeches: Mr. Nourredine BEN AYED, President of UTAP, Vice-President of UMNAGRI; The President of PAFO, Mr. Kolyang PALEBELE; The word of the partners delivered by [Mr. Alvaro Lario, IFAD President on behalf of the partners, in a video](#) addressed to the delegates of PAFO.

The plenary session allowed PAFO's regional member networks to learn about and discuss the conclusions of the parallel events: the 4th PAFO Rural Women's Forum, the agro-ecology workshop and the mapping workshop. The round table with partners provided an opportunity for delegates from member networks to discuss the proposed strategic orientations drawn from the parallel events, and for partners to share opportunities for collaboration with PAFO and its members.

The General Assembly was preceded by a number of activities, including the African Rural Women's Forum, the PAFO- FO-RI workshop on agro-ecology, the workshop on farmers' organizations. mapping..

PAFO also organized its 6th ordinary Board meeting for 2023 and the first one after the GA. The objectives of this meeting were to provide guidance for the next Board meeting and to organize the next one.

[GA RESOLUTION](#)  
[GA Video 2023](#)

# NEW BOARD

The ordinary General Assembly proceeded to the renewal of the Board, during a closed session. Mr. Ibrahima Coulibaly, ROPPA President, who was elected to be the new PAFO president.

The PAFO Board is composed as follows for the next two years:

Presidency: ROPPA

Vice/presidency: SACAU

Treasury: PROPAC

Ordinary Board members: EAFF

Ordinary Board members: UNMAGRI



## Who is Ibrahima Coulibaly, the new president of PAFO?

Mr. Ibrahima Coulibaly is a renowned Malian farmer leader and farmer. His recent election as PAFO President for a two-year term underlines his influence and his impact as an effective advocate for farmers on a continental level. In December 2022, he was also re-elected president of the Network of Farmers' Organisations and Agricultural Producers of West Africa (ROPPA), a position he has held since his election at the organization's 7th Convention in December 2018.

Mr. Coulibaly is also President of the Steering Committee of the Alliance for Agroecology in West Africa (3AO), where he works to promote sustainable and environmentally friendly agricultural practices. This position strengthens his commitment to agriculture that respects both ecosystems and local communities.

[MORE DETAILS](#)



# GENERAL ASSEMBLY MOTIONS

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND RECOGNITION OF THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT

We, PAFO member networks, gathered at the 6th Ordinary General Assembly of our continental platform, reiterate our deep gratitude and our sincere thanks to Tunisian Government, for hosting the 6th General Assembly and Side events; for the unconditional support and for all the facilities and support provided for the organization of our 6th General Assembly.



We would particularly like to thank Mr Abdelmonem Belati, Minister of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources, and Mrs Leila Chikhaoui, Minister of the Environment, who honoured us with their presence at the opening of our events.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS TO PARTNERS

The delegates present at the 6th Ordinary General Assembly of PAFO, on behalf of the member networks, thank all the technical and financial partners committed to PAFO, and who have provided them with their support and assistance in the conduct of its activities and initiatives, in particular the presence of this General Assembly



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS TO THE OUTGOING BOARD



We, delegates to the 6th Ordinary PAFO General Assembly thoroughly thank all the members of the outgoing Board for having carried out their mandate with commitment and success. We are grateful to them for their strategic initiatives to support the achievement of PAFO objectives and strengthen its institutional dynamism.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS TO UMNAGRI



The delegates to the 6th PAFO Ordinary General Assembly and all members of the outgoing Board send their thanks and deep gratitude to PAFO's Member Network, UMNAGRI, for its invaluable and essential support at all stages of the organization of our 6th GA, which greatly contributed to its success. We appreciated their excellent logistical coordination, which ensured that our event proceeded smoothly. We would particularly like to thank the UMNAGRI President, and Mrs Rim Ferchichi, Secretary General and the UMNAGRI Secretariat, who showed great dedication and invested themselves fully in the success of our event.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS TO UTAP



We, PAFO member networks, gathered at the 6th Ordinary General Assembly of our continental platform, reiterate our deep gratitude and our sincere thanks to the Tunisian Union of Agriculture and Fisheries (UTAP), the NFO, member of UMNAGRI, for their invaluable support in the exceptional organization of PAFO's General Assembly and Side events.

## PAFO RURAL WOMEN FORUM



PAFO recognizes that women are the main actors in agricultural development and in society in general. Moreover, the promotion of women is one of the priorities of PAFO programs. In this context that PAFO, the 4th PAFO Rural Women Forum. The Forum brought together more than 20 rural women from the five regions of Africa.

The forum is organized by PAFO every two years, to discuss issues of relevance for rural women, and to provide further input on their expectations in the context of PAFO programs.

The main aim of the forum is to provide a platform for rural women to share their experiences and define their strategic interventions in line with PAFO visions and objectives.





The Forum was held in two days. The first was dedicated to the hybrid intramural meeting in Tunis, while the second was devoted to the field visit. PAFO delegation to the field visit included 32 women.

They visited two cooperatives: “Lella kmar el Baya SMAC des PAM & T.P.A” and “INTESA”, (innovation in technologies to support sustainable development of the agro-industry), in the Manouba region, Tunisia.

The Forum was also an opportunity for women to exchange views on strategic topics such as “Resilient agricultural practices and food security”, “Women’s influence in decision-making”, “Capacity-building and knowledge management” and “Facilitating rural women’s transition from the informal to the formal sector through access to finance”.

To ensure that PAFO contributes more effectively to the empowerment of African rural women and to the development of sustainable, ecological and resilient agricultural systems, African rural women call on the governments of African states, African and international intergovernmental institutions, technical and financial partners in the rural world and Pan-African and international solidarity NGOs to focus on the ten (10) recommendations set out in the African Rural Women’s Declaration: “Measures for African Women to advance African agriculture”

[AFRICAN RURAL WOMEN DECLARATION](#)

[FORUM REPORT](#)

[VIDEO DAY 1](#)

[VIDEO FIELD VISIT](#)

# PAFO-FO-RI WORKSHOP ON AGROECOLOGY



AGRICORD



PAFO, as a continental platform carrying the voices of over 80 million African smallholder farmers, advocates to influence the implementation of appropriate policies including agroecology. To this end, on 25th October 2023 PAFO in the framework of the partnership with Agricorn organized an agroecology workshop entitled “Exploring the Potential of Farmers’ Organizations for Agroecology and Climate Resilience: Opportunities and Challenges”, as part of its General Assembly, held in Tunis, Tunisia. The aim was not only to gain recognition for farmers’ ability to innovate and produce knowledge and results but also to develop a common continental position that will guide its members on programs and policies that relate to agroecology.



From left to right, Tunisia’s Minister for the Environment, Leila Chikhaoui, PAFO President, Kolyang Palebele (centre) and Katja Vuori from Agricorn.

94 participants, including 34 women, from the 5 PAFO member networks, EAFF, PROPAC, ROPPA, SACAU and UMAGRI, as well as PAFO partners, attended the workshop.

[AGROECOLOGY WORKSHOP REPORT VIDEO](#)



## MAPPING STRATEGY SESSION

Following discussions and exchanges between PAFO delegates, representing the five member regional networks, and the expert in charge of developing the “Strategy for FOs mapping and local African terroir agricultural products”, it was recommended that the work undertaken by the consultant should be continued, with the priority of producing, by 2024, a map of FOs from local to regional and national levels. This mapping will eventually include characteristic strategic local products from farms in the various countries in the region.



[READ THE WORKSHOP REPORT](#)  
[VIDEO](#)

## PAN-AFRICAN FO EXCHANGES PLATFORM



During the PAFO GA and Side Events, Ms Raja Mechergui, (UMNAGRI), CMT member, presented to delegates the Pan-African FO Exchanges platform and its accomplishments since its launch.

The platform has held 10 sessions, with over 200 participants from 60 RFOs representing 28 African countries. Other sessions are planned for 2024, including on communication and the FO Management.

The platform is part of the partnership between PAFO and [AHA](#), with technical support from [AKI](#) and financial support from [BMZ](#).

[MORE DETAILS ON THE PROJECT](#)  
[ALL SESSIONS](#)



# 13th PAFO ANNIVERSARY



Seizing the opportunity to meet at the 6th GA, PAFO celebrated its 13th anniversary during a lively evening attended by all the delegates and partners.

## [VIDEO](#)





# PARTNERSHIPS

## PAFO- AfDB –ADF



On the sidelines of the civil society forum which took place from October 18 to 19, 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya at the premises of the AfDB, PAFO, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Development Fund signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The objective of this memorandum of understanding is to facilitate collaboration between the parties on issues of common interest, and to establish the working arrangements necessary for the implementation of cooperation with a view to achieving their common objectives. The overall objective being to strengthen the capacities of farmers' organizations in Africa, which, in turn, support political dialogue while providing effective services to their members, with particular emphasis on women and the creation of jobs for young people, as well as on climate change and mitigation in agriculture.



## PAFO-COLEAD Innovation Series

The [14th session of the Innovation Series](#) focused on “Climate-resilient practices and innovations by Agrifood SMEs”.

While the [15th session](#) focused on : “Technological innovations supporting Agrifood value chains in Africa”.

## Launch of “AGRINNOVATORS.ORG”: A hub for African Agri-food Innovators

Your hub for innovations sessions

### AGRINNOVATORS

Agrinnovators is a platform for exchange and networking. (Re)Discover innovations in the agri-food sector presented during Innovations Sessions and documented in business profiles and impact stories for a sustainable future in Africa.



We are delighted to announce the launch of Agrinnovators, a platform for African entrepreneurs passionate about innovation and sustainability in the agri-food sector. This initiative is a collaboration between COLEAD and PAFO. The Agrinnovators blog will feature stories, insights, and tips from successful agripreneurs who are transforming the food system in Africa through their creativity, resilience, and vision.

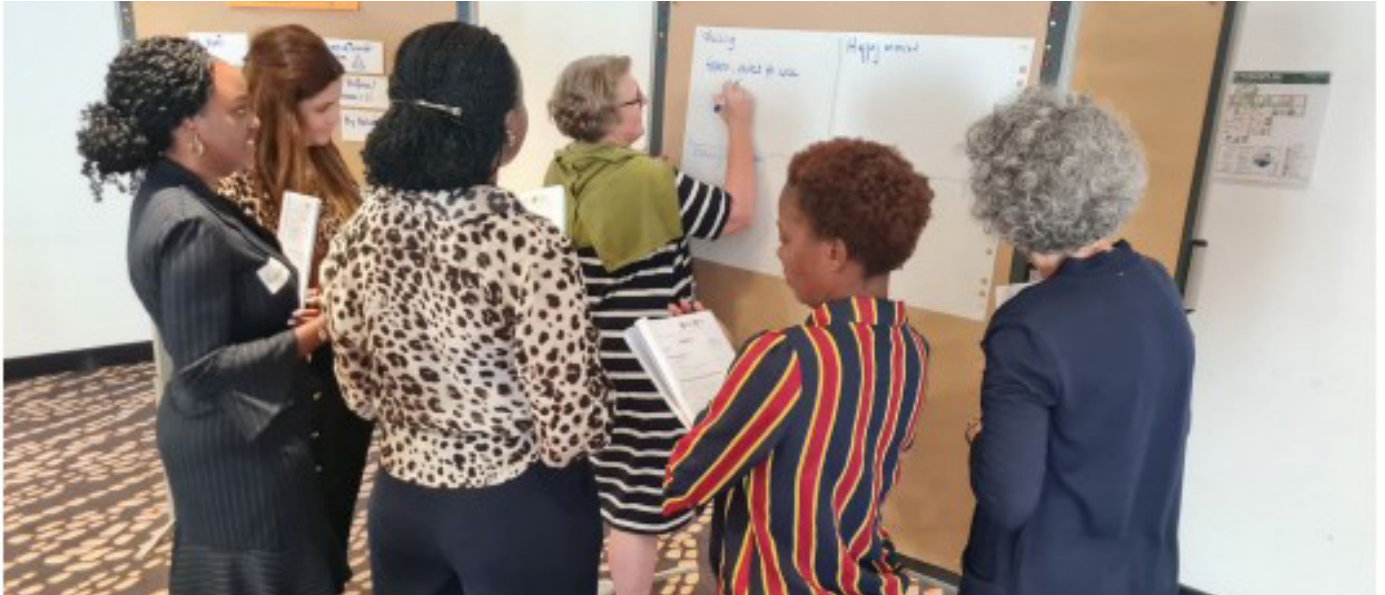
The Agrinnovators blog aims to inspire, inform, and connect African entrepreneurs striving to make a positive impact on the environment, society, and economy through their agri-food ventures. If you are interested in learning more about the Agrinnovators blog.

Visit the [website](#).

You can also join the [Agrinnovators community](#)



## Women Farmers' Leadership Program



The second phase of the PAFO Women Farmers' Leadership Program, recently unfolded with an intensive workshop held from September 11 to 15, 2023. This event brought together 20 rural women, including 15 members from the African Farmers' Organization and 5 members from DLV. Designed as a peer-learning-focused training session, the workshop began with a brief presentation of its objectives, recalling the topics addressed [during the initial phase in Kigali in May 2023](#). The primary goal of this workshop was to enhance the skills of women holding decision-making positions within agricultural organizations. The program aimed to prepare them for active participation in high-level political discussions and to exert significant influence on decision-making at the international level.

Beyond theoretical sessions, participants had the opportunity to apply their learning through field visits. These visits included exploring the activities of the Farmers' Association and the Rural Women's Association of Hesse. These hands-on experiences allowed participants to contextualize their knowledge, exchange ideas, and draw inspiration from best practices observed within these associations. Overall, this workshop played a crucial role in strengthening the capacities of rural women, preparing them for increased involvement in decision-making and political spheres.



The Rural Women's Leadership Program is implemented by PAFO, in partnership with [AHA](#), technical support from the [German Rural Women Association \(dlv\)](#), and financial support from [BMZ](#).

[THE PROJECT DETAILS](#)

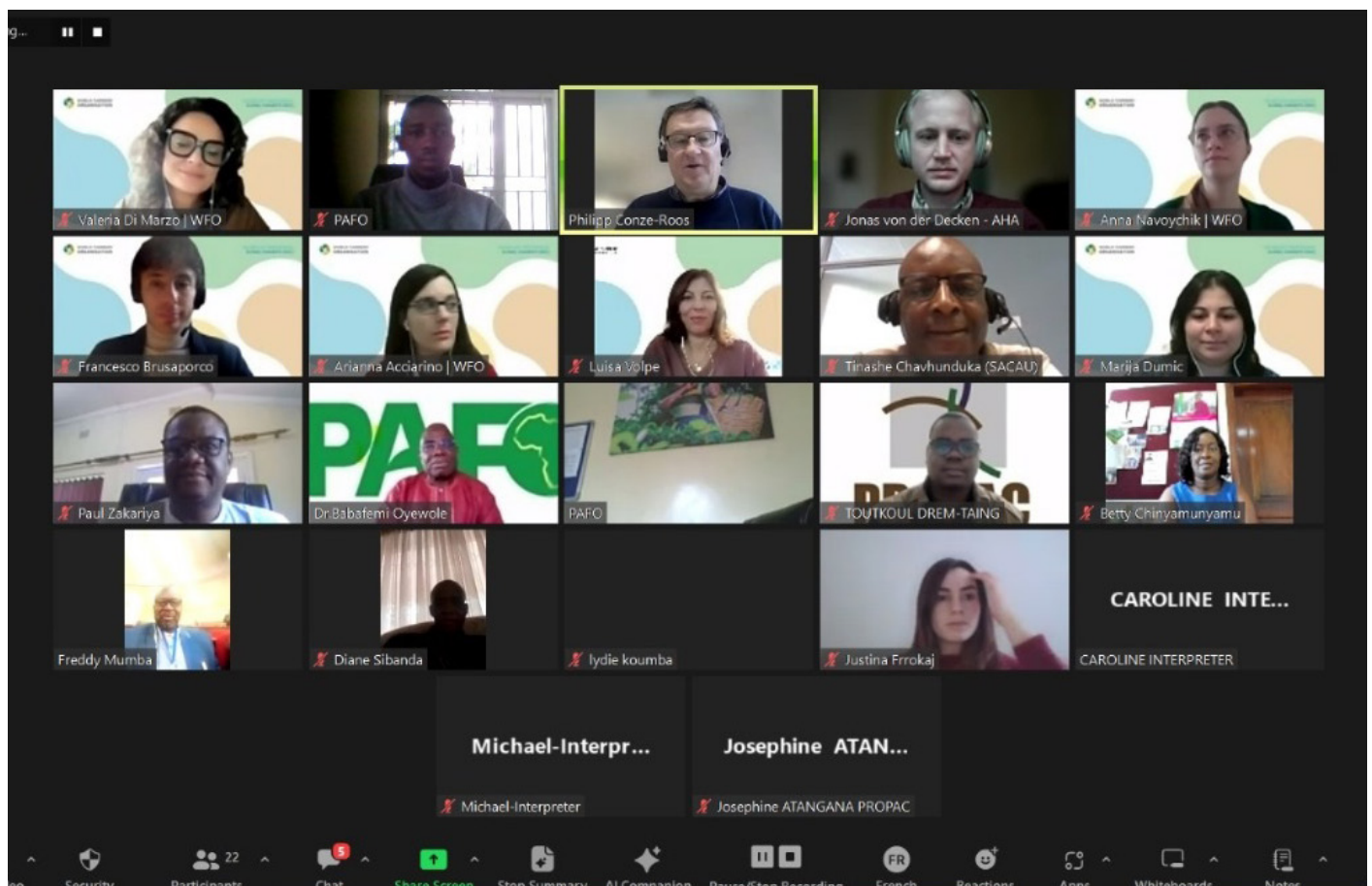


## Seminars on negotiation processes within the UNFCCC

Launched in May 2023, the online seminars by PAFO-WFO-AHA-FFD aim to prepare the Farmers Organizations (RFOs) and National Farmers' Organizations (NFOs) to actively engage in climate negotiations in their respective countries and regions, and ultimately to participate in Dubai.

[MORE INFORMATIONS](#)

[ALL SESSIONS](#)





# PAFO @COP28

## 1- Special recognition to Smallholder Farmers



Ms Elizabeth Nsimadala, PAFO Board member and EAFF President, was the first on stage at the official opening of COP28, which took place in Dubai from 30 November to December 2023.

She was the first on stage at COP28 UAE to speak to the world on the actions that we can do together to face the climate crises and the sustainable food transformation.

“A Special recognition to smallholder farmers who are producing 80% of the global food value that we eat, amidst the challenges of the climate change because we face the biggest brand. But we continued to invest in solutions that are transforming our Global System, and you know how much climate finance we are able to access? 0,3%. It’s a shame”, she said to an international gathering of Heads of State, Heads of Government and high-level officials from around the world, meeting in the United Arab Emirates.

[Speech](#)

## 2- Farmer’s Constituency within the UNFCCC: Joint statement



- The members of the Farmers Constituency within the UNFCCC, at Dubai, came together as one and independent voice, and signed a joint statement : <https://bit.ly/3QZweLm>
- A Farmer-Driven Approach Is Needed to Course-Correct Climate Action
- A clear roadmap for the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security.
- Agriculture and farmer-driven solutions enabled through the Global Stock Take (GST).
- Climate Finance empowering farmers and the agricultural sector
- Farmers prioritised in the allocation of Loss & Damage (L&D) finance
- Global carbon markets working with, and not against, farm systems
- Climate adaptation and mitigation policies integrated in the agriculture sector.
- Greater transparency and better understanding of the agriculture sector’s climate impact and potential solutions it can provide.





# RECRUITMENT NOTICE

## PAFO Program Officer

The Pan-African Farmers Organization (PAFO) is launching a recruitment notice for the position of Program Officer.

[APPLY HERE](#)



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