

March 2024



Panafrican farmers' organization
Organisation panafricaine des agriculteurs
المنظمة الإفريقية للفلاحين

NEWSLETTER N°14



Word from Mr. Ibrahima Coulibaly PAFO President

Since the last Global Farmers Forum meeting in February 2020, the world has witnessed profound transformations exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, and the structural flaws of globalized food systems. At the forefront of our concerns as Farmers' Organizations are the farmers, especially small producers and operators, facing threats such as land grabbing, unequal access to resources, and challenges in accessing available funds equitably. Conflicts and wars have also devastated agricultural production in various regions, calling for immediate intervention.

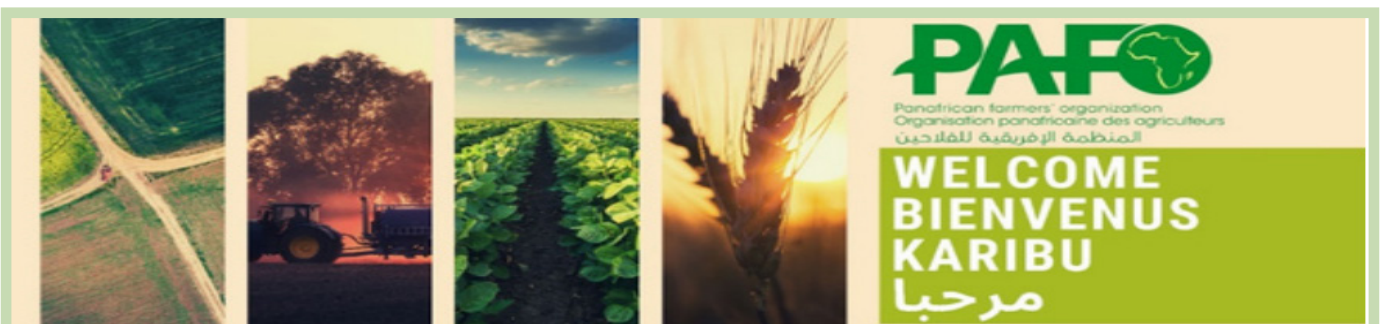
During the World Farmers' Forum in Rome, at FAFO 2024, Farmers' Organizations pleaded for strengthened support to create a world where agriculture is not only viable but also a driver of inclusive growth.

Firstly, it is a call for substantial investments in programs aimed at strengthening the resilience of agricultural systems. These investments are crucial for the development of sustainable farming practices, the preservation of natural resources, and the adoption of innovative technologies.

Next, emphasis must be placed on the need to facilitate farmers' access to international markets. This involves eliminating unfair trade barriers, promoting fair trade, and strengthening logistical infrastructure to ensure fair and sustainable exchanges. Not to mention the promotion of family farming, the cornerstone of our societies. Farmers' Organizations call for policies that recognize and support the vital role of farming families, fostering the transmission of traditional knowledge and the preservation of agricultural diversity.

Finally, as Farmers' Organizations, we stress the crucial importance of investing in agricultural education to ensure a dynamic and well-informed next generation. Tailored educational programs, focusing on sustainability, modern agricultural management, and innovation, are essential for the future of agriculture.

These urgent calls reflect our collective determination as Farmers' Organizations to save global food systems and promote sustainable agriculture. The impact of these calls depends on the response of global actors and their commitment to a positive transformation in our way of producing and consuming food. This is an invitation to renewed collaboration with IFAD, the European Union, and the ACP countries—the opportunity to shape a future where agriculture thrives and farmers worldwide are celebrated as architects of global well-being becomes a tangible reality. It is time for action for a prosperous, sustainable, and equitable agricultural future. Farmers' Organizations stand ready to be committed partners in realizing this shared vision.





Editorial Dr. Babafemi Oyewole

PAFO CEO

The FO4 programs, namely FO4Africa Caribbean and Pacific (FO4ACP), FO4Asia (FO4A), and FO4 Latin America (FO4LA), are capacity-building programs co-financed by the European Union, the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and IFAD. The main objective is to increase income, improve livelihoods, ensure food and nutritional security, and enhance the security of family farming in the targeted geographical areas through greater integration of family farms into value chains. Additionally, these programs can support the development of innovation and promote strategic priorities such as environmental sustainability, gender issues, and youth within organizations. As the FO4 Programs approach their conclusion, there is a deep reflection among the stakeholders involved in their implementation.

Initiated with the aim of strengthening the capacities of Farmer Organizations, promoting rural development, and improving the living conditions of farmers, this initiative has undeniably generated significant results. Despite these successes, gaps persist and call for the continuation of the program to address them.

The evaluation of the FO4ACP Program reveals several positive aspects that have contributed to the improvement of agricultural conditions and the well-being of farmers. From institutional strengthening to the acquisition of technical skills, increased access to resources and financing, political advocacy, to knowledge and best practices exchanges, FO4ACP has significantly strengthened the capacities of farmer organizations. This has positioned them as key actors in policy development, enabling participation in policy debates and advocating for the voice of smallholders. This capacity strengthening has created a conducive political environment for sustainable and profitable agricultural activities.

While considerable progress has been made, and the results achieved so far are tangible proof of this. However, faced with the complex and evolving challenges that farmers worldwide face, it is undeniable that much remains to be done. Issues such as climate crises, land insecurity, limited market access, financial constraints, and lack of access to new technologies require sustained and strengthened attention. This is why we seek continuous and strengthened support to overcome these obstacles. We particularly encourage increased investment in strengthening the capacities of farmer organizations, with a focus on training, research and development, access to finance and markets, as well as enhancing management and leadership skills. Additionally, we call for the promotion of sustainable partnerships among the Farmer Organizations involved in the program's implementation, thereby fostering genuine knowledge and best practices exchange.

The evaluation of the FO4 programs by the Farmer Organizations demonstrates its positive impact on their organizations and the agricultural sector. However, instead of considering the end of the program as a conclusion, the stakeholders should view this stage as the beginning of a new phase, where successes can be consolidated, and future challenges addressed collaboratively for sustainability. The continuation of the FO4 Programs is not only desirable but essential. I remain convinced that our ongoing collaboration continues to make a positive difference in the lives of farmers worldwide and in the promotion of sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous agriculture in Africa.



PAFO NEWS

PAFO WELCOMES ITS NEW PRESIDENT



The official handover ceremony took place at the PAFO headquarters in Kigali, symbolizing the passing of the torch from the outgoing President, Kolyang Palebele, to the newly elected President, Ibrahima Coulibaly. In assuming the reins, Coulibaly brings with him substantial experience and a vision for the future of African agriculture. Ibrahima Coulibaly, renowned for his commitment to the agricultural sector, is poised to guide PAFO towards even greater achievements.

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PAFO NEW PUBLICATIONS



ÉTUDE

EXPLORER LE POTENTIEL DES
ORGANISATIONS PAYSANNES POUR
L'AGROÉCOLOGIE : OPPORTUNITÉS ET DÉFIS



PAFO has just published a new study on “Exploring the potential of farmers’ organizations for agroecology: opportunities and challenges”.

It was carried out as part of the [Farmer-led Research and Innovation \(FO-RI\) project](#). The project is being implemented by AgriCord with financial support from the European Commission (EC) and the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS).

[The Study](#)

STRATEGY FOR FOs MAPPING



PAFO produced a strategy for mapping FOs and African agricultural local “terroir” products, focusing on promoting access to and management of farm data by FOs, and enhancing African local products with high added value. Developing a comprehensive mapping framework that covers FOs’ geographical distribution and identifies African terroir agricultural products will provide a basis for informed decision-making, resource allocation, and targeted interventions. Mapping these products can also promote their recognition and valorization while preserving traditional knowledge and practices. PAFO is currently in the process of raising funds to implement the strategy.

PAFO DELEGATION AT GLOBAL FARMERS FORUM (FAFO)- ROME



[The Farmers’ Forum by IFAD](#), provided a platform for PAFO to showcase its commitment to advancing the interests of farmers across the continent. From the PAFO stand to engaging side events and crucial meetings, the organization played a pivotal role during the forum, leaving a lasting impact. PAFO’s active involvement at the Farmers’ Forum showcased its dedication to advocating for farmers’ rights, fostering collaboration, and influencing policies at both regional and international levels. The organization continues to be a driving force in shaping the future of agriculture in Africa, ensuring that farmers are at the forefront of discussions and decision-making processes.

[Synthesis of deliberations by PAFO President](#)
[Read More About PAFO Participation](#)

PAFO AT THE AFRICAN CSO CONSULTATION



PAFO participated in the African Civil Society Consultation, in the Framework of the 33rd FAO Regional Conference for Africa in Casablanca, Morocco. This event provides a crucial platform for African civil society to assert its perspectives and make its voice heard. This meeting holds particular significance as the continent grapples with multiple challenges. At the core of the discussions are crucial topics for Africa's future food: "Science, Food & AfCFTA" and "Food Losses & Resilience" with a special attention to women, youth, and agro-food systems, highlighting their pivotal role in constructing inclusive systems. Participants identified a steering committee and a roadmap for the regional conference fostering a coordinated and strategic approach to address Africa's food challenges.

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PAFO A LA GFFA BERLIN



The PAFO delegation, led by its President, Ibrahima Coulibaly, participated in the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) held in Berlin from January 17 to 20, 2024. The event brought together 2,000 international participants to engage in discussions on future food systems and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the Agenda 2030.



During the GFFA, PAFO actively engaged in panels and seized the opportunity for advocacy, meeting with various officials.

[More Information](#)

EXCHANGE SESSION WITH AUC ON “AGRICULTURAL POLICY DIALOGUE PROJECT” (APD)



At the initiative of the Andreas Hermes Akademie (AHA), and on the sidelines of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in Berlin (GFFA), an exchange session, placing farmers' interests at the forefront of the agricultural policy dialogue, was organized with the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment of the African Union Commission (ARBE). The focal point of this dynamic collaboration was the exploration of strategies to proactively integrate farmers' interests into the intricacies of agricultural policy-making processes. The exchange session served as a platform for stakeholders to delve into the objectives, working methods, and potential areas of collaboration aimed at strengthening the agricultural policy-making process in Africa.

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PAFO BOARD HOSTED BY THE GERMAN STATE SECRETARY OF BMZ



PAFO delegation, led by President Ibrahim Coulibaly, was received by the State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Economics (BMZ). The meeting provided an opportunity for an in-depth discussion on the prospects for collaboration between African farmers' organizations and the German government. President Coulibaly stressed the importance of building the capacity of farmers' organizations in Africa to promote sustainable and innovative agriculture. The fruitful exchanges that took place during this meeting open up promising avenues for the development of the agricultural sector in Africa.

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ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP



PAFO leaders recently converged in Berlin to participate in a workshop on Organizational Development as part of a new project with AHA International. This gathering brought together leaders from the 5 member networks: EAFF, PROPAC, ROPPA, SACAU, and UMNAGRI, along with their respective CEOs, marking a significant step towards renewed collaboration. Participants discussed strengthening their capacities and equipping themselves with the necessary tools to more effectively address the needs of African farmers and advocate for their interests with determination. The OD program will be continued through four virtual meetings, culminating in a second physical workshop in Kigali in July 2024.

[For more information](#)

THE GERMAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AT PAFO- AHA- JOINT STAND



The German Minister of Agriculture visited the jointly organized booth by AHA - PAFO, providing an opportunity to showcase the activities of both organizations. Specifically, attention was drawn to the Pan-African Platform for Exchange between Farmer Organizations, a project implemented by PAFO in partnership with AHA International and supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The minister's visit to the booth underscores support for collaborative initiatives driving positive change in African agriculture.

PARTNERSHIPS

FO4ACP
Farmers' Organizations for
Africa, Caribbean and Pacific



FO4 PROGRAM EVALUATION KICK-OFF WORKSHOP



Key stakeholders from Farmers Organizations (FO), IFAD, donors, and partners gathered, in Rome, during an inaugural session marking the launch of the evaluation process for Regional Support Programs for FOs (FO4). This meeting, characterized by strong commitment and a shared vision, paved the way for a collaborative and constructive evaluation. Discussions focused on an exchange of best practices, innovations, and the identification of priorities, challenges, and recommendations for the future. The meeting brought together financial partners such as the European Union and the African, Caribbean, and Pacific States (ACP).

[Read More](#)



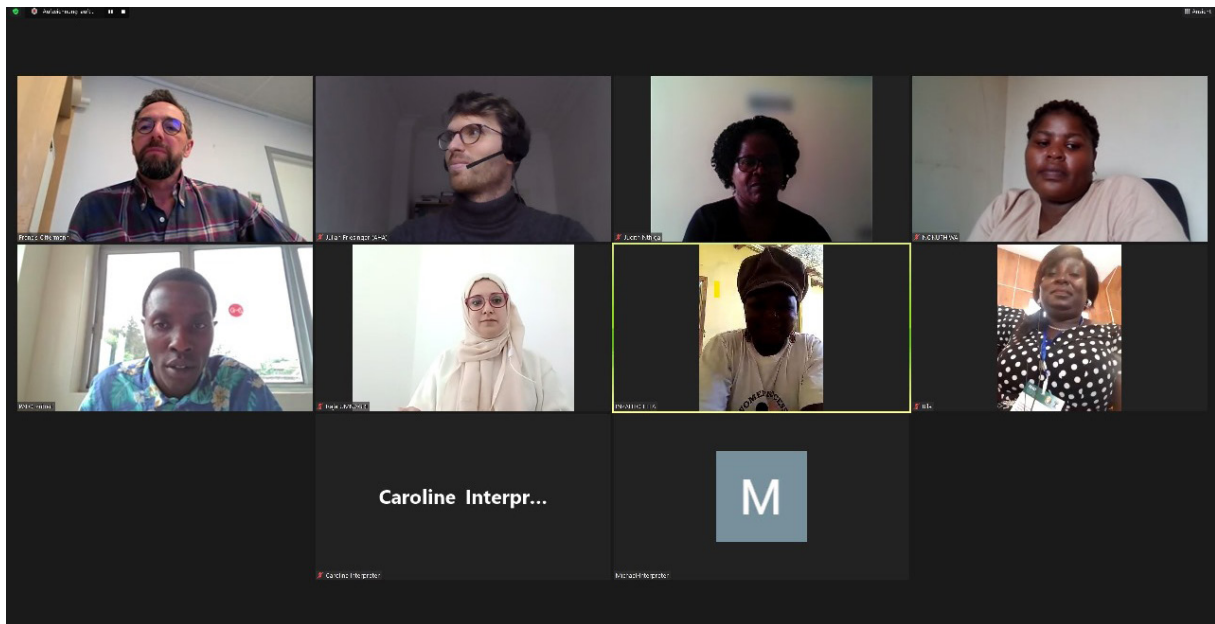
PAFO-COLEAD Innovation Series

During the last period, three sessions were organized as part of the PAFO and COLEAD Innovation Series:

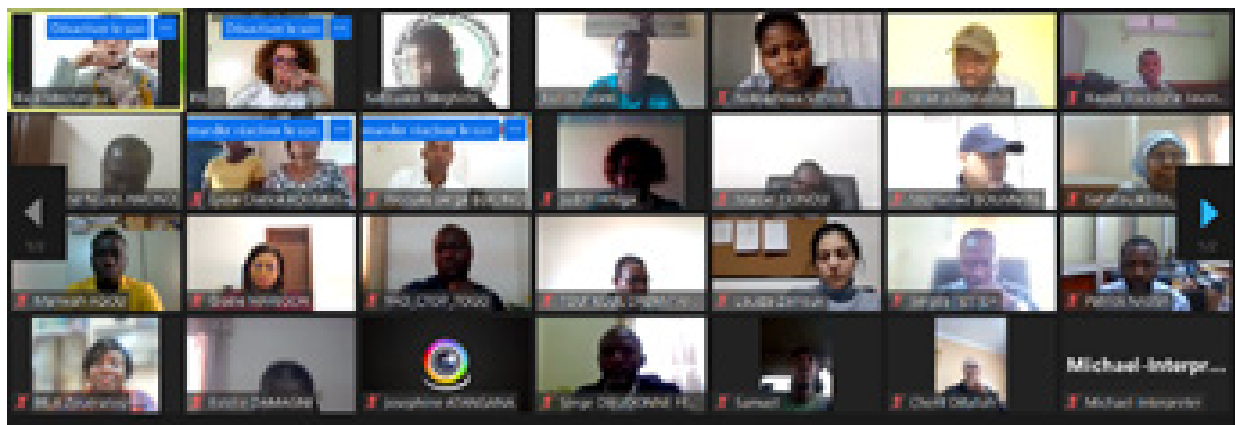
- [15th Session focused on: “ Innovations and successes of African farmer-led businesses and SMEs”.](#)
- [16th Session focused on: “Niche marketing strategies for SMEs and smallholder farmers”.](#)
- 17th session focused on “The potential of African regional markets: the successes of SMEs and smallholders”.

PANAFRICAN FO EXCHANGE PLATFORM

The Core Moderation Team (CMT) of the Panafrican FOs exchange Platform benefited from an on line training moderation techniques, in order to develop advanced online moderation skills and strengthen collaboration within the moderation team.



Moreover, UMNAGRI moderated three sessions on the topic of “Farmers’ Organisations Management”. These sessions are in new addition to the 9 previous ones organised in 2023 by EAFF, ROPPA and SACAU. This brings the total number of sessions to so far to 12, attended by a large number of members and technicians from PAFO’s member RFOs and NFOs.



[Session 10 « financial Management »](#)

[Session 11 : Governance and Leadership](#)

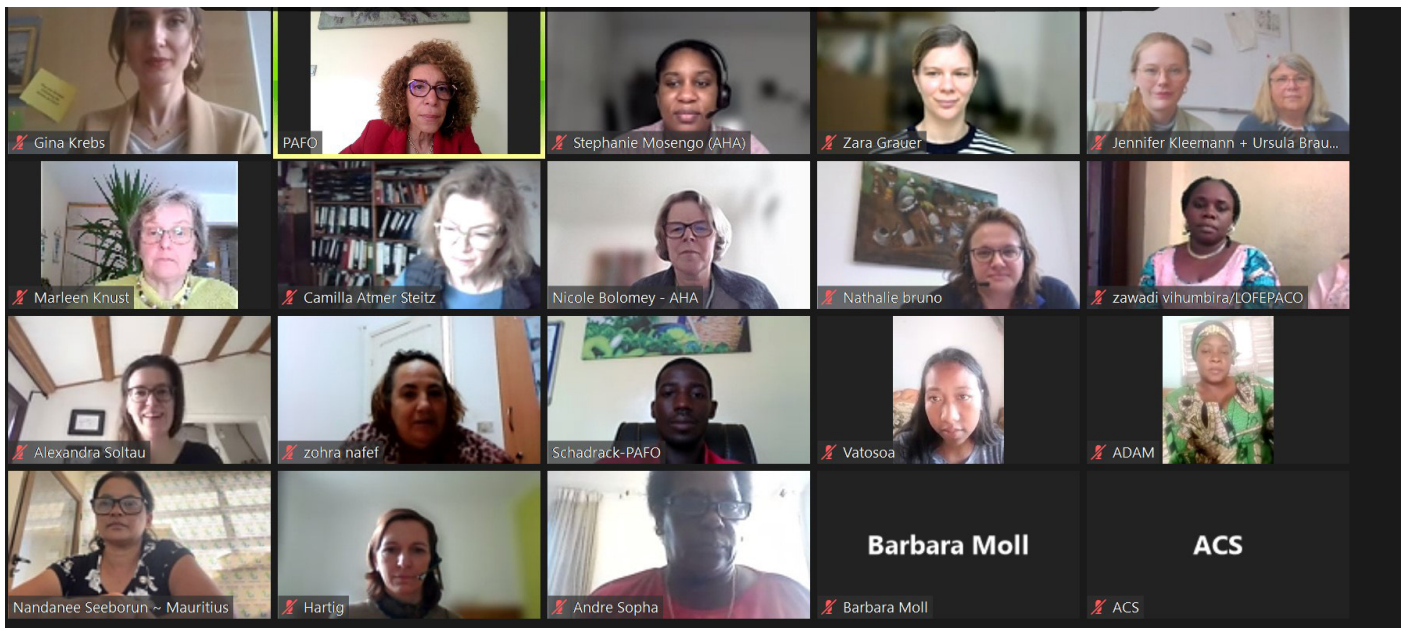
[Session 12 “Program Management”](#)

[All Panafrican Farmers Organizations Exchange Platform Sessions:](#)

WOMEN FARMERS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM - PHASE 2

The first phase, which focused on English-speaking women leaders, has yielded positive results and has paved the way for the second phase. This upcoming phase will be conducted in French, extending the opportunity to French-speaking participants and ensuring a more inclusive approach. The 15 selected participants from PAFO's member networks took part in an initial introductory meeting involving not only the African women but also 5 German rural women, members of the German Rural Women's Association.

[DETAIL DU PROJET](#)



ONLINE SEMINARS ON NEGOTIATION PROCESSES WITHIN UNFCCC

Launched in May 2023, the PAFO-WFO-AHA-FFD Climate training aim to prepare RFOs and NFOs to participate and engage effectively in the climate negotiations in their respective countries and regions. The series will continue throughout 2024, and will be open to the public. The first training session was held on 14 February and focused on: [“Climate training session focuses on “analyzing the achievements of COP28 for the agricultural sector and the next steps”](#)

[More Information](#)





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