



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Elaboration

PAFO Secretariat



Panafrican farmers' organization
Organisation panafricaine des agriculteurs
المنظمة الإفريقية للفلاحين

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACP	ACP African, Caribbean and Pacific countries
AFO	African Farmers Organization
AFDB	African Development Bank
AHA	Andreas Hemers Akademie
AKI	AgrarKontakte International - AKI e.V.
AU	African Union
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CEO	Chief executive officer
COLEAD	Committee Linking Entrepreneurship-Agriculture-Development
CSO	Civil society organizations
Dlv	German Association of Rural Women
EAFF	Eastern African Farmers Federation
EU	European Union
FAO	The Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations,
FFD	Food and Forest Development Finland
FFF	Forest and Farm Facility
FFPO	FOREST AND FARM PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS
FO4ACP	Farmers' Organizations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific
FORI	Farmer-led Research and Innovation
GA	General Assembly
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding.
NFO	National Farmer Organization
PAFO	Pan-African Farmers Organisation
PROPAC	Plateforme sous-Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale
RFO	Regional Farmer Organizations
ROPPA	Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs Agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest
SACAU	Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions
SC	Steering Committee
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
UMNAGRI	Union Maghrébine et Nord-Africaine des Agriculteurs
UN	United Nations
UNDF	UN Decade of Family Farming
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WFO	World Farmers Organization

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1. PAFO OVERVIEW

PAFO was created in October 2010 by a General Assembly under the sponsorship of the African Union. This General Assembly was the culmination of a long process of consultation and collaboration between the 5 regional networks of farmer organizations from East Africa (EAFF), Central Africa (PROPAC), West Africa (ROPPA), Southern Africa (SACAU) and North Africa (UMNAGRI).



Eastern African Farmers Federation (EAFF)
Regional Platform of Farmers' Organizations of Central Africa (PROPAC)
Network of farmers 'and producers' organizations in West Africa (ROPPA)
Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)
Maghrebian and North African Union of Farmers (UMNAGRI)

PAFO is registered in Rwanda as an international non-governmental organization and is certified by the Rwanda Governing Council to legally operate and establish its headquarters in Rwanda under number 001/RGB/19. PAFO is recognized as the representative body of African farmer organizations at the highest continental level. It carries the voice of nearly 80,000,000 African farmers united in nearly 70 national organizations, unions, federations, cooperatives, associations, etc., present in 49 African countries.

PAFO is governed by an Assembly, a Board and an executive secretariat which is the technical tool of the Board for the implementation of its mandate, the implementation of the orientations decided by the GA.

[For more information](#)

2. AGRICULTURE BACKGROUND IN AFRICA



2.1. Characteristics and challenges of the sector

The agricultural sector in Africa is constantly evolving, despite the profound challenges it faces. It holds immense potential, with over 50% of the world's arable land remaining unused. However, Africa continues to import \$50 billion worth of food annually. This paradox underscores the opportunity that agriculture represents to provide both employment for the youth and food security for the African population.

Agriculture is a vital pillar of the African economy, employing approximately 60% of the population. Nevertheless, there are significant challenges, such as limited access to agricultural inputs, unsustainable practices, insufficient access to financing and markets, as well as the impacts of climate change.



Furthermore, climate and environmental crises, security issues, socio-political and geopolitical conflicts, health, food, and pastoral crises, as well as inflation, create a challenging backdrop. These challenges are exacerbated by rapid population growth, unpredictable weather conditions, conflicts, and poverty, leading to persistent issues of food security and malnutrition, particularly among children.

2. AGRICULTURE BACKGROUND IN AFRICA

Climate change, with its droughts, floods, erratic rainfall patterns, and the proliferation of pests, has a multifaceted impact on African agriculture, jeopardizing food production, livelihoods, and food security.

2.2. Policy reforms requiring interaction between PAFO and its member RFOs



In the face of the internal and external challenges of African agriculture, new policy reforms are being implemented at various national, regional, and continental levels to provide sustainable solutions to address the issues of food and nutritional sovereignty/security, job creation, sustainable income, poverty reduction, and the sustainable management of natural resources...

The orientations of these reforms are crucial in determining the model of agriculture that will receive priority support, the nature, significance, and quality of public and private investments that are projected. Therefore, they constitute a primary advocacy field for PAFO, its member RFOs, and their NFOs. The main reforms include:

- The CAADP adopted in 2003 by the summit of Heads of State and Government in Maputo, and its regional agricultural policies in different regions of the continent.
- The agricultural and trade policies of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the five regions of the continent, which increasingly involve the participation of RFOs and/or their NFOs members in their formulation and implementation.
- The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
- The Malabo commitments.
- The process of negotiating new directions for cooperation between the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU).
- Numerous post-crisis initiatives in which the AU and/or its member states are engaged at the international level, such as the World Food Systems Summit, the African Summit on Fertilizers and Soil Health in preparation, and the outcomes of the Conference of the Parties (COP) with numerous commitments and initiatives aimed at strengthening the climate resilience of smallholder farms.
- The framework of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the Comprehensive System for Agriculture (CSA), which provide PAFO and its RFOs with an opportunity to contribute to defining appropriate guidelines to promote at the global, regional, and national levels for improved governance of agricultural and food systems, and hence, food and nutritional security for the populations. These include voluntary guidelines on land governance and guidelines on cross-border markets.
- Various global rights and measures, declarations, and policies that create a favorable political environment for the defense and promotion of family farming and/or family farmers, such as the right to food, the rights of farmers, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of farmers and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDRF).

2. AGRICULTURE BAKGROUND IN AFRICA



2.3. Dynamics and Initiatives of PAFO and its Members

Farmer organizations (FOs) have a dual role to play: promoting the recognition of farmers' rights and providing services to their members.

Improving the allocation of government agricultural budgets along value chains offers opportunities and added value to farmers. PAFO, its member RFOs, and NFOs play a crucial role in lobbying for increased investments in agriculture so that they truly benefit the continent's farmers. This includes, for example, improving working conditions and opportunities for access to financing and new markets.

RFOs and their grassroots members are also significant economic actors. They provide a wide range of key economic services to their members, thus contributing to processes of sustainable growth and addressing the challenges of rural poverty reduction.

Over the past three years, PAFO, RFOs, and NFOs have continued to build their joint efforts to support the institutional development of their members at all levels: national, regional, and continental. However, PAFO and RFOs still require support to strengthen their institutional capacities, especially in the context of governance and leadership, professional management, financial sustainability, and so on. This perspective is outlined in the strategic plans of PAFO and RFOs.

3. OVERVIEW OF THE PAFO 2020 - 2025 STRATEGIC ORIENTATION FRAMEWORK



Since 2021, PAFO's action has been guided by its [Strategic Plan \(21-25\)](#), structured around 4 strategic pillars and 3 cross-cutting axes as follows:

3.1 The 4 strategic pillars

a. Strategic Pillar 1: "A strong PAFO": Three key objectives are assigned to this pillar by 2025:

- Statutory bodies and staff are efficient.
- A strong governance system is in place.
- Sound financial management is established

b. Strategic Pillar 2: "Farming as a business": This strategic pillar has 2 key objectives:

- Programs and projects that support farming as a business, with particular attention to the specificities of family farmers, are implemented;
- Farmers are organized and defend their interests with other private and public sector players;

c. Strategic Pillar "Farmer Knowledge Management": It aims to achieve 3 key objectives by 2025:

- A knowledge management strategy for the 3 levels is put in place;
- PAFO has identified areas of excellence and specialization;
- The international calendar of agricultural events is used strategically to promote PAFO's objectives;

d. Strategic Pillar 4 "Farmers' Influence on decisions": PAFO has set itself 3 key objectives:

- A continental food sovereignty strategy that promotes increased production by African farmers is put in place;
- The business environment for agricultural entrepreneurship is improved;
- Policies recognizing agriculture as a business and recognizing agriculture as formal work are adopted

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3. OVERVIEW OF THE PAFO 2020 - 2025 STRATEGIC ORIENTATION FRAMEWORK

3.2. Cross-cutting thematic



The 3 cross-cutting thematic in which PAFO is committed to investing as part of its five-year plan are:

- Women and youth
- Resilient farmers (climate change, health crisis, agroecology, etc.)
- Innovations for farmers (inputs, ICT, FinTechn, etc.)

All the programs/projects negotiated with partners are designed to implement the strategic plan. The activities undertaken from 2021 are fully in line with the strategic pillars and cross-cutting thematic of the strategic plan. The results achieved by PAFO will be analyzed in the context of this report in relation to the 4 strategic pillars and 3 cross-cutting thematic.

4. MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED BY PAFO

PAFO is in the third year of its strategic plan (2021-2025). This PAFO 2023 annual report summarizes the achievements of the Secretariat, the challenges, and prospects for the activities of the Secretariat, in relation to the PAFO's strategic pillars, contained in its [STRATEGIC PLAN \(2021-2025\)](#).



PILLAR 1 : A STRONG PAFO

Under this strategic pillar, PAFO's key objectives are to set up statutory bodies and a high-performance technical team, strengthen its governance system and ensure effective financial management. Analysis of the results shows strong progress towards these objectives:

1. PAFO Statutory meetings

The PAFO has successfully maintained the convening of its governing body meetings (Board, General Assembly, Executive Secretaries' Meetings), which have facilitated the monitoring of plan implementation, the review of various partnerships, including the implementation of programs by the Member Organizations (RFOs), the adoption of the PAFO's work plan and budget, and the discussion and validation of audit reports.

1.1. PAFO Board meetings

PAFO has held a total of seven (7) Board meetings, including Ordinary and 3 Extraordinary Meetings, using both in-person and hybrid formats:



- The first Ordinary Board Meeting was held, in Kigali- Rwanda, on May, 19th 2023;
- 2nd Extraordinary meeting of the PAFO Board: 21-07-2023
- 3rd Extraordinary meeting of the PAFO Board: August 04, 2023
- The 4th extraordinary meeting of the PAFO Board: August 25, 2023
- 5th ordinary meeting of the PAFO Board, during the Annual General Meeting (AGM): October 25-26, 2023
- The 6th ordinary PAFO Board meeting: October 28, 2023, after the close of the GA.



1.2. 6th PAFO General Assembly and Events



In accordance with its statutory texts, and upon convocation by the Chairman of its Board of Directors, Mr. Kolyang PALEBELE, PAFO organized, in collaboration with UMNAGRI, its 6th Ordinary General Assembly (AGO), on October 27 and 28, 2023, at the RAMADA PLAZA hotel, in Tunis, Tunisia. The work of the AG took place in hybrid, face-to-face and virtual format, with the participation of 63 delegates, coming from 30 countries including 25 women, 30 men, and 8 young people, representing the five regional member networks of PAFO, namely: EAFF, PROPAC, ROPPA, SACAU and UMNAGRI. The government authorities of Tunisia, development partners (Agricord, AHA, AGRA), with 5 representatives, also took part in the AGM, during which the [IFAD President](#), Mr. Alvaro Lario, addressed a Message of good intentions to delegates. The work of the 6th AGO took place around: (i) Presentation and discussions on the conclusions of the side events; (ii) Round table of partners; (iii) Presentation and discussions around proposals for strategic orientations drawn from side events

The General Assembly was preceded by parallel activities including: the PAFO Rural Women's forum, the workshop on Agroecology; a session on the Mapping of Farmers' Organizations (POs)....

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PILLAR 1 : A STRONG PAFO



During PAFO's 6th GA, and on the proposal of the RFOs, the delegates at the 6th GA validated the new Board members, on behalf of 5 representatives of the RFOs, who will be joined at the next GA, by 2 representatives of women and youth;

On the proposal of the 5 members of the Board, the delegates of the 6th GA ratified the various functions to be assumed by the 5 RFOs on the Board as follows:

- President PAFO Board: ROPPA
- Vice-President PAFO Board: SACAU
- PAFO Treasurer: PROPAC
- Ordinary member: EAFF
- Ordinary member: UMNAGRI

FINAL GA RESOLUTION

1.3. Consultation & CEOs meetings

The CEOs of the member networks regularly hold meetings to prepare the Board meetings, align on the PAFO schedule, and discuss potential strategic partnerships. At the invitation of the PAFO CEO, ten SEs meetings have been organized virtually, on 2023.

At the invitation of the PAFO CEO, seven Consultation meetings of network CEOs were held virtually, in 2023.

- The first was held on 16th January
- The second in February 2023,
- The 3rd Consultation meetings took place on 7 March 2023
- The CEOs had 4 Consultation meetings (March-April 2023) to discuss the call for proposals from the Norwegian Cooperation
- The 8th CEOs meeting took place on June 5th, 2023

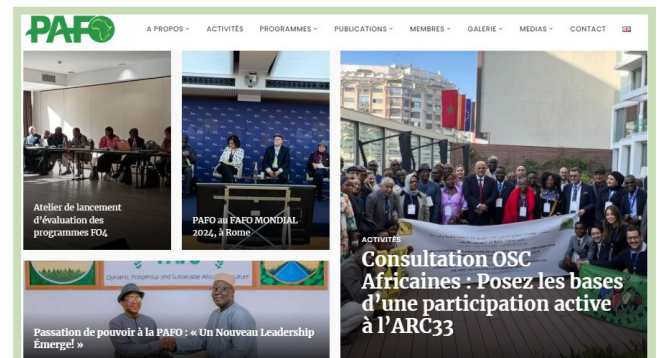
- The 9th CEOs meeting was held on 14th, July 2023
- The 10th Consultation on December 15th, 2023

2. Administrative and Financial Management

In order to improve its good governance and its credibility vis-à-vis technical and financial partners, the financial and institutional accounts of PAFO 2022 were audited. The audit report was presented and validated by the Board on May 19, 2023, and by the General Assembly on October 27, 2023. The General Assembly also approved a new PAFO auditor, for years 23-25, as well as the Administrative and Financial Procedures Manual.

PAFO is continuing its work to harmonize its system and guarantee compliance with the norms and standards of its financial and administrative procedures manual.

3. Communication



PAFO has made significant progress in improving its communication efforts, both externally and internally. Externally, PAFO has focused on:

- Strengthening its online presence through regular updates to its [website](#) and active engagement on social media platforms :

- [FACEBOOK](#)
- [TWITTER](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [YouTube](#)

- Distribution of newsletters: PAFO has so far published [three newsletters](#), in 2023.

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PILLAR 1 : A STRONG PAFO

- Studies & Strategies carried out by PAFO
 - [Study on : “Exploring the Potential of Farmers’ Organizations for Agroecology : Opportunities and Challenges” : IN PROGRESS](#)
 - Consultancy to produce a case study on the FO4ACP Knowledge Management event
 - Strategy for Mapping of FOs and African Agricultural Local Product” Mid-term review of the PAFO five-year strategic plan”
- Disseminating information about PAFO’s activities, programs, projects, and participation in international and regional events through [press releases](#), and overseeing the graphic design of all [PAFO’s documents](#), and collecting articles for a [PRESS REVIEW](#).

4. Thematic meeting on PAFO studies



Seizing the opportunity of its General Assembly, PAFO organized the thematic meeting to discuss with its members and partners the results of the studies & strategies (3) carried out. The thematic meeting was also an opportunity for members to provide additional recommendations on the results of the studies. Discussions between experts and PAFO delegates focused on the challenges, solutions, and recommendations that constitute a tool for PAFO advocacy and programs.

The thematic meeting was about:

4.1. AGROECOLOGY



PAFO has been asked to lead the debate on agroecology in Africa. It has carried out a study on the impact of agroecology on the continent’s agriculture. In order to involve PAFO’s member networks in the debate, PAFO organized a WORKSHOP on agroecology entitled “Exploring the potential of farmers’ organizations for agroecology and climate resilience: opportunities and challenges” during its 2023 GA, as part of its partnership with Agricord. The objective is not only to gain recognition for the ability of farmers to innovate and produce knowledge and results, but also to develop a common continental position that will guide PAFO and its members on agro-ecology-related programs and policies.

[PAFO-FO-RI Workshop Report](#)



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PILLAR 1 : A STRONG PAFO

4.2. MAPPING STRATEGY



With the support of FO4ACP, PAFO has developed a strategy for “Mapping FOs and local agricultural products”, the objective being to establish a comprehensive mapping framework encompassing the geographical distribution of African farmers’ organizations (FOs), with the goal of empowering these organizations through improved data management, informed decision-making and collaborative efforts. During the PAFO General Assembly, delegates from the five PAFO member networks had the opportunity to exchange views with the consultant and formulate recommendations.

[SESSION MAPPING REPORT](#)



4.3 MTR Strategic plan (2021-2025)



In 2023, the implementation of PAFO strategic plan (2021-2025) will reach its mid-term point. Following the Board decision, held on 19 May 2023, PAFO has decided to undertake a mid-term Review of the five-year implementation strategy, in order to determine whether the objectives and expected results have been reached. The main outcomes of the MTR were presented, to the Board, on October 23, held with the PAFO General Assembly & side Events. The delegates at the 6th GA decided (2) major recommendations:

- The setting up of focal points at the level of the RFOs to work with the PAFO secretariat and the strategy consultancy to finalize/improve the mid-term review of the strategic plan;
- Validation of the final report by the PAFO Board

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PILLAR 2. FARMING AS A BUSINESS

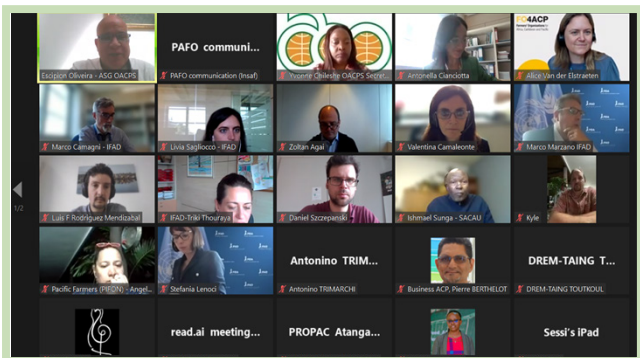
1. PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to the ongoing projects and partnerships, PAFO continues to develop new ones. It also continues to seek additional funding to support and implement its five-year strategy, addressing the needs of its member networks and their affiliated agricultural organizations.

1.1. FO4ACP

The FO4ACP program is a global support program for farmers' organizations in ACP countries; with the overall objective of increasing the incomes and improving the livelihoods, food, and nutrition security, and security of smallholders and organized family farmers. The FO4ACP program was extended until 2024. PAFO and ROPPA signed an agreement to continue the management of FO4ACP funds until the end of the project.

Furthermore, PAFO participated in the regular FO4ACP Program steering committee meeting to discuss progress on the overall implementation and way forward of the program; Access to Finance - Phase 2 Results. The meeting was also an opportunity to recap the main highlights of the FO4ACP Knowledge Management event organized by PAFO in Kigali.



1.2. PAFO-COLEAD

In September 2023, PAFO-COLEAD renewed their commitment by signing a new agreement covering the period 2023-2026, demonstrating their determination to work together for the advancement of agriculture in Africa. This extended partnership aims to enhance collaboration between PAFO and COLEAD, with a focus on innovation, sustainability, and the improvement of agricultural value chains, thereby contributing to the goal of agricultural prosperity in Africa.

1.3. PAFO-FAO

The five-year [Partnership Agreement](#) between PAFO-FAO aims to amplify the voices of farmers in policy processes and strengthen farmer associations in Africa. Additionally, it seeks to enhance the commitment of both parties to promote sustainable agriculture, gender equity, and support the new generation of farmers in Africa. Collaborative efforts in various areas contribute to bolstering the resilience and commercial potential of the continent's agricultural sector. In 2022, the two organizations worked together on various initiatives, including establishing field schools for young farmers, sharing best practices in agricultural innovation, participating in FAO mentoring programs, and enhancing communication capacities of family farmer organizations through [Yankaza](#).

1.4. PAFO-AGRA

In April 2021, PAFO signed an [MoU](#) with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) to enhance the capacities of Farmers' Organizations (FOs) in order to provide effective services to small-scale farmers, especially women and youth. While the implementation was initially scheduled for early 2023, discussions are ongoing for alignment with AGRA's new strategic plan. PAFO and AGRA cooperate in areas of mutual interests to enhance the effectiveness of their development efforts in the field of agriculture especially i) Driving policy advocacy around common areas of interest connecting continental, regional and national level issues informed by the Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard and the Malabo Declaration, to advocate for specific policy and other investments required to drive inclusive agricultural transformation in Africa. ii) Support programs that ensure women and youth farmers have access to resources that enable them to be more productive, and unhindered by gender and socio-cultural norms, market entry barriers and other institutional impediments.

1.5. PAFO- AKADEMIYA 2063

[PAFO](#) and [Akademiya2063](#) signed a five-year MoU aimed at influencing the agricultural policy landscape in Africa and enhancing the capacities of Farmers' Organizations (FOs). Within this framework, the "[Digitally Enabled Resilience and Nutrition Policy Innovations \(DERPIn\) project](#)," with a duration of three years, was launched with financial support from [GIZ](#) in five targeted

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PILLAR 2. FARMING AS A BUSINESS

African countries - Benin, Ghana, Malawi, Uganda, and Senegal. The project aims to enhance the capacity of stakeholders in the food sector, including small-scale farmers, to develop gender-sensitive policies and improve food resilience using digital tools and data to meet stakeholder needs. This initiative is part of the broader efforts to transform food systems and enhance resilience to shocks. The inception workshops were done at national level in different countries and now we are in the process of identifying the crops that will be covered.

1.6. PAFO-AHA

An MoU, signed, in 2023 with [Andreas Hermes Akademie \(AHA\)](#) aims to enhance the capacities of Farmers' Organizations (FOs) in Africa under the auspices of PAFO at continental, regional, and national levels through a peer-learning approach and mutual exchanges between FOs. The implementation of the agreement commenced with two projects:

- Pan-African FO Exchange Platform: Moderated by PAFO, it is dedicated to technical staff and elected representatives of FOs. Regular thematic seminars are organized to enhance the capacities of those involved through peer-to-peer exchanges and expert contributions.

[Read more about the project](#)

- "Women Farmers Leadership Program": The first cycle of this program brought together 20 rural women (15 from PAFO and 5 members of dlv) from May 14 to 19, 2023, in Kigali. The second phase took place in Berlin, Germany, from September 12 to 16, 2023.

[Read more about project](#)

Both projects are being implemented with the technical support of two partners from AHA: [AgrarKontakte International \(AKI\)](#) e.V., experienced in creating digital platforms for international exchanges among agricultural organizations, and the [German Rural Women's Association \(Deutscher LandFrauenverband, dlV\)](#), which involves women leaders from Germany for mutual exchange and learning, with financial support from the [German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development \(BMZ\)](#).

1.7. PAFO -AGRICORD

PAFO is implementing the first component 1, of the ["Farmers Organizations Leading Research & Innovation on agroecology for sustainable food systems"](#), (FO-RI), implemented by [Agricord](#), focusing on lobbying and advocacy across the African continent. This component is dedicated to lobbying and advocacy efforts aimed at enhancing the conducive environment for farmers' agroecological research, establishing a multi-stakeholder ecosystem to support agricultural innovations, and strengthening the advocacy and lobbying skills of Farmers' Organizations (FOs). The overarching goal is to contribute to the agroecological transition for more productive and resilient food systems.

1.8. PAFO-OMA-AHA-FFD

PAFO, in partnership with AHA, WFO, and FFD, is organizing a series of eleven online seminars aimed at training representatives of FOs in Africa to enhance their capacity to actively engage in negotiations related to the UNFCCC and to support their members at the national level. These trainings are designed to prepare the representatives to effectively participate in climate discussions at the national, regional, and at COP.

[Project Details](#)

1.9. PAFO-IUCN-FAO

PAFO submitted a proposal as part of the call for proposals for regional and global forest and agricultural producer organizations launched by the [Forest and Farm Facility \(FFF\)](#). This initiative aims to support the creation of climate-resilient landscape and improved livelihoods. FFF is co-managed by four international partner organizations: the [Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#), the [International Institute for Environment and Development \(IIED\)](#), the [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#) and [AgriCord](#). PAFO submitted the first draft.

1.10. PAFO-BAD-ADF

A partnership with AfDB and the African Development Fund (ADF) to strengthening the capacities of farmers' organizations in Africa, which in turn shall support policy dialogue while providing effective services to their members, with a particular

PILLAR 2. FARMING AS A BUSINESS

focus on women and job creation for youth, climate change and mitigation in agriculture. The cooperation and collaboration between the Parties serve their common objectives and render the respective activities more effective and beneficial to their target populations across the African Continent focusing on Building farmers' capacities on Bank supported programmes such as the Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanisms (AFFM); Technology for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT); Special Agri-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ); Enable Youth; and Agriculture and Climate Change as well as support to organizational and entrepreneurship capacities of Farmers' Organizations to influence the policy dialogue for inclusive agribusiness development.

2. United Nations Decade of Family Farming



In 2023, PAFO participated in two meetings, organized by YenKasa Africa: the Steering and the Editorial Committees. Objectives: To discuss content for the YenKasa Africa website and FB; awareness campaigns to support the [United Nations Decade of Family Farming \(UNDF\)](#); communication capacity development of farmers' organizations and rural communication services - technical support to ComDev for projects and initiatives on the field; the YenKasa Africa newsletter,....

Furthermore, in order to strengthen the capacity of organizations in knowledge management, the YenKasa Africa regional initiative, FAO and IFAD with its FO4ACP Program are offering a series of webinars that review the online course on Experience Capitalization for Continuous Learning, from 28 March to end of June 2023. PAFO participated in three of these webinars: (1) Introduction: what is experience capitalization and why is it important; (2) Preparation of the experience capitalization process; (3) Implementing the process - collection, organization, and analysis (+ facilitation tips).

PILLAR 3. FARMERS' KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Progress in this pillar is strategic and will be marked in 2023 by the production of knowledge management tools and the organization of various events on different themes, in collaboration with partners. The aim is to capitalize on the innovations and proven experience of FOs and to support their scaling-up. These include:

1. FO4ACP GLOBAL KM EVENT BY PAFO



The FO4ACP Knowledge Management event was organized and hosted by the Pan African Farmers' Organization (PAFO), a key partner of the FO4ACP Program, at the Lemigo Hotel in Kigali, Rwanda from May 16th to 28th, 2023. The event took place about one year after the mid-term review of the program, to take stock of what was done and share the experiences and good and promising practices among the farmers' organizations involved in the program. The theme of the event was "Sharing the knowledge that makes us stronger". The main objective was to exchange good and promising practices among the FO4ACP implementing partners, to learn how others have improved the effectiveness and quality of their work, as well as opportunities for networking by linking ideas.

A total of 93 participants attended the event in person, including 30 women and 31 youth, while an additional 180 participants joined online. Participants came from across the world and included FO4ACP partners and friends, PAFO partners, and other important stakeholders. The event saw representation from 34 countries and was officially opened by a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources in Rwanda. The event lasted for two and a half days and featured discussions on a variety of topics in different formats such as panel discussions, round tables, PowerPoint presentations, workshops and an interactive marketplace.

The event was a buzzing, interactive and collaborative workspace with lively discussions and practical demonstrations that focused on six key thematic areas, identified during the mid-term review

and discussions with the farmers' organizations involved in the program: (i) Access to finance; (ii) Services to members and business plans and their implementation; (iii) Climate change and resilience, (iv) agroecology; (v) Policy Engagement and Advocacy, including data collection for informed decisions and (vi) Inclusive approaches in FO4ACP activities. A total of 41 case studies were part of the event, with 29 being presented or discussed during the sessions and 12 being showcased in the marketplace.

[Link for the overall Report](#)

[Video highlight event](#)

2. Rural Women Farmers Forum



On 23 and 24 October 2023, PAFO held its 4th African Rural Women Forum, in consecutive with the PAFO 6th General Assembly and side events. The forum brought together rural women representatives from PAFO members, to discuss on issues affecting rural women and other elements to position their expectations under the PAFO programs. The forum was held for two days; The first day, was the hybrid Intramural meeting in Tunisia, while the second was the field visit to the two cooperatives, in Tunisia.

The forum was structured into five sessions, each focusing on one of the key themes: (i) Strengthening the role of women in agriculture (ii) Resilient agricultural practices and food security (iii) Capacity building, knowledge management (iv) Facilitate rural women's transition from the informal to the formal sector through access to finance, (v) Women's influence in decision-making. The participants reflected on the different topics proposed for discussion, which took place in panels and in groups, both French-speaking and English-speaking.

PILLAR 3. FARMERS' KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT



The PAFO delegation was made up of 32 women participants, including representatives of rural women from 5 regional networks of farmers' organizations, the President of EAFF, members of the PAFO secretariat, the Agricord delegate, the International Director of AHA and the UTAP delegation. The delegation 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.

[PAFO RURAL WOMEN'S FORUM](#)
[African Rural Women Declaration](#)
[VIDEO DAY 1](#)
[VIDEO DAY 2](#)

3. Innovation Sessions



On 2023, PAFO – COLEAD held [4 online Innovation Sessions](#), bringing together thousands of participants from over 100 countries worldwide, covering various topics. In response to concerns expressed by the Board regarding the impact of the series on innovation, the PAFO Secretariat requested COLEAD to conduct a survey to determine the series' usefulness to organization members. The survey results revealed a growing public engagement with the series, and the topics discussed were found to be of interest to the audience. Furthermore, the series has increased PAFO's visibility among the international audience that participates.

PAFO and COLEAD launched, on 2023, "[Agrinnovators](#)", a platform for African entrepreneurs passionate about innovation and sustainability in the agri-food sector. 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.

[Join the Agrinnovators community](#)
[MORE INFORMATION ON INNOVATION SERIES](#)



4. Pan-African FO Exchange Platform

Since the launch of the project, the CMT members -which will support the coordinator and organize the online sessions periodically (once every six weeks).

PAFO annual report 2023

PILLAR 3. FARMERS' KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT



- The CMT members held 12 online meetings to discuss and identify topics and to coordinate sessions.
- CMT members benefited from a 3-day training session on moderation (May 10-12) in Kigali, Rwanda. It brought together 15 participants from 12 African countries with the aim of strengthening the capacity of CMT members in essential aspects of moderation.
- The training session will be followed by several online sessions and field training.
- 9 sessions were organized on the following topics: Lobby and Advocacy: ROPPA; Climate Change: SACAUC. The other topics: Resource Mobilization (EAFF).
- These sessions gathered approximately 400 participants representing over 60 NFS and RFOs from more than 28 African countries.
- A mini Workshop was organized to talk about and celebrate the achievements of the platform, discuss the challenges and potential solutions; to reflect on the strategy. The workshop was moderated by Dr. Maria Gerster-Bentaya.



[All Sessions](#)

PAFO annual report 2023

PILLAR 4. FARMERS' INFLUENCING DECISIONS

PAFO has achieved significant results in this strategic pillar. It has been actively engaged in influencing a favorable environment for agriculture in Africa, by organizing consultation and exchange missions with partners, thus complementing formal consultation spaces. To this end, it has focused on partnership with the African Union in order to become a key player in agricultural development in Africa through solid alliances with this institution

Furthermore, PAFO is developing advocacy tools and collaborating with various partners to influence policies and create a favorable environment for farmers. This is essential to strengthen its ability to effectively advocate for farmers' interests and promote agriculture as a business activity in Africa.

1. Production of advocacy tools (statements, memoranda, etc.)

- [PAFO Declaration to the AFDB Dakar 2 Summit on "Feed Africa: Food Sovereignty and Resilience" \(25-27 January 2023\)](#);
- [PAFO DECLARATION - 5th AU- EU Agriculture Ministerial Conference](#)
- [COP28: "Joint statement": Farmer's Constituency within the UNFCCC](#)

2. Participation in consultation bodies at continental and international level

PAFO actively participates in approximately nine committees and platforms where it sits to strengthen the voice of African farmers and is recognized as the sole representative of farmers on the continent.

- The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA),
- The Board of the African Fertilizer Financing Mechanism (AFFM)
- African Food Trade Coalition;
- African Civil Society Organization (ASCO),
- Common African Agro-Parks (CAAPs)
- Member of the Continental Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Committee of the African Union, to represent producer organizations.
- BIFAD SUB-COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE. This is a sub-committee on systemic solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation on agriculture, nutrition and food systems
- Global Farmers Forum Committee (FAFO).

- Common African position on the one CGIAR Reform
- Farmers Organizations Leading Research & Innovation on agroecology for sustainable food systems (FO-ledR&I)
- Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF TADs)
- Regional Steering Committee for Africa (RSC11)
- The Global steering committee for Forest Farm Facility (FFF)

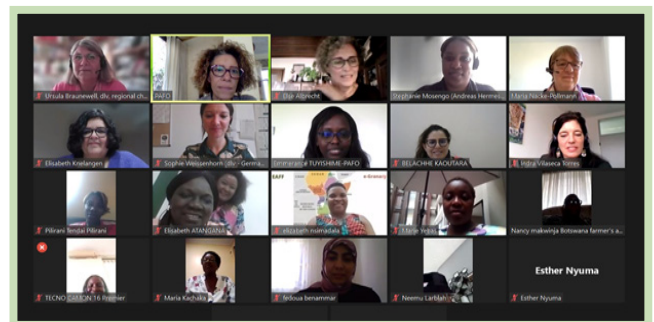
3. Meetings, webinars, and events undertaken in 2023

PAFO has participated in over 30th events, in 2023. These events include consultations, conferences, webinars, briefings, high-level meetings, ministerial meetings, international summits, policy forums, regional dialogues, and more.

Cross-cutting thematic (Women & Youth Climate change resilience; technologies for Farmers...)

1. PAFO - Women Farmers' Leadership Program

- A virtual introductory workshop for the Women Leaders Capacity Building Program. 15 women leaders from PAFO member networks and 5 German women from the German Association of Rural Women (Deutscher LandFrauenverband or dlw) took place at the workshop.



- Physical seminar of women farmer's leadership capacity program, in Kigali (8-11 May 23): 20 women leaders from 12 African countries (South Sudan, Uganda, Liberia, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Malawi, Botswana, Cameroon, Burundi, Congo Republic, Algeria, Morocco) and 5 German rural women leaders, participated.

PILLAR 4. FARMERS' INFLUENCING DECISIONS



Workshop- Training



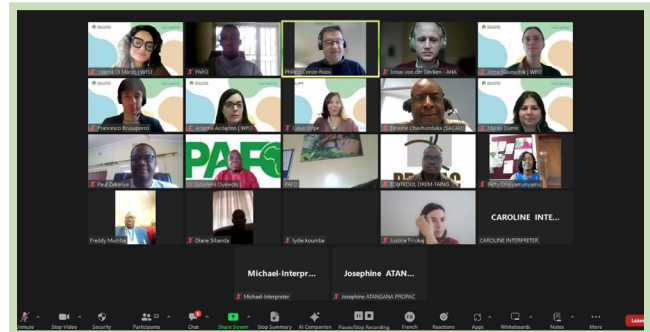
Field Visit @Kigali

[Read More about the training](#)

- A series of three webinars were conducted. These webinars served as an interactive platform where distinguished women leaders from both Africa and Germany were invited. Their role was to share their unique personal experiences with the participants, fostering an environment of mutual exchange and inspiration.
- Women Farmers' Leadership Program, Hofheim (near Frankfurt), Germany (11th -15th September 2023). The training focused on three key areas: leadership within the organization, leadership in farmers' organizations, and communication skills. These areas were carefully chosen to provide our participants with a well-rounded understanding of effective leadership and communication. Furthermore, the participants had the chance to interact and exchange ideas with farmer leaders and women from the Hessian Farmers Association and Hessian Rural Women Association. These interactions provided a platform for sharing experiences, challenges, and best practices. The program culminated in the award of certificates to the participants, and there are plans to continue the program, focusing on the French-speaking group, next year (2024).



PILLAR 4. FARMERS' INFLUENCING DECISIONS



[Read More about the Project](#)

[All Sessions](#)

2. Seminars on negotiation processes within the UNFCCC

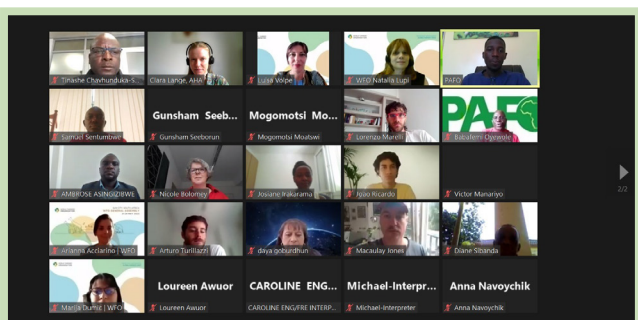
Launched in Mai 2023, by PAFO-WFO-AHA-FFD, the Online Seminars Series aims to prepare RFOs and NFOs to participate and effectively engage in climate negotiations in their respective countries, regions and finally at the COP28 (30th November to 12th December 2023 in Dubai). During 2023, 6 seminars were organized.

3. MAIN CHALLENGES – DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED



PAFO has faced a number of major challenges, particularly in terms of monitoring the implementation of its mandates and the difficulty of putting its strategy into practice. Indeed, it is essential that the organization's actions remain in line with its long-term objectives, while being flexible enough to adapt to the constantly changing needs of farmers.

Mobilizing resources to support initiatives and programs remains an ongoing challenge. Economic fluctuations and changing donor priorities make resource mobilization an ongoing challenge, which can affect PAFO's financial stability and ability to implement its activities in a sustainable manner. Another crucial challenge concerns the sustainability of the organization, the ability to maintain a consistently high-level team. The departure of key staff such the Program Officer, in place since 2020; can disrupt the continuity of activities and the transmission of institutional knowledge, thus requiring a significant investment in training and human resources development. On the other hand, PAFO needs to work constantly on coordination and alignment of objectives with its member RFOs, with a view to maintaining fruitful collaboration and greater commitment from the RFOs.



PILLAR 4. FARMERS' INFLUENCING DECISIONS

4. PERSPECTIVES

Despite the challenges encountered, PAFO will continue to invest in the four pillars and cross-cutting axes of its five-year action plan, which include promoting agriculture as a business and a pillar of economic, social and cultural development in Africa; strengthening PAFO as an organization to enable it to implement the strategic plan; strengthening farmers as entrepreneurs and consolidating the influence of laws, policies, programs, financial mechanisms, etc. for the benefit of agriculture as a business in Africa. All these strategic directions are implemented by ensuring that women and young people are at the center of the organization and of all agriculture-related activities, and that they are integrated into all programs, receive resources and are specifically integrated into all advocacy, both in written policy and in advocacy delegations; to strengthen the resilience of farmers to face challenges such as climate change and other crises; and to promote innovation at all levels of the value chain: production, marketing, financing, etc. The mid-term review of PAFO's 2021 - 2025 strategic framework, scheduled to take place during PAFO's 6th General Assembly, will provide crucial guidance for the continuation of PAFO's activities. PAFO remains the only continental farmers' organization in the world, and as the representative of all farmers' organizations on the continent it carries a great deal of weight with donors.

5. Questions en suspens et planification 2024

Enhance the internal PAFO's capacity to provide efficient services to its members through the development of strategic and management tools and the capacity building of its staff.

PAFO will focus on improving its institutional capacity through the development of efficient strategic and management tools and the training of its staff.

Additionally, with PAFO now eligible to directly manage IFAD funds, expertise will be provided to harmonize its financial operations with international fund management standards.

A well-functioning Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) system will also be established to assess PAFO's progress and monitor the activities of its members. This will involve harmonizing PAFO's M&E digital system and developing a strategy for linking them with these of RFOs. FO4ACP will also contribute to building the capacity of PAFO staff in terms of Monitoring and evaluation as well as the financial management.



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