



Panafrican farmers' organization
Organisation panafricaine des agriculteurs
المنظمة الإفريقية للفلاحين

NEWSLETTER N° 12

FO4ACP GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT EVENT BY PAFO: "Sharing the knowledge that makes us stronger"

FO4ACP GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT EVENT
"SHARING THE KNOWLEDGE THAT MAKES US STRONGER "

EVÈNEMENT GLOBAL DE GESTION DES CONNAISSANCES DU FO4ACP
"PARTAGER LE SAVOIR QUI NOUS REND PLUS FORTS"

16 - 18 MAY 2023
KIGALI RWANDA

FO4ACP
Investing in rural people
Investir dans les populations rurales
الاستثمار في السكان الريفيين

IFAD / FIDA
Investing in rural people
Investir dans les populations rurales
الاستثمار في السكان الريفيين

J U L Y 2 0 2 3



Message from PAFO president Kolyang Palebele

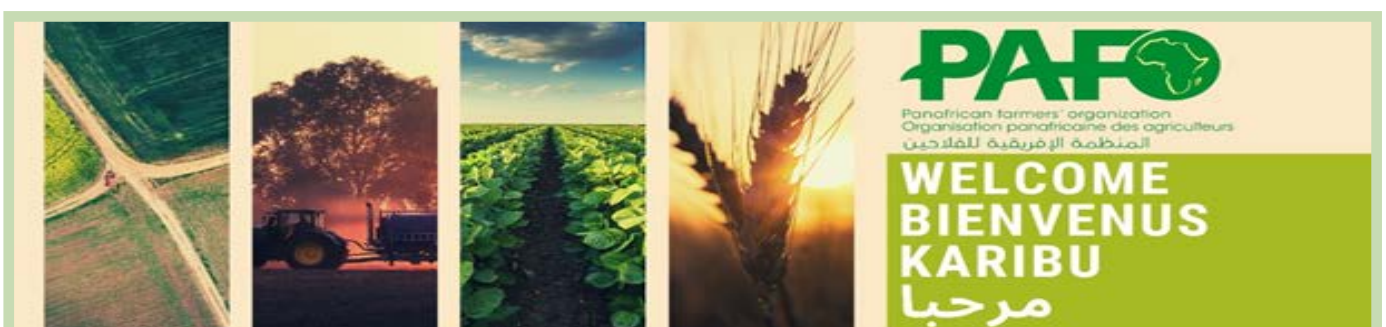
The implementation of the FO4ACP program for Africa, started right here in Kigali, during a workshop organized by PAFO and IFAD, in 2019. And, since then, the FO4ACP program has provided significant support to PAFO, Regional Farmer Organizations (RPOs) and especially National Farmer Organizations (NFOs), members of PAFO.

It has strengthened their capacity to address agricultural challenges, promote sustainable practices, access necessary resources and play an active role in agricultural and rural policies. Thanks to this support, FOs are better prepared to contribute to sustainable agricultural development in Africa.

Following the completion of the FO4ACP Mid-Term mission, program partners have come at an ideal time to exchange on good and promising practices and to include improved approaches in the second half of program implementation. Therefore, IFAD has chosen PAFO – implementing partner of the FO4ACP program – to host the FO4ACP Knowledge Management event. This choice is not arbitrary. Quite the contrary. It is a justified choice. First, because PAFO has an impeccable role in bringing together regional and national farmer organizations across the continent. Then it has enough experience in organizing FO4ACP events (FO4ACP start-up workshop, Rural Women Summit, Youth Summit). Finally, because with its headquarters based in Kigali, PAFO is centrally located to receive participants from ACP regions.

The FO4ACP Knowledge Management event was an exceptional opportunity for program partners to exchange on good practices and promising practices implemented by the program; capitalize on existing local know-how generated by the practices of FO4ACP implementing partners; and Facilitate exchanges between FO4ACP implementing partners on issues that concern them within the framework of the identified themes.

For three days, we exchanged ideas, shared best practices and strengthened our cooperation links. We learned from each other, drawing on our diverse experiences and perspectives, to find solutions that fit our local realities. We also realized the crucial importance of knowledge management. The impact of this event is not limited to a few days. The knowledge shared and the relationships established will spread to our respective communities, organizations and countries. Ideas will emerge, projects will materialize and policies will be influenced. This is how we will continue to advance our agricultural sector and create a prosperous future for farmers and rural communities in our respective regions. We must also promote the inclusion of farmers, especially women and youth, and actively involve them in decision-making that affects them.





CEO Editorial

Dr. Babafemi Oyewole

When PAFO was approached by the International Fund for Agriculture Development (FIDA) to organize the FO4ACP Global Knowledge Management Event, we were very excited because PAFO has been a significant stakeholder in the development and implementation of the project. Immediately, the PAFO Secretariat seized the opportunity to organize the event in Kigali, Rwanda to bring together the regional and national Farmers Organizations from the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries that are implementing the project. We also know that successful organization of the event would give more visibility to PAFO and open more opportunities for its members.

With the technical and financial support of the FIDA team, the PAFO Secretariat put in place an organizing committee, as directed by the Board. The committee consisted of representatives from all the Regional Farmers Organization that are members of PAFO who worked tirelessly to achieve the objectives of the event which 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 it lasted for two and a half days and featured discussions on a variety of topics in different formats such as panel discussions, round tables, presentations, workshops and an interactive marketplace. 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.

We would like to use this opportunity to thank the IFAD for the confidence expressed in PAFO organizing the event, and particularly Antonella Cianciotta et Alice Van Der Elstraeten who, without their commitment and support, the event would not have recorded the success it achieved. Our thanks also goes to the various participants who came from the implementing countries and continents and showcased their success cases during the event. We are grateful for your presence in Kigali. Our wish is that we will all build on the successes of the FO4ACP so far and use the experiences shared during the event to improve the implementation of the remaining to achieve better outcomes at the end of the project.



FO4ACP GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT EVENT BY PAFO: “Sharing the knowledge that makes us stronger”



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 market place.

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 market place.

[Link for the overall Report](#)

[Video Highlight](#)

OFFICIAL OPENING



In his welcoming remarks, PAFO President Mr. Kolyang Palebele highlighted PAFO's mission to promote agriculture development in Africa amidst complex and rapidly changing challenges associated with the sector. The KM event, he said, would enable FOs across the globe to exchange and capitalize on knowledge, experiences and good practices. Mr. Palebele also emphasized the importance of the topics for the event in unifying all partners in the FO4ACP program and encouraged partners to increase their investments in FOs. He thanked IFAD for believing in PAFO to host the KM event and the Rwandan Government for allowing PAFO to host the meeting.



Remarks were also made by FO4ACP financial partners including Ms. Yvonne Chileshe from OACP, who reiterated the importance of KM as it provides participants with an opportunity to exchange and share experiences. She informed that almost 60% of exports by OACP member states are in commodities, hence the OACP's new approach to promote value addition and quality standards among others. Ms. Chileshe emphasized that FOs have a big role to play in value chain development and ensuring their sustainability. Through FO4ACP, a lot of knowledge has been gathered to help in understanding what works and what does not work in the sector, she said.



Dagmawi Habte-Selassie, Country Representative from IFAD-Rwanda, recognized the important role played by FOs in supporting the livelihoods and welfare of farmers in rural areas. FOs have a role to empower members and prepare them to be better business partners in the value chain and promote value addition, he said. FOs need specific attention and support to ensure their effectiveness and sustainability and enable them to support farmers in accessing economic services such as access to finance, inputs and advisory services. Mr. Habte-Selassie noted that FO4ACP has yielded better results and demonstrated the relevance of FOs in agriculture development.



Mr. Luis Rodriguez Mendizabal from the EU stated that the EU considers FOs Forum and IFAD as effective channels for providing support and strengthening FOs. FO4ACP has provided a platform for linking capacities, sharing ideas, designing common agendas and objectives for global farming communities on a worldwide scale. He acknowledged that FOs and farmers have a bigger role to play in food security, sustainability as well as assisting farmers to be more visible in value chains. Mr. Mendizabal requested that FOs report and communicate results and outcomes of the project better by quantifying results in all three components of FO4ACP.



The official opening was conducted by Ms. Chantal Ingabire, a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources who applauded PAF0 for selecting Rwanda to host the meeting and expressed confidence in PAF0's capabilities as they had hosted a similar event - Global International Youth Farmer's Summit - in 2022. The representative noted that the thematic areas through which knowledge, experiences and lessons were to be shared were key for development and progress of agriculture in Africa including Rwanda. The representative recognized the vital role of PAF0 in mobilizing and promoting the interests of farmers on the continent and noted that FO4ACP is playing an important role in improving livelihoods, increasing farmers' incomes and improving food security in Africa. Rwanda as a country is committed to prioritizing agriculture

knowledge generation.

[Link for the overall Report.](#)



THEMATIC SESSIONS

ACCESS TO FINANCE



The session on access to finance featured contributions from various speakers and organizations in a panel format. The discussion highlighted that agriculture is a major contributor to GDP and food security, but access to working capital remains an issue for small farmers. Smallholders are seen as high-risk clients and only 1-4% of agricultural credit is taken up by small-scale farmers. Credit requirements are stringent and high-risk clients get high interest rates. The lack of farm data, particularly historical data at farm level, aggravates the situation. Farmers are disaggregated and fragmented, resulting in high transaction costs for providing services to that group. Additionally, there is no reliable market access, so sales are not assured.

[Read More Overall Report.](#)

SERVICES TO MEMBERS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BUSINESS PLANS



The session focused on services to members and the implementation of business plans. It included the contributions from five representatives from farmers' organizations from Madagascar, Mali, the Republic of Congo, Burundi, and Morocco, and an additional contribution from Cameroon. The

speakers discussed how FOs can support their members to improve their livelihoods through the services rendered to them and through the better implementation of their business plans.

The session concluded with interaction with audience on various topics including inclusion of women and youth in activities, challenges faced by farmers for perishable products, and the specific value added by FO4ACP for organizations.

CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE



The session on climate change started up by PIFON setting the scene, describing the issues on climate change in the Pacific region. Oliver Lato, from PIFON explained how severe and frequent natural disasters are in the region and how this will increase in the future. In the Pacific region countries will be lost due to the rising sea level. He highlighted that less than 2 percent of global funding for climate action reaches farmers.

A joint presentation was given by FFD Finland and their partner FO in Tanzania, NADO. FFD developed the [“Building resilience tool”](#). This tool was used for a training of trainers of about 200 people in 25 different countries. In Tanzania, the tool was used and reached 1,140 farmers who have been identified. Farmers have been trained in soil fertility improvement, how to improve and use residues, and agroforestry to integrate agroforestry trees into agriculture. This helps to address the problem of climate change, because one of the causes of climate change is deforestation. More than 65% of the country’s population uses charcoal. Insufficient funding is preventing the FO and its members from combating the effects of climate change.

In the second part of the session, the participants were divided in working groups where they worked on a series of questions, which were then brought back into plenary for the conclusions to the session.

[Read More: Overall Report.](#)

AGROECOLOGY



Ibrahima Coulibaly (ROPPA) intervened clarifying that there is a lot of talk about agroecology in Africa, but in the end the producers are afraid to take the risk of changing their production techniques. They are risking not to be able to feed their families, so we really need to frame this topic around them. The topic is well known technically by many people but the implications on the ground are not fully taken into account. It is important to change policies and ways of working.

[Read More: Overall Report.](#)

POLICY ENGAGEMENT, ADVOCACY AND DATA COLLECTION FOR INFORMED DECISION MAKING



During the discussions, EAFF contributed with their experience of trying to influence the legislation in 7 countries. The goal is to create a conducive business environment for FOs. They commissioned a comparative study to gather data and evidence and emphasised that “they need to understand that you know more than they do”. Stakeholder mappings are useful to understand the relevance of actors and to tap into existing networks and identify leaders. The main issues are that policy

engagement is costly and a labour-intensive process, it requires strategic partnerships and a fluid political landscape requires continuous work and engagement. It is a good practice to work with MoUs with actors and institutions that are in key positions (e.g. academics).

Other issues encountered in policy processes, are language barriers in networking and the sustainability and upscaling of good practices, as was raised by Ariel Andrade from Trias in Central America.

In conclusion, the table pointed out that it is important to: create ownership of members and make sure they are consulted and heard; implementation of policy can be monitored; data help you react to events (quick response); data to look for funding: need them for proposals

Ibrahima Coulibaly : <https://bit.ly/43Xtsez>

[Link Over all report](#)

INCLUSIVE APPROACHES IN FO4ACP ACTIVITIES



The session on inclusive approaches in FO4ACP activities was facilitated by Mr. DREM-TAING TOUTKOUL from PROPAC. The Panel discussed the main challenges facing women and young people in the agricultural sector and what farming organizations and other stakeholders can do to help them.

The main challenges highlighted for young people include lack of education, sexism, migration to big cities, lack of resources, and non-inclusive agricultural organizations. The proposed solutions are to encourage young people to find an interest in the field, making farmers' organizations inclusive, and fighting against sexist attitudes within FOs.

For women, the main challenges highlighted include land issues, difficulties in obtaining bank guarantees, limited access to capacity building, and patriarchy. Proposed solutions are the creation of a women's platforms in FOs and restructuring women's their platforms.

The session concluded with recommendations to take better account of young people and women in FO activities. These include promoting education for young people and women, revitalizing youth and women's platforms, providing financial reinforcement for women's and youth organizations,

promoting agro-ecology for sustainable agriculture, developing inclusive governance, and developing specific programs on land issues to limit migration of young people to big cities.

[Over all report](#)

CLOSING SESSION



Wrap up with the Highlights of the KM Event by Benito Eliasi, Program Manager at SACAU

In his presentation, Benito Eliasi, gave an overview of the different session that were organized during the event, the different case studies that were presented in each of the sessions and the main takeaways from each of the sessions. His presentation was also visualized through a PPT presentation that has been made available to all the participants in the meeting. The main takeaways have been included in the key recommendations and lessons learned paragraphs for each session and the final recommendations and conclusions of the report.

[Wrap-up Event](#)

[Video Day 1](#)

[Video Day 2](#)

[Video Day 3](#)

INTERACTIVE MARKET



In parallel with Knowledge Management event; an interactive market place has been organized. At the market place twelve case studies were presented, and one hour at the end of each daily program was dedicated to the interactive market place while during different breaks, participants had more opportunities to interact with presenters in the market place. CNCPRT presented their Spirulina from Chad project. CNOP CAF exhibited their advocacy journals. CNOP-CAM showcased their project on the modernization and improvement of productivity through off-farm production and marketing of *Clarias gariepinus* in Cameroon. CNOP CONGO presented their project on processing and distribution of agricultural products into food flours. UGPM, CCPA, and FEGPAB showcased their project on optimal management of soil health based on technical evidence. FUNL presented their strategy for capacity building and social economic empowerment for women engaged in the fishery sector. C.C.P.H.N presented their project on storage/preservation and marketing of ware potatoes. Lesotho National Farmers Union showcased their digitalization of the extension support service project. Agricord presented the case studies from Guinée Conakry, Burkina Faso; Tanzania; Dominican Republic regarding their project on access to finance/business plans and their implementation/data collection for informed decision-making. PIFON presented some of the work they are doing on value chain development, climate change and resilience and their breadfruit initiative. Other organizations like ROPPA, PIFON and IFAD shared publications that were relevant to the participants in the KM Event.

[Read More, Overall Report.](#)



AGRICORD



Procasur
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IFAD
Investing in rural people

PAFO NEWS

PAFO GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023



PAFO 6th Ordinary General Assembly will be by MNAGRI, member of PAFO Network, in Tunis, Tunisia, from 23th to 28th October 2023. The purpose of the GA is to provide a forum for PAFO's governing bodies to discuss and approve the reports, programs, plans and activities implemented between two assemblies; inform members, farmers and partners of PAFO's commitment at continental and global levels and offer a platform for knowledge sharing, exchanges, advocacy and lobbying between Farmer Organizations and with technical and financial partners. The GA will include several events, including Rural Women Forum, Youth forum, PAFO strategy MTR; a workshop on agro-ecology to develop a common continental position....

THE AFRICAN UNION-EUROPEAN UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTERS CONFERENCE

Farmer-Led side event



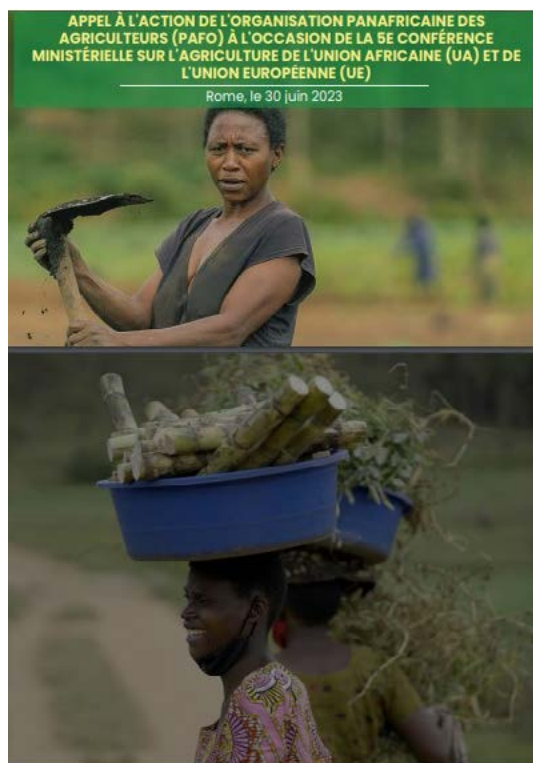
In the framework of the fifth African Union - European Union Agriculture Ministerial Conference in Rome (Italy), PAFO led, with the support of [Agricord](#), a farmer-led side event, on “AU - EU partnership and the role of FOs in Resilient food systems and sustainable agri value chains “, to showcase the role and value addition by African Farmers Organizations and Agri-Agencies operating in partnership.

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

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

[More details](#)

PAFO CALL TO ACTION



On the sidelines of the 5th AU-EU Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, PAFO has launched a call to action in which it calls on AU and EU ministers to take concrete steps during the deliberations of the 5th Ministerial Conference, held, in Rome on 30 June 2023, in the following areas:

- A strong partnership between farmers’ organizations and regional institutions
- Mobilization of the financial resources needed to develop agriculture
- Commitment to financing agriculture in Africa
- Climate adaptation and mitigation for resilient agriculture
- Preventing the negative effects of future global crises on Africa’s food security
- Supporting agro-ecology and regenerative farming practices by farmers in Africa
- Promoting integrated research to support agricultural development in Africa

[More details on website](#)

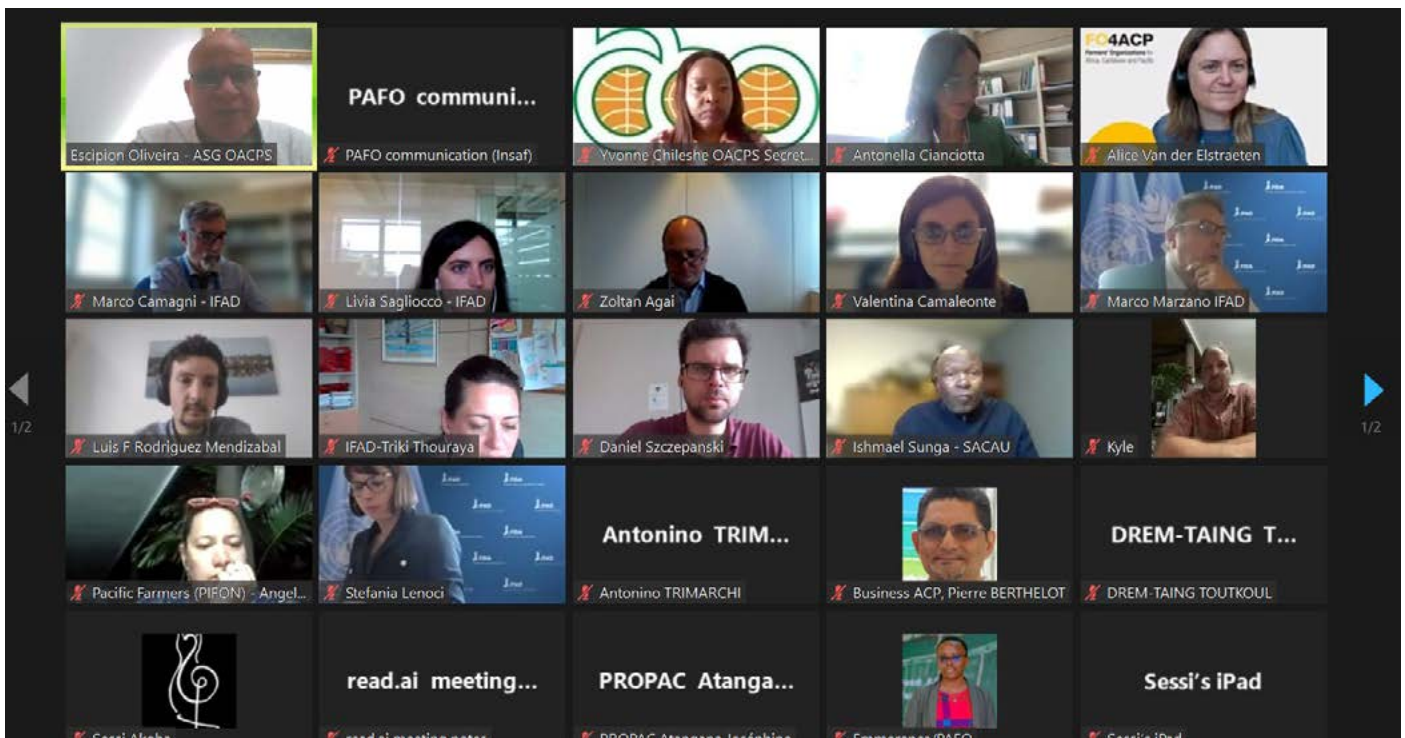
PARTNERSHIPS



FO4ACP steering committee.

PAFO attended the periodic Steering Committee meeting of the Farmers' Organizations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific- fo4acp, to discuss Progress from overall implementation and the way forward of the program: Access to Finance FOs- Result from PHASE 2; recap on the main highlights from FO4ACP Knowledge Management Event, organized by PAFO, in Kigali.

[Read more under the website](#)



PAFO-COLEAD Innovation Series

[The 13th session of the Innovations Series](#) focused on “Producers’ and SMEs Innovations in Agroecology for Sustainable Agrifood Systems”.

For this Innovations Session, the featured producers’ and SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) will share how their business models contribute to agroecological transitions that build the resilience of the agrifood system. These innovative business models are tailored to withstand the manifold of challenges that impact food and nutrition security, biodiversity and natural resource availability. They also create new opportunities for agriculture to have a positive impact on the environment and strengthen food security.



ANDREAS
HERMES
AKADEMIE



Deutscher
Bauernverband

Panafrican FO Exchange Platform



AgrarKontakte
International e.V.



ANDREAS
HERMES
AKADEMIE



Deutscher
Bauernverband

PAN AFRICAN FARMERS' ORGANISATION EXCHANGE PLATFORM
CORE TEAM MODERATION TRAINING

PLATEFORME PAN-AFRICAINE D'ÉCHANGES ENTRE ORGANISATIONS PAYSANNES
FORMATION EQUIPE CENTRALE ET DE MODÉRATION



10-12 May 2023

Kigali-Rwanda

Supported by the
Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

The pan-African FO exchanges platform started its sessions on 6 July 2023. It focused on Lobbying & Advocacy. Led by ROPPA, the overall objective of this session is to strengthen peer to peer learning between FO technicians in order to support FO's leaders in their advocacy work. The session, brought together 53 participants, representing over 60 NFO and RFO from more than 28 African countries. The opening ceremony was attended by Nicole Bolomey, International Director of AHA, Falk Kullen, AKI representative and Babafemi, CEO of the PAFO.

["Video session 1: Introduction to Lobbying & Advocacy"](#)

The platform is part of the partnership between PAFO and AHA, which was set up at the beginning of 2023. The project is implemented with the technical support of AKI, and the financial support of BMZ. The Core Moderation Team (CMT) have benefited from moderation training organized by PAFO-AHA in Kigali.

[More details on the training](#)

[More details on the project](#)



Women Farmers Leadership Program



WOMEN FARMERS' LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

"Enhancing women Farmer's participation in decision-making"

8th - 12th MAY 2023
Kigali Rwanda

Supported by the



The women farmers leadership capacity program, is a program of the Pan African Farmers Organization (PAFO)

partnered with Andreas Hermes Academy (AHA) with the technical support of the Association of German Rural Women (dlv), and the financial support of BMZ; to organize a first seminar of women farmer leaders' capacity building program in Kigali, Rwanda. A one-year program consists of a series of, online webinars, and peer exchanges among women leaders from Africa and Germany.

[More details on the project :](#)

From May 8th to 12th, 2023, The PAFO hosted a first ever physical seminar of women farmers' leadership capacity program. The seminar brought together 20 women leaders and 5 German rural women leaders. The seminar aims to strengthen the capacities of women in Farmers Organizations top-leadership positions to participate in higher-level political discussions and influencing decisions at the international level.

[More details](#)



Workshop



Visit Tuzamurane Cyove cooperative in Northern Part of Rwanda



Rwandan Parliament's chamber of deputie

PAFO-WFO-AHA-FFD Online Seminar

PAFO in collaboration with AHA, WFO and FFD are organizing online seminar series. The project aims at training representatives (elected and staff) of regional farmers organizations (RFOs) in Africa as well as representatives of their member FOs to be able to take a more prominent role in negotiations on the different UNFCCC processes and to assist their members to act at the national level.

Launched in May 2023, the PAFO-WFO-AHA-FFD online seminars aim to: Prepare RFOs and NFOs to participate and engage effectively in the climate negotiations in their respective countries and regions, and to ultimately participate in COP28 (30 November to 12 December 2023 in Dubai). A series of eleven 1.5-hour online seminars (comprising 45 minutes of thematic contributions and 45 minutes of group discussions) will be organized in 2023.

[Details on the programme :](#)


- [UNFCCC Negotiations Training for RFOs - Online Seminar 1](#) : This first session was devoted to an introduction to the training course and some key concepts. It was also an opportunity to present the various upcoming sessions and the training process to the participants at the next seminars.





- [UNFCCC Negotiations Training for RFOs - Online Seminar 2](#) : the training focused on the SB58 meeting and the role in the decision-making process.



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