

September 2022



NEWSLETTER N°9

Focus: Strengthening African resilience in the face of climate change



Message from PAFO President KOLYANG PALEBELE

The negative impact of climate change has made it imperative for concerted efforts to lead a global response to adapt and mitigate its adverse effects. Reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have been instrumental in driving political support and a global governance effort for climate change. However, in practice, there is a failure to embrace procedural fairness, which argues for inclusiveness in climate change decisions. In this context, farmers do not have the opportunity to actively contribute to the definition of global or even national programs and policies for adaptation to climate change. And yet, farmers are key actors, whose knowledge and ecological experience can be used to inform policies and strategies for

adapting to climate change. It must be recognized that being on the front line of climate change, farmers are already suffering the devastating effects of an anthropogenic phenomenon to which their own actions have contributed the least. Moreover, farmers have enormous difficulties in accessing international funding for climate policies. In IFAD's report "Review of the climate finance gap for small-scale agriculture", dated November 2020, it is noted that "a small percentage of the funds invested in climate finance at the global level goes to small-scale agriculture". producers.

PAFO has been concerned about the impact of climate change on its member networks and has been involved with its partners in promoting policies that will reduce the effect of climate change on the production and productivity of farmers. It is within this framework that PAFO has signed a memorandum of understanding with the World Farmers' Organization (WFO), within the framework of Alliance Climakers to collaborate within the framework of the program to combat climate change centered on farmers by strengthening the engagement of farmers in global discussions on climate change, but not only. PAFO, AgriCord Alliance and IFAD have agreed to join forces to set up the Framework Program for Climate and Production Systems Transition. PAFO will also collaborate with the African Center for Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD) which works to develop and transfer meteorological tools and technologies to users, particularly in rural areas, and contributes to strengthening the capacities of universities and research institutes in the Member States in the field of climate forecasting and technologies (particularly, telecommunications and IT).



CEO Editorial

Dr. Babafemi Oyewole

PAFO Newsletter is dedicated to informing its stakeholders, particularly our members and partners as well as the general public about its programs and projects which is aimed at achieving its mission of serving as the voice of African farmers. To carry out this onerous mission, PAFO is constantly engaging with relevant stakeholders nationally, regionally and internationally. In this edition of the newsletter, focus is on the various meetings and networks with our members and partners

with respect to the topical issue of climate change and its effects on the smallholder farmers. Realizing the need to defend its members and African farmers against the negative effects of climate change, PAFO is partnering with AgriCord, a Europe-based Agri Agency Alliance and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to co-create a project that will assist African farmers respond to the challenges of climate change. To this end, the meeting of the steering committee for the project took place recently in Brussels during the development of the concept note by the three parties.

PAFO is also preparing to let the voice of African farmers to be heard during the forthcoming COP27 taking place in Egypt. PAFO and its Regional are mobilizing to participate in this important event that will focus on the implementation of the Paris climate agreement. AHA in collaboration with the World Farmers Organization will be building the capacity of Farmers Organizations to effectively participate in COP27.

Another flagship event that the secretariat is preparing for is the International Young Farmers Summit 2022 taking place in Kigali from 24-29 October 2022.

The program will bring together young farmers from all over the world to network and share experiences among themselves to promote the involvement of youths in agriculture. The commitment of PAFO to the engagement of youths in agriculture is the desire for leveraging on the skills of the youth for the promotion of agriculture regionally and globally to ensure food and nutrition security. Moreover, the Secretariat participated in the AGRF 2022 and partnered with the organizers to develop the program for the special event of Farmers Forum. The forum featured government officials, private sector representatives and development partners and examined the challenges African farmers are going through as a result of climate change and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine that has led to the skyrocketing of agricultural inputs, particularly fertilizers.

The need for governments and private investors to intervene to reduce the high dependence of Africa on fertilizer imports were highlighted during the Forum. PAFO is also working with Akademiya 2063 in partnership with GIZ to implement a digitally enabled resilience and Nutrition Policy Innovations to facilitate the effective participation of PAFO and its members and to ensure that the digital products that are developed and deployed under the project are adequate to farmers' needs and are used to advance their operations and decision-making. Other partnerships developed during the period include Farm Foundation based in Paris, project focusing on five member countries of PAFO. These are some of the highlights of the activities of the PAFO Secretariat during the period covered by this newsletter.

FOCUS: STRENGTHENING AFRICAN RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

RISKS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The African continent, which emits the least greenhouse gases in the world, is “disproportionately affected by climate change”, according to a report published by the African Development Bank, AfDB, and entitled: “African Economic Outlook 2022”. The risks of climate change on agricultural production, food security, water resources and ecosystem services will have serious consequences on the prospects for sustainable development in Africa. Declining agricultural yields and population growth will put additional pressure on an already fragile food production system.

In such this context, experts point out that if the current situation continues, Africa will only be able to meet 13% of its food needs by 2050. The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) report Africa's Adaptation Gap reports that a warming of about two degrees Celsius would lead to a 10% reduction in yield total agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa by 2050; higher warming (more likely) could push that number up to 15 or 20%. However, agriculture is one of the only human activities capable, along with forestry and aquaculture, of fixing carbon.

The question therefore is whether the African agricultural system is ready to meet the challenge. To this question, some respond: "For Africa to unleash its potential, agricultural and environmental policymakers must join forces with civil society and non-governmental organizations to assess the options for farmers, and the environment, to adapt to climate change. But, to succeed in this process, Africa needs funding. However, it remains the poor relation of climate finance.



AFRICA, THE POOR RELATION OF CLIMATE FINANCE

Disturbingly, smallholder farmers with limited capacity to adapt to climate change are often overlooked in climate change policy processes. And yet, African farmers have a wealth of experience and ecological knowledge that can be harnessed to improve policies and interventions targeting climate change adaptation at national, regional and international levels.

However, it is still necessary to give them the means of their ambitions, which for the moment is not available. According to the AfDB's "African Economic Outlook 2022" report, between 2016 and 2019, African countries as a whole captured only \$18.3 billion in climate finance.

This means that they are excluded from climate finance. The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26, November 2021) well recognized this glaring lack and several donors pledged to increase funding for locally led adaptation and just rural transformation. It is a recognition of the role of farmers and their organizations (FOs) in climate action, but also to provide them with more support to make their livelihoods more resilient and climate-neutral, according to the IFAD study "Analysis of the climate finance gap for smallholder agriculture".

Nevertheless, and still with regard to the IFAD report: "despite the new promises made at COP26, the architecture of climate finance remains complicated and is driven by governments; access to finance requires long preparatory phases and co-financing requirements. This creates an almost insurmountable obstacle for Farmer Organizations (FOs) even if they are ready to take up the challenge of necessary systemic change.

To succeed in this approach, FOs are called upon to unite and consolidate their forces in order to be stronger in fundraising for climate finance; and to better involve and empower FOs.



CLIMAKERS



The Climakers is a global alliance of farmers and partners with objective of enhancing the role of farmers in the global political discussions.

Being part of the alliance, PAFO signed an MoU with WFO to collaborate in the framework of the Farmers Driven Climate Change Agenda by empowering the farmers' engagement in global discussions on climate change.

Link: <https://bit.ly/3eZINa2>

PAFO "CLIMAKERS" WORKSHOP IN AFRICA

The "Climakers in Africa" workshop was organized as part of a consultation to identify the concerns and needs of farmers, which served as an advocacy base for PAFO during COP26. The objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of African peasants to respond to climate change and to participate effectively as key actors in climate change policies at different levels of decision-making.

Multisectoral and multidisciplinary participants took part in order to fully achieve the objectives of the workshop which were, among others, to help farmers identify their sources of power to engage and participate in climate change policies; Consolidate best practices of climate-smart and resilient agricultural practices in different regions of Africa; and consolidating the common voice and position of African farmers for global climate change governance and related policy processes... Participants demonstrated that African farmers possess much of the knowledge relating to climate change and its impact on their agricultural activities (agricultural and livestock production) and the corresponding effects on the food security and livelihoods of farmers and their families.

Participants are aware that without urgently addressing climate change, the development process in Africa risks being negatively affected. The Climakers workshop offered an opportunity for African farmers to share their experiences, exchange and learn from resilient agricultural practices from other regions while achieving a common voice and position among farmers on the continent. PAFO is strategically positioned to ensure the development of the agricultural system in Africa by first helping to address the vulnerability and build the capacity of farmers, whose work is essential to the sector.

PAFO's strategic partnership with the Climakers Alliance and WFO is therefore essential to the development and promotion of resilient agricultural systems in Africa. As such, PAFO, voice of nearly 80 million peasants on the African continent, plans, in partnership with WFO, to organize a new continental workshop "Climakers", during the year 2022, for the preparation for COP-27.

The final report of the continental workshop on climate change, organized by PAFO: <https://bit.ly/3euS2io>



RESILIENT AND CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES IN AFRICA

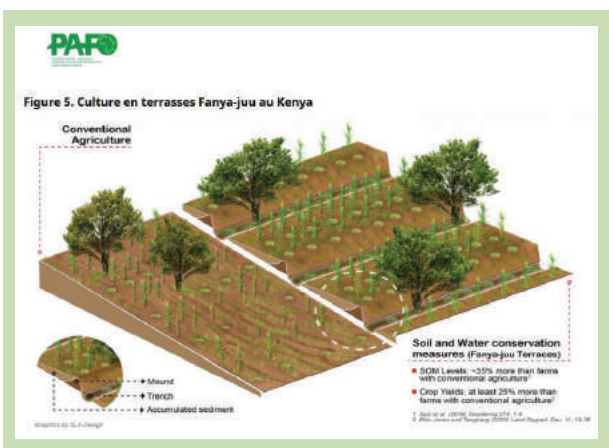


During the “Climakers in Africa” workshop, African farmers were able to share experiences and innovative solutions as a resilient response to climate change by addressing resilient agricultural practices. Conservation agriculture, application of improved crop varieties and agrochemicals, irrigated agriculture, post-harvest management practices, bund technology for rice production, terraced farming and indigenous, have been important resilient and climate-smart practices that build the resilience of African agricultural systems. Conservation agriculture has been implemented by state governments and development partners in many parts of Africa, such as Zambia, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Ghana. It is resilient to climate change because it minimizes soil disturbance, reduces erosion through mulching, maintains soil moisture, and increases food security through balanced or mixed cropping.

Participants were encouraged to embrace conservation agriculture while spreading the word to other farmers in their communities and countries.

With climate change threatening the resilience and productivity of traditional crops, governments and research institutes have scaled up the production and use of improved crop varieties in Africa. The application of improved varieties has been reported by PROPAC and UMNAGRI as common among farmers in Morocco, Algeria, Gabon and Cameroon.

More details: <https://bit.ly/3euS2io>



NEW PROGRAM: "FARMERS CLIMATE FACILITY"



In response to the call for transformative change, PAFO, the AgriCord Alliance and IFAD have agreed to join forces to set up the Climate Facility for Farmer Organizations. This partnership aims to increase the incomes, livelihoods, food security and nutrition of organized small producers in Africa by increasing their resilience to climate change.

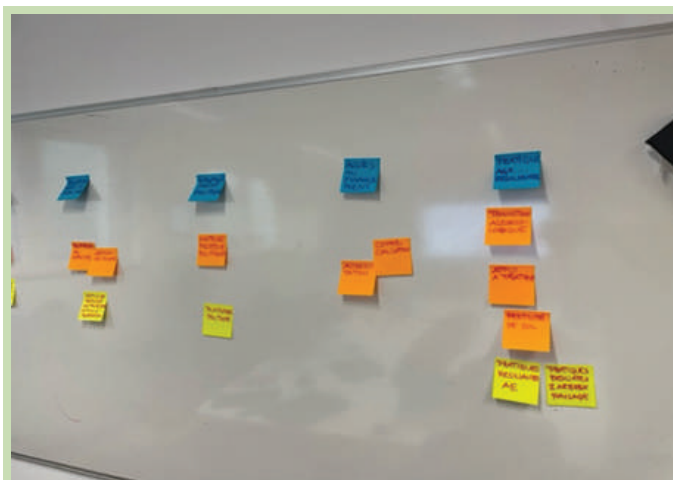
This support should enable producers to anticipate and properly manage climate stresses and shocks, which should help lift them out of vulnerability, poverty and marginality. In the first moment, the program will launch the pilot phase with the support of ASAP+, which will focus on the capitalization and scaling up of experiences carried out by FOs for adaptation and mitigation to climate change. The Pilot Phase will prepare the parties to mount a more ambitious program to

Support the climate actions of FOs.

As part of the development of the climate-facilitated program for Farmer Organizations, a PAFO delegation took part in a consultation with Agricord and IFAD in Brussels. This mission, supported by IFAD, the main objective of the mission was to work on the formulation of the concept note of the joint program of PAFO, AGRICORD and IFAD "climate facility for FOs", which will be submitted for approval and financing to the committee of the IFAD ASAP+ project.

The three institutions that are PAFO, the AgriCord Alliance and IFAD have strong convergences and share the priority of a targeted orientation of support to FOs and their members. These findings are therefore the basis of the partnership established between them to provide support to FOs and their members in the face of this global climate challenge. The partnership will enhance

- i) IFAD's expertise and experience in the management of climate finance already recognized by donors,
- ii) the representativeness, legitimacy and networking of PAFO, which brings together FOs from 54 countries in the Africa
- iii) the strong expertise of AgriCord in terms of support and cooperation between FOs from the North and the South through its Agri-Agencies. At this stage, we plan to identify about 21 projects, including 8 for PAFO, 13 for AgriCord.



New PAFO CEO



We are delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Babafemi Oyewole to the role of CEO at Pan African Farmers Organisation. He joined us on 1st July. Dr. Babafemi Oyewole, is a trisector executive and professional with experience in the public, Private sector, non-Government sectors, and a veteran in the management of international institutions. Until his appointment, he was the CEO of the African Agribusiness Alliance, Accra, Ghana;. "We welcome Dr. Babafemi Oyewole to the role and support him to continue the important work of PAFO in these areas as well as responding to the challenges facing African Farmers."

Bio data of Dr. Babafemi O. Oyewole : <https://bit.ly/3akgBgj>

PAFO AT THE AFRICAN UNION HEADQUARTERS

Her Excellency, Mrs. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE), received a delegation from PAFO at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, led by the President, Mr. Kolyang Palebele.

The two leaders agreed to work hand in hand to facilitate the access of Farmers' Organizations to available funds, and to help PAFO to have a space in the different political and technical structures of the AU.



IYFS - 24-29 OCTOBER 2022



PAFO, with the support of its financial and technical partners, organizes the International Young Farmers Summit from 24 to 29 October 2022, in Kigali, under the theme: "YOUTH IN AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH INNOVATION".

Young farmers' representatives from the five continents will meet for a week to exchange on the challenges and difficulties they are facing, and also discuss solutions and perspectives.

This event is an opportunity for young farmers to present their proposals for the future of agriculture worldwide in the presence of representatives of international organizations, the agricultural world, and civil society.

The main objective is to promote, strengthen and spread the voice of young farmers in the international arena. In This regard, the event will have 3 parts:

- African young farmer's forum.
- Meeting of Young African and European farmer's about the partnership between Africa and EU.
- The international summit that will include African, Asian, American, and European young farmers.

The concept note : <https://bit.ly/3DEugej>

Online participation: REGISTER : <https://bit.ly/3qxZrAl>



PARTNERSHIPS

CURRENT PARTNERSHIPS

FO4ACP MTR Event



The FO4ACP Mid-term Review (MTR) report was presented at a special event that brought together all stakeholders. It was an opportunity of reflecting on what has been achieved, sharing experiences and looking forward to the future of this ambitious program.

The Mid-Term Review Report provides an overview of the Farmers' Organizations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Program (FO4ACP) regarding its financial and technical performance as well as the main activities implemented so far, lessons learned and recommendations per region and per recipient at mid-term of the program.

The Mid-Term Review overlooks the period from 1 December 2019 to 31st December 2021 (and for some recipients the review went up until 28 February 2022). The Mid-Term Review, that took place in the first half of 2022, focused on Africa and the Pacific, as the Caribbean started implementation one year later than the other regions.

The Farmer Organizations in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (FO4ACP/OPenACP) program, supported by the EU, is the result of a joint effort and consultations among all stakeholders. In Africa, it is based on the experience and results of the "Farmers' Africa" program and, in particular, on the lessons learned from the implementation of the "Support to Farmers Organizations in Africa Programme" (SFOAP) in its pilot (2009-2013) and main (2013-2018) phases, implemented by the Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO), the five regional farmers' organizations (RFOs) and their members at the national level (NFO).





PAFO-COLEACP INNOVATION SERIES

The 10th Innovations Session organized by PAFO and COLEACP, the third for the year 2022, was held on July 6th. This virtual session focused on: Successes in exporting to the European Union markets from SMEs and entrepreneurs”.

Session participants were able to discuss key points on the drivers of success of export-led SMEs in the agri-food sector: innovations, technologies, knowledge, and finance do they attract and need type of investments are needed for export-led SMEs and incentives can be provided to export-led SMEs and smallholders in fresh value-added food products...

The whole 10th session: <https://bit.ly/3PE2wZR>





PAFO attended the UNDIFF Forum on Inclusive Rural Communication Services for Family Farming, organized par FAO and YenKasa Africa. The main goals of the Forum are to promote RCS as part of family farming National Action Plans, policies, and programs; identify lessons learned from experiences; and agree on opportunities and priorities for mainstreaming RCS.

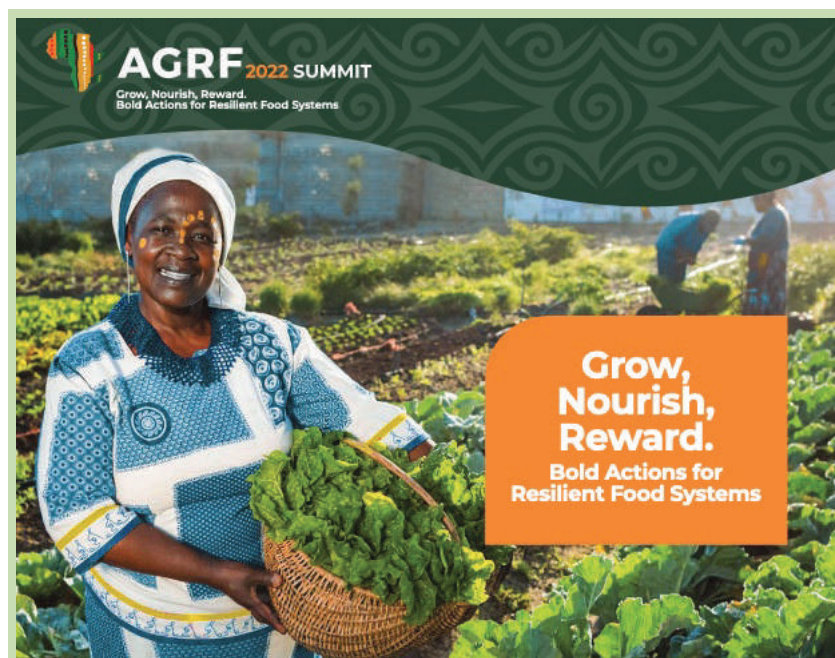
The specific objectives of the Forum are to Build evidence of the Rural Communication Services with regional studies; to present the regional policies briefs and to agree on mechanisms to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing on Rural Communication Services. The recommendations on rural communication services will be presented at the First Global Forum of the UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028, which will take place on 19-22 September 2022.

PAFO also attended the regional Forum on the importance of inclusive Rural Communication Services for family farming. The forum participants spanned various organizations, community media, communication practitioners, rural institutions, and development agencies across Africa. The forum aimed to engage key stakeholders in discussing trends, experiences and appropriation of media and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for family farming.

It also intended to promote Rural Communication Services in the region as part of the UNDIFF process. With evidence of lessons learned, conclusions and recommendations for advancing RCS in Africa, the forum shared findings of the regional study on Rural Communication Services to promote mechanisms for policy dialogue, knowledge sharing and future partnerships.

Link vidéo : <https://bit.ly/3Px33NG>

Link présentation : <https://bit.ly/3RTgTvz>



PAFO AT AGRF2022

PAFO actively participated in the 12th Green Revolution Forum in (#AGRF2022). An event organized by the Government of Rwanda and the AGRF Group of Partners, from September 6 to 9, 2022 and is placed under the theme: “Grow. Nourish. Reward: Bold actions for resilient food systems”. President Kolyang Palebele and PAFO member networks including EAFF, PROPAC, ROPPA and SACAU attended the official opening of the Summit, under the theme: Advancing Food Systems Response to Crisis during which the issues for people, planet and prosperity, in this time of crisis, were highlighted with a recognition of the kind of leadership and action needed to move forward with systems more resilient food.

Official opening: <https://bit.ly/3TTsewB>

PAFO also chaired the Farmers Forum, chairs the farmers' forum, on "Leadership, finance and accountability", a special event organized on the sidelines of AGRF2022, with the intervention of the Presidents and Executive Secretaries and its member networks, EAFF, PROPAC, ROPPA, SACAU. The Farmers' Forum highlighted the progress, challenges and actions needed to address the challenges and ensure the well-being of African farmers and a sustainable food and nutrition system.

The Farmers Forum is a special event that provides an opportunity to raise the voice of African farmers and draw the attention of leaders to their challenges and solicit their support in promoting sustainable food and nutrition security on the continent said the President of PAFO who presented a number of recommendations to successfully address the challenges facing African farmers. These include the inclusion of farmers in central decision-making; the creation of an African Fund for the Development of Agriculture to facilitate farmers' access to financing; strengthening farmer organizations, the private sector and civil societies that are engaged in the agricultural sector to ensure that partnerships are strong and responsive to policy frameworks at national, continental and global levels...



PAFO President and CEO also took part in the African session on Fertilizers and Soil existence : A New Vision for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation. The opportunity to outline the short and long-term actions of the various parties involved and ensure that African farmers access fertilizer to increase productivity without harming soil.



PAFO-AGRF2022 IN PICTURES

AGRF was an excellent opportunity to meet the financial and technical partners of PAFO, to exchange points of view and to consolidate relations.



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