

PAFO CLIMAKERS AFRICA WORKSHOP

FINAL REPORT



NOVEMBER 2022

Executive Summary

This is the report of the Climakers Africa Workshop organized by the Pan African Farmers Organization, (PAFO), in collaboration with the World Farmers Organization (WFO), on 25 October 2022, at Lemigo Hotel, in Kigali, Rwanda. The workshop aimed at providing platform for young African farmers to raise their voices on climate change issues and, most importantly, gather solutions employed by young African farmers in adapting and mitigating climate change. The workshop brought together 142 participants, including 74 young farmers selected from the PAFO member networks. In addition, representatives from key policy institutions such as the African Union Commission, African Development Bank, and the Africa Representative, on the WFO Board, among others, participated in the workshop. Both virtual and physical modes of participation were adopted, for the workshop. Adopting a participant-centric approach, the participants discussed key issues on climate change including farmers' vulnerability to climate change, the impact of climate change on agriculture and livelihoods, young farmers' response to climate change, the challenges young farmers face in responding to climate change and the way forward for building the resilience of young farmers to respond sustainably to climate change. From the discussions, a [Young African Farmers Position on Climate Change](#) has been developed and it will form a base of advocacy during the COP27 to be held in Egypt

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List of Acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank
AGRA	Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa
AUC	African Union Commission
AUDA	African Union Development Agency
CA	Climakers Alliance
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CGIAR	Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
COP	Conference of Parties
EAFF	Eastern African Farmers Federation
FALCON	Farmers in Agriculture, Livestock, Cooperative, Organic Network
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IYFS	International Young Farmers Summit
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NFOs	National Farmers Organizations
PAFO	Pan African Farmers Organization
PROPAC	Regional Platform of Farmers Organizations of Central Africa
RFOs	Regional Farmers Organizations
ROPFA	Network of Farmers and Producers Organization in West Africa
SACAU	Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions
UMNAGRI	Maghreb and North Africa Union of Farmers
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WFO	World Farmers Organization

1. Introduction



THE CLIMAKERS

**Young Farmers' Resilience
to Climate Change and Other Crises:**
Building the Capacity of African young farmers to effectively
and successfully tackle climate change and its associated
impact – the role of youth and their organizations.

THE CLIMAKERS AFRICA WORKSHOP

*Co-organised by the Pan African Farmers Organization (PAFO)
and the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) under THE CLIMAKERS initiative*

25 October 2022 • 9am CEST/CA



Building the capacity and resilience of young African farmers to respond to climate change through adaptation and mitigation strategies while minimizing the effects of the changing climate on agriculture and livelihoods, particularly in rural farming communities, is relevant for socioeconomic growth and development in Africa. The Pan African Farmers Organization (PAFO) supported by World Farmers Organization (WFO), through the Climakers Alliance organized the 2022 Climakers Africa Workshop for young African farmers on 25 October 2022. The workshop

formed part of the weeklong PAFO International Young Farmers Summit (IYF) held from 24 to 29 October 2022 at the Lemigo Hotel in Kigali, Rwanda.

The overarching objective of the workshop was to provide a common platform for young African farmers to articulate their voice on issues of climate change that affect their agriculture activities and develop a common position necessary for building their capacity through policies, programs, and interventions.

The specific objectives of the workshop were:

1. Identify the common and differentiated challenges posed by climate change to young African farmers from different political, ecological, and socioeconomic African contexts;
2. Understand and consolidate the existing adaptive capacities and adaptation strategies of African farmers to tackle the climate change menace and how such capacities and strategies can be improved and strengthened;
3. Establish a common position of young African farmers needed to harness their potentials for tackling climate change through enabling policy environments.
4. Collaborate with key stakeholders in championing the common position and voice of African farmers at the Conference of Parties (COP27).

2. Mode of participation and workshop attendance/participants

Due to the adoption of both physical and virtual mode of participation, the participants included both online and physical participants. The workshop brought together 142 participants, including 74 young farmers selected from the PAFO member networks. The member networks of PAFO includes the Eastern African Farmers Federation (EAFF), the Network of Farmers and Producers Organization in West Africa, (ROPPA), the Regional Platform of Farmers Organizations of Central Africa (PROPAC), the Maghreb and North Africa Union of Farmers (UMNAGRI), and Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU). Participants' diversity in terms of region, gender and farmer' types (food crop, cash crop and livestock) was imperative to gaining an in-depth knowledge from diverse young African farmers, which was critical to the consolidation of the common voice of the young African farmers. To ensure that the participants engaged with policymakers in an attempt to gain policy support for youth agripreneurship on the continent, representatives and policymakers of key institutions such as the African Union Commission

(AUC) and its allied agencies (specifically the Head of Rural Development Division, Head of Agriculture at the African Union Development Agency New Partnership for Africa Development [AUDA-NEPAD]), the African Development Bank (Senior Civil Society Engagement Capacity Officer), actively participated in the workshop. In addition, members of the PAFO Board and the Secretariat including the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) as well as key leaders of PAFO regional farmer organizations participated in the workshop. In the case of virtual participants, the number increased from about 30 to over 50 at a point in time.

3. Facilitation approach

The Climakers Workshop was facilitated by Dr. Peter Asare-Nuamah, an experienced climate change capacity-building workshop facilitator. To ensure that the workshop achieved its intended objectives, the workshop adopted a participant-centric approach. The adopted approach offered the opportunity to gather in-depth and lived climate change experiences from the context of the young African farmers.



4. Opening remarks

The workshop was opened at 9am by Mrs. Elizabeth Nsimadala, the in charge of Women Affaires in the PAFO Board, President of the EAFF and the Africa Representative for the WFO Board. Providing a historical context of the farmers-driven climate agenda (the Climakers), Mrs Nsimadala indicated that the WFO General Assembly adopted the Climakers Workshop in 2018 and launched it at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP24) in Poland to strengthen farmers' position on global political discussions on climate change and promote solutions and best practices to adapt and mitigate climate change at the farm level. She emphasized the centrality of young African farmers in driving Africa's growth and development, particularly through agricultural transformation and agripreneurship in Africa. However, climate change poses real threats to achieving the potential of young African farmers as agents of change. Hence, collaboration among stakeholders is key to building the capacity of young African farmers to respond effectively to climate change through sustainable and gender-responsive policies and interventions. She reiterated the importance of the partnership between PAFO and WFO for Africa and the world farmers' effort in driving sustainable agricultural systems and climate smart agricultural practices.

To set the stage for the discussions on climate change and its associated issues that affect young African farmers as well as how young farmers are building resilient systems in response to climate change, the participants watched two important short video presentations that shaped the discussions. The first video presentation was delivered by Mr. Liguel Lizarazo from the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR) and a Senior Research Associate of the Climate Action, Alliance of Biodiversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). The video presentation emphasized on how farmers are acting to inform decision-making under a changing climate. The video proposed a framework or guidelines for policymakers in an attempt to build a resilient policy environment for climate change, agriculture and food systems. The second video from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) also presented the past, current and future scenarios of the changing climate across Africa, particularly the Sahel region, and their implications on agriculture, food security, livelihoods, and development on the continent.

5. Workshop Modules

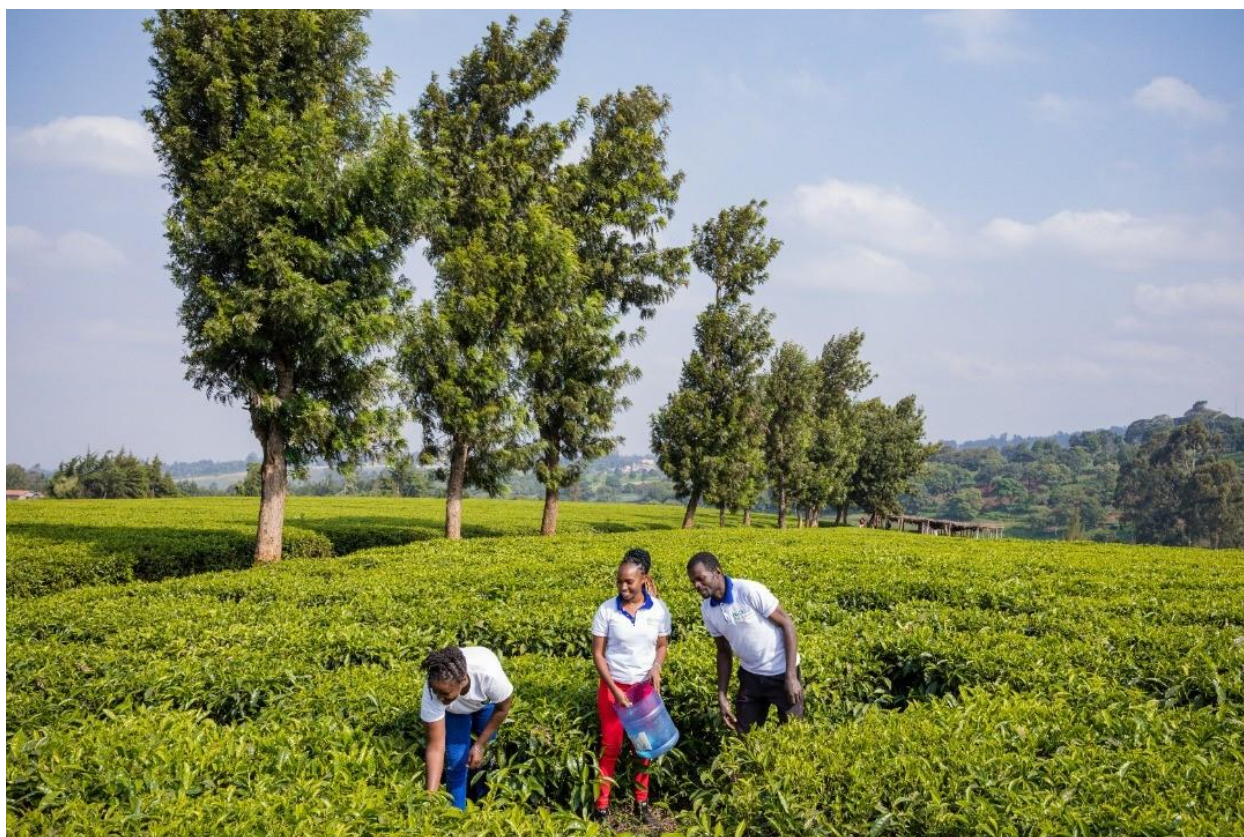


The facilitator specified the modules to be discussed and the rules and guidelines for the discussion. Most importantly, the facilitator emphasized the need for participants to provide equal opportunity for others to express their voices in order to provide common but differentiated climate change experiences from different countries and regions of the continent. This was necessary as climate change impacts are context specific even though the whole continent is highly vulnerable to climate change. The modules that were discussed by the participants at the workshop included:

- I. Climate vulnerability of young African farmers
- II. Climate change adaptation strategies of young African farmers
- III. Challenges of young African farmers in responding effectively and sustainably to climate change
- IV. Recommendations for building the resilience of young African farmers

5.1. Climate vulnerability of young African farmers

The discussion for this module centered on the level of exposure and sensitivity of young African farmers to climate change and the impacts of the changes in climate on their agriculture activities, livelihood and food security in their communities and the continent at large. The facilitator asked this question to seek responses and experiences of young African farmers: What changes in climate have you experienced and how do the observed changes affect you as a young African farmer. The deliberations from the participants showed that rising temperature, poor and erratic rainfall patterns, and climate extremes such as floods and droughts, are common among farmers in Africa. The case of the recent floods across many states in Nigeria was emphasized as evidence of climate change. In Uganda, it emerged that in 2021, farmers faced prolonged drought from November to May. Nevertheless, young African farmers located in certain geographic locations such as mountainous regions and Southern Africa experienced snowfall which has implications for their agricultural activities and livelihoods. The impacts of climate change were reported to be complex and troubling. Many of the participants reported a drastic reduction in crop yields due to floods, droughts, high temperatures, and changing rainfall patterns. Participants from Uganda stated that large hectares of cereal and grain farms have been destroyed by climate change, which was corroborated by participants from Togo, Chad, and Kenya. The uncertainty in the yields of crops due to climate change has affected the prices of food commodities, with vulnerable households at disadvantage due to a reduction in their purchasing power coupled with a reduction in income from agriculture. For instance, in Uganda, a kilogram of maize is sold at €1.2 while a kilogram of beans is sold at €1.5. This poses a serious challenge to food security among the poor. In addition, for livestock farmers, the rise in temperature coupled with droughts affect the quality of meat which significantly reduce the price of livestock. For instance, it emerged that due to droughts and the inability to feed livestock, a cow sold at 3 million Uganda Shillings is now sold as low as 100,000 Uganda Shillings.



Similarly, climate change has intensified the activities of pests and diseases on crops and livestock. While fall armyworm was common among the participants, those from Eastern Africa emphasized the case of mass grasshopper invasion as the outcome of climate change. It was agreed among the participants that the continuous effects of climate change on Africa's agricultural systems poses serious threats to food security, poverty reduction strategies and general economic development on the continent.

A participant from Nigeria reported the differentiated impact of climate change on men and women in Africa, which was concurred by other participants. According to the participants, while climate change affects both men and women, the impacts are differentiated and reinforced by social norms and values that put women at a disadvantage to men. For instance, climate change has increased the working hours of women in their performance of their household chores. Due to low rainfall availability, young girls have to walk a long distance to fetch water for their households, which sometimes affects their punctuality in schools, leading to low academic performance and school dropout in an extreme situation. It was also reported that climate change has intensified gender-based violence, particularly against women. Rape and sexual harassment were some of the gender-

based violence perpetuated by men against women and most importantly young girls. There were also reports of loss of human lives due to floods and other climate extremes in many parts of the continent.

5.2. Climate change adaptation strategies of young African farmers

The facilitator posed the question of how young African farmers are responding to climate change. The participants reported on the adoption of technologically and non-technologically based adaptation strategies such as the application of improved crop varieties, organic and chemical fertilizer, greenhouse farming and the installation of renewable energy on farms, among others. Ms. Khoushou Singh Sewraj, a FALCON (Farmers in Agriculture, Livestock, Cooperative, Organic Network) member and an Alumna of the Gymnasium Program 2022 of the WFO opened the discussion and shared her experience of how farmers in Mauritius are adapting to climate change through greenhouse farming and the installation of solar panels on farms as well as the recycling of food waste in order to improve food security, particularly in vulnerable communities. She also emphasized that the mass production of sugarcane and its use in biogas production has contributed to about 11% of Mauritius energy supply, which has made it affordable for farmers and members of the community to have access to electricity for household and farm use.



Ms. Khoushbou also emphasized the role of collaboration with government in scaling up climate adaptation practices. The Government of Mauritius set up the National Biogas Framework to boost the uptake of biogas in the country and encouraged youth to engage in sugarcane cultivation with budgetary support from the government. The President of the Peasant Farmers Association in Chad intimated how the organization is building the capacity of young farmers to respond to climate change through the provision of training on climate-smart agricultural practices such as the adoption of drought-tolerant crop varieties and sustainable management of fodder for livestock. Another participant, the President of the Young Farmers Federation in Uganda also reported how they are liaising with policymakers to intensify youth response to climate change. As such, in consultation with policymakers, practitioners, industry, and academia, the Federation has developed a position paper to be presented on the floor of parliament.

The participants reported shifting crop patterns as a response to climate change. For instance, in Malawi, young farmers have resorted to the cultivation of ginger and garlic which are favorable to the changing climatic conditions. Similar patterns were reported by participants from Zimbabwe and Botswana. For livestock farmers, value addition was reported as an important adaptation strategy to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on livestock. It emerged that the Uganda livestock farmers association has been training its members in the effective preparation of hay and silage, which can last for about 5 years. As a result, farmers who practice effective preparation and storage of hay and silage have the ability to increase sales due to the high prices of beef and milk during the dry season. In addition, young farmers engaged in poultry also indicated the use of black soldier fly as a substitute for feed for poultry. A participant from Kenya indicated that she produces black soldier fly on large scale for poultry farmers and export some to Ghana and other African countries where her product is needed. A participant also hinted that she has adopted to the establishment of a contingency budget which enables her to fall on during hard times like floods and drought.

To mitigate climate change, young African farmers are looking beyond the farming community to ensure collective responsibility in tackling climate change. For instance, in Malawi, young farmers train primary school children on afforestation and its importance to human life and the environment. To aid this, seedlings are provided by young farmers to schools and currently, about

1000 trees have been planted in school vicinities and communities. Many of young African farmers also rely on social media (Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and Twitter among others) to scale up their innovations.

5.3. Challenges of young African farmers in responding effectively and sustainably to climate change

Young African farmers enumerated the challenges they face in their attempt to respond to climate change. The major challenges that affect young African farmers to effectively respond to climate change included:

1. Poor participation of young Africa farmers in the formulation and implementation of policies and programs that affect their agricultural activities and livelihoods
2. High cost of adopting technologically-based adaptation (e.g., greenhouse, irrigation etc.) affects production cost. The producers/farmers then pass the high cost to consumers who are not able to afford the prices of food commodities.
3. High cost of feed for poultry and other livestock. In South Africa, a 50kg of poultry feed cost about 500 South African Rand, which not all farmers are able to afford.
4. Limited access to funds for the adoption and scale up of innovations and technologies
5. Limited access to relevant information needed by young African farmers to respond effectively to climate change
6. Poor and inadequate government support for young African farmers

5.4. Recommendations for building the resilience of young African farmers

To ensure the resilience of young African farmers and respond sustainably to climate change, the participants made the following recommendations:

1. There is the need for governments to facilitate and promote farmer friendly policies by engaging young African farmers in the formulation and implementation of policies and programs

2. Farmer-based associations at the national and regional levels should prioritize the development of their own policies that aim at building the capacity of farmers to respond to climate change
3. There is the need for a deliberate engagement and discussion on the importation of chemical fertilizers which affect the fertility of the soil and crop yields in the long run.
4. African governments should prioritize mass production and promotion of organic fertilizers that have the tendency to sustain arable lands for agricultural purposes
5. Farmer-based associations should collaborate with partners for the promotion of flood and drought insurance for its members to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on agriculture and farmers' livelihood especially during hard times like droughts and floods.
6. Young African farmers should strive to develop and adopt contingency budget that they can fall on during hard times.

6. Closing remarks

The closing remark was delivered by Mrs. Elizabeth Nsimadala. Prior to the remarks, Mr. Arturo Turillazzi presented a summary of the WFO and CGIAR Guidelines for Policymakers. He emphasized that the Guidelines aim at providing national governments with existing solutions pertaining to the Paris Agreement. The Guidelines are based on the needs, expectations, and solutions of farmers collected through the Climakers Initiative. Mr. Arturo expressed his appreciation to the young African farmers to raise their voices on climate change issues, most importantly how they are adapting to climate change climate in their localities.

Delivering the closing remarks, Mrs. Nsimadala emphasized the consensus among the participants that climate change poses both economic and social impact on livelihoods due to the losses and damages caused by climate change to Africa's agricultural sector. She noted that young African farmers have key roles to play in the present and future agri-food systems and therefore need the required support and empowerment to engage profitably and sustainably in agriculture as a profession. She expressed her appreciation to hear the voices of young African farmers and engage them in policies and decision making processes for agriculture and its related fields and topics. She also expressed that the collaboration of governments in the implementation of climate change initiatives is in line with the goal of the Climakers Initiative for the effective implementation of

the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). She called on the need for governments to base their national plans for the implementation of the Paris Agreement on the best practices already implemented by farmers to mitigate and adapt to climate change, thereby demonstrating the centrality of farmers in tackling climate change.



She noted that the best practices presented by the participants were essential to aid the discussion on youth and climate change at COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. Mrs. Nsimadala also stressed on the role of collaboration and partnership ecosystems in tackling climate change issues including access to relevant information and financing of climate change adaptation and mitigation. She finally reiterated the support of WFO, the Climakers Alliance, and PAFO for supporting and facilitating the Climakers Africa Workshop financially and technically.