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Panafrican farmers' organization
Organisation panafricaine des agriculteurs
المنظمة الإفريقية للفلاحين

NEWSLETTER N°10



Message from PAFO president Kolyang Palebele

The annual climate conference organized, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement, is a time, a space and opportunity to reflect on global climate change. Some African states are now beginning to be aware of and implement policies to deal with climate change and, are allocating budget and other resources to build capacity to support climate change action plans. Some of them are allocating budgetary and other resources in order to provide the means for the implementation of plans in line with this policy.

In particular, some African countries are making

significant efforts to climate proof. However, greater efforts are needed to include the participation of farmers' organizations and their members in the development of these strategies and implementation plans. Agriculture is still the most vulnerable sector to climate change. While the effects of climate variability are being felt on the field, the vast majority of African farmers have little or no capacity, to deal with climate change on their own, as the impact of climate change has destroyed the social and economic sustainability of family farming and has aggravated the food security challenges of a rapidly growing population.

It seems urgent to us to measure, at all levels, the impact of climate change on the African population, whose population has been driven out of their land by dryness and inundation. To this we must add the conflicts between the users of natural resources, whose impact on social cohesion and living together in certain African countries, is no more to be demonstrated. Thus, agriculture remains at the heart of the climate change challenge. Paradoxically, and for the wrong reasons, African agriculture has been marginalized for a long time in international negotiations on climate change.

It is suffering from unfairness and faces difficulties in access to all climate related funds. The time is now ripe for African agriculture to take a more responsible role in the fight against climate change.

PAFO and its members, the voice of some 80 million farmers on the African continent, has made the fight against climate change and its effects on African agriculture a priority, with a key focus in its [strategic plan](#).



CEO EDITORIAL

Dr. Babafemi Oyewole

welcome you to this edition of our newsletter. During the period covered by the newsletter, two major events with global participants took place. This newsletter presents to you the key highlights of these international events.

The International Young Farmers Summit (IYFS) 2022 edition, was organized by PAFO, in Kigali, Rwanda, from 24-29th October 2022, under the theme “Youth leadership in agricultural transformation through innovation”. The IYFS brought together 176 people, including 107 young farmers, from the five continents (Africa, Europe, North America, Latin America, and Asia). The event was dedicated to the promotion, strengthening

and spreading the voice of young farmers at the global level. The week was marked by the three main events: African Young Farmers’ Forum; Africa-Europe Young Farmers’ meeting, the International Young Farmers’ Summit. The summit also, hosted the launch of the African Agribusiness Youth Strategy (AAYS), by the AUC-DARBE. The Secretariat of PAFO would use the WhatsApp group, created by the participants, during the Summit, for a continuous dialogue and discussions on the implementation of the recommendations from the Summit so that, its evaluation would be presented at the next edition, in 2024, in Canada.

Then the Sharm El Sheikh Climate Change Conference COP27, tagged as “Climate Implementation COP” or “The Africa COP”, it took place from 6th-18th November 2022. About 120 Heads of State and Government attended **the COP27** on 7th and 8th November 2022. A high-level segment primarily attended by Ministers took place from 15th to 18th November 2022. PAFO had a strong delegation, which were among, more than 11.000 Non-Government Organizations that were observers at COP27. The delegation was led by the President of PAFO, Mr. Kolyang Palebele and was composed of all the five Regional members of PAFO represented at very high-level of Presidents, Vice-Presidents and CEOs. There were over 100 sessions in each day of the conference covering the 16 thematic areas of the COP27. The delegates of PAFO participated in 35 relevant and strategic sessions as panel members or speakers during the conference. In addition, PAFO delegates held meetings with officials of over 40 existing and prospective partner institutions to discuss ongoing partnerships and develop new ones. Among the various meetings and negotiations, at the COP27, two stood out and these were the meetings of PAFO delegates with the Norwegian Minister of International Cooperation, Anne Beathe K. Tvinnereim, and the Chairperson of IFAD, who pledged her support to PAFO and its members as they advocate for direct allocation of subventions to Farmers Organizations. Then, the meeting between the PAFO delegation and AgriCord, with the Vice President of IFAD, Ms. Jo (Jyotsna) Puri, who gave the assurance of her support for the Farmers Climate Facility project, that was being developed by the two institutions with the support of IFAD.

At the COP27, PAFO delegates emphasized the devastating effects of climate change on farming and livestock in Africa and the inability of farmers to access climate finance for climate adaptation and mitigation of the impact of climate change on their productivity and livelihoods. They advocated for increase in climate finance by reducing the stringent conditions and processes that hindered African farmers from accessing the available climate adaptation funds unlike their counterparts in developed countries. Moreover, the members of PAFO expressed the desire to be more visible in future COPs by having a dedicated pavilion where they can present their activities to the participants. Therefore, there is the need for PAFO to work towards achieving accreditation as observer organization to facilitate the participation of its delegates at subsequent editions of the conference. Overall, the participation of PAFO and its members at the COP27 was a great opportunity for increasing its global visibility and networking which should translate into more technical and financial support to the organization and its mission of serving as the voice of over 80 million farmers in Africa.

PAFO AT COP 27

PAFO CALL TO ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE



In this call to action, PAFO highlighted the specific areas impacted by climate change on African farmers and PAFO members, as well as its commitments, as a platform of farmers' organizations, representing the voice of some 80 million farmers, on the continent.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE PAFO CALL TO ACTION](#)

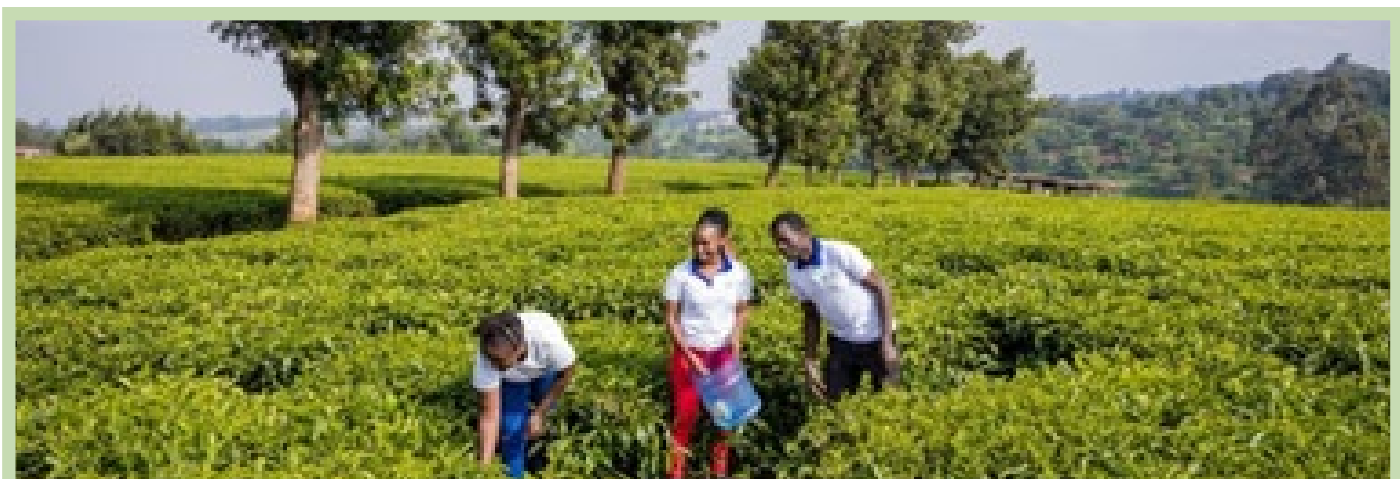
UNFCCC FARMERS' CONSTITUENCY STATEMENT FOR COP27



PAFO seized the opportunity of COP27 to bring the voice of African farmers to the world stage by actively participating in the formulation of the UNFCCC Farmers' Constituency Statement for COP27. A statement is submitted on behalf of the hundreds of millions of women, men, and young family farmers, ranchers, fishers, forest-harvesters, herders, pastoralists and their organizations and cooperatives, across the world who are on the frontline of climate change and work each and every day to feed a growing population.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL STATEMENT](#)

YOUNG AFRICAN FARMERS POSITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE



With one voice- young African farmers, gathered at the “Climakers Africa” workshop, organized by PAFO, with the support of the World Farmers Organization (WFO), in the framework of the Climakers Alliance”. Young Farmers were convinced that they are key actors in the formulation and implementation of appropriate climate change policies. Therefore, Young farmers from the five PAFO member networks formulated their common position on climate change.

[CLICK HERE TO READ FULL YOUNG FARMERS POSITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE](#)

STORIES FROM THE FIELD SPECIAL AFRICA EDITION



Despite the diversity that characterizes farmers in every corner of the world, they are united by a single and imminent challenge: climate change. In particular, Africa is suffering more than other regions the effects of extreme weather events. Africa represents an area where climate change can amplify already endemic problems, to the point of crossing thresholds of habitability and survival.

This report highlights the best practice in terms of agricultural yield, social, economic and environmental benefits. However, the main driver behind success lies in the partnership of all relevant actors in the food value chain, starting with the fundamental role of research and science. The CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, Scientific member of the Alliance, ensures from practice to practice that these actions are science-based. Climakers is proudly sharing this knowledge to showcase how resilient and robust the agricultural community is.

[CLICK HERE TO READ FULL STORIES FROM AFRICAN FARMERS](#)



COP 27 IN PICTURES



PAFO & Agricord Presidents



Meeting participants PAFO - Agricord



PAFO-AgriCord delegation with Jo Puri, IFAD Vice President



Elisabeth Nsidamala, EAFF President, during a panel session



PAFO CEO during the AfDB CSO side event at COP27



PAFO President at a discussion panel during Farmers market side event at COP27



Steve Muchiri, CEO of EAFF during a panel discussion at COP27



PAFO President & CEO with Laura Lorenzo, Director of World Rural Forum



PAFO-AgriCord delegates- working session on the Farmers Climate Facility project



THE INTERNATIONAL YOUNG FARMERS SUMMIT (IYFS)

AFRICAN YOUNG FARMERS FORUM



**Sommet International
des Jeunes Agriculteurs**
International Summit of
Young Farmers

20
22

The International Young Farmers Summit (IYFS), organized by PAFO, (October 24-29, 2022), was held in Kigali, Rwanda, under the theme: “Youth leadership in agricultural transformation through innovation”. It brought together 176 people including 107 young farmers from the five continents (Africa, Europe, North America, Latin America, and Asia). The week was marked by the three main events; African Young Farmers’ Forum; Africa-Europe Young Farmers’ meeting; and the International Young Farmers’ Summit. Besides a field visit to the Rwandan young agripreneur was organized. The summit also hosted the launch of the African Agribusiness Youth Strategy (AAYS), by the AUC-DARBE.

[READ THE IYFS2022 GLOBAL REPORT](#)

[VIDEO](#)



Attended by 142 participants, including 74 young farmers from different African countries, the 2022 African Young Farmers forum was hosted in Kigali- Rwanda in sideline with the IYFS. In two days, Young African farmers debated several things, through different sessions. They contributed to the reflection on the common position resulting from PAFO study on “young African agripreneurs: success story and scaling up lessons and innovations, by providing their input and recommendations. Young farmers discussed the role of technology in transforming agriculture in Africa. EAFF (PAFO member) presented its programs on promoting technology for Agriculture transformation – An e-granary platform, as an example of a digital solution for agriculture



Furthermore, PAFO - on sponsorship of World Farmers Organization (WFO), and under Climakers alliance-organized a Climakers Africa workshop”, under the theme: “Building the capacity of African young farmers to effectively and successfully tackle the climate change and its associated impact – the role of youth and the organizations. From the discussion, young farmers came up with the:

[Young African Farmers Position on Climate Change.](#)

[THE CLIMAKERS WORKSHOP AFRICA FINAL REPORT](#)



The African young farmers’ forum, has been an opportunity to PAFO for presenting the inspiring story of farmers on innovative solutions they established to adapt on COVID-19 situation. During this event; the consolidated [video](#) produced by PAFO, under the project “SAFE2020”, funded by IFAD, was disseminated.



The African young farmers’ summit hosted the launch of [the African Union youth in agribusiness strategy \(AAYS\)](#); developed by AU-DARBE with Support from GIZ. The presentation was followed by a panel discussion which focused more on implementation of the strategy, and the role of different stakeholders.

[PRESS RELEASE](#)



The clear message from African Young Farmers is: “Do not do things for us, we want you- policy makers-to do things with us. We are not subjects of research; we are not recipients of grant. We are not victims of anything. We are part of the solutions. We want to provide solutions to some of the challenges that we are facing”. Youth from different countries on the African continent discussed the possibilities of creating the “PAFO youth platform” whose launch would be announced during the next African Young Farmers’ Forum scheduled in October 2023.

[VIDEO DAY 1](#)

[VIDEO DAY 2](#)

AFRICA– EUROPE YOUNG FARMERS MEETING



The Africa-Europe young farmers meeting, brought together 120 participants including 75 young farmers from Africa and Europe. To discuss on collective knowledge about Africa-Europe partnership issues and to make proposals on how young African and European farmers can be integrated and benefit from partnership.

Young farmers were informed about the institutional aspects of the Africa-Europe partnership and It was a great opportunity for young farmers to look at things in the actual reality. However, the major problem that young farmers are facing is on the policy making and decision-making level that limits their voice. Furthermore, they exchanged on global value chains between Europe and Africa and debated about improving the access to innovation and information/communication technologies to develop resilient value chains.

In the context of existing partnership between PAFO and COLEACP, PAFO organized the session “Business opportunities for African young entrepreneurs in African and European market”. It focused on exploring the Business opportunities for African young entrepreneurs in African and European markets. Young farmers from Africa and Europe shared their experience on how they were able to explore those opportunities.

[VIDEO DAY 3](#)

INTERNATIONAL YOUNG FARMERS FORUM



The IYFS brought together 139 people including 91 young farmers from Africa, Europe, Asia, North America and Latin America. Young farmers from the five continents shared their experience on how in their organizations, are advocating to influence policies, for a favorable environment for young farmers. They have had the opportunity to discover the policy in favor of young farmers. Policies that, most of the time, if not always, are made for them, but without them. Even if young farmers are working hard to build their structures, they are still facing different challenges. Young farmers need to be united to become stronger for advocating better policies. One of the biggest challenges that young farmers from the five continents have discussed is Climate changes which is causing a lot of challenges to the already vulnerable food system. Its impact is now imposing heavy burden to farmers. Young farmers argued that Climate change should not only be seen as a challenge, but also an opportunity to think out of box to come up with new innovations to mitigate impact.

In addition to the intramural discussions, PAFO organized a field visit for young farmers: The Yen Company which have different innovations in its vegetable activity and contributes to the food security of the country. It provides employment to many young farmers. Whereby, so far it has 8 permanent employees and it provided employment casually for about 1000 people.

[VIDEO DAY 4](#)

[VIDEO FIELD VISIT](#)

[VIDEO COCKTAIL](#)

INTERNATIONAL MANIFESTO OF YOUNG FARMERS

After a full week of events dedicated to young farmers, The IYFS ended by the declaration of the: **INTERNATIONAL MANIFESTO OF YOUNG FARMERS**. The Next International Young Farmers Summit, will be held in Canada in 2024.

VIDEO CLOSING CEREMONY



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