

"Women Lead": Leadership program for rural women

"Strengthening women's participation in decision-making".



Although women account for more than half of the workforce in African agriculture, they are under-represented and their voices and rights are not recognized within their farmers' organizations. [The Pan-African Farmers' Organization \(PAFO\)](#) has identified this problem and is keen to help strengthen the role of women in decision-making positions, as well as their long-term networking. To this end, PAFO recently signed a memorandum of understanding with [Andreas Hermes Academy \(AHA\)](#) to strengthen women's leadership and decision-making skills. The objectives of this program are to build capacity so that more competent women take up leadership positions in regional and national farmers' organizations; To create networks and relationships between women at international (Germany - African partner countries), regional and national levels.

"Les Femmes Dirigent" (Women Lead) is a project implemented by PAFO- AHA, in cooperation with the German Rural Women's Association ([Deutscher LandFrauenverband e.V. - dlw](#)), to create pan-African models of women's empowerment in farmers' associations and organizations and put them on the continent's agenda.

The first phase of the program brings together 20 rural women (15 members of the African Farmers' Organization and 5 members of dlw), for intensive training, peer learning and a study tour. This is followed by a tandem coaching phase lasting several months, a second face-to-face phase of the program and a closing event that will highlight the program's achievements and ensure that rural women gain visibility as role models. The second phase of the face-to-face program will take place in Berlin, Germany.

PAFO and AHA are working together **to strengthen the system of farmers' organizations in Africa**, professionalizing and building the capacities of RFOs and NPOs, men, women and youth, including **organizational and individual capacity building**. Thanks to a continental approach, regional farmers' organizations (RFOs) and national farmers' organizations (NPOs) - approached through RFOs - will be **better equipped** to fulfill their **mandates, meet today's challenges, make rural women's voices heard and better serve their members**.

The "Women Lead" project is implemented with financial support from the [German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development \(BMZ\)](#).

About PAFO

The Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO) is a continental organization with a membership base made up of regional farmers' networks.

PAFO is the voice of more than 80 million African farmers, integrated into nearly 73 national organizations, unions, federations, cooperatives, associations, etc. present in more than 48 countries across the continent and united in five regional networks operating at the heart of African agriculture: EAFF; PROPAC, ROPPA, SACAU and UMNAGRI.

PAFO is recognized as the representative body of African farmers' organizations at the highest continental level. PAFO is also able to contribute to the development of projects and the capacities needed to follow them up.

PAFO has a fundamental coordination function, both with its member networks and with continental and international bodies. It is thus able to facilitate dialogue and cooperation with various continental and international institutions, as well as with financial and technical partners.

PAFO is recognized as a reliable and representative partner of African farmers, able to provide common positions on issues and themes relating to agriculture and rural development in Africa.

For more information, visit <http://www.pafo-africa.org/>

Facebook: [Pan African Farmers Organisation](#)

About AHA

Andreas Hermes Academy (AHA) is a German capacity-building institution based in the agricultural sector in Germany, with key stakeholders such as the German Farmers' Association, the German Rural Women's Association, the Rural Youth Association, and many others. For over 70 years, AHA has been making a significant contribution to the professionalization of associative life, leadership and further training of German farmers.

At international level, AHA promotes the professionalization of the organized agricultural sector and encourages entrepreneurship among farmers and farmers' organizations, with the aim of ensuring the viability of organizations and, ultimately, increasing food security and the dynamism of rural areas.

With financial support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), AHA strengthens farmers' organizations in Africa and India so that they can serve their members according to their needs, assume responsibility, develop appropriate services and enter into dialogue with government, trade, industry and society.

For more information, visit

<https://www.andreas-hermes-akademie.de/>

Facebook: [AHA International](#)

About dlw

The German Rural Women's Association (dlw), founded in 1948, seeks to improve the quality of life, working conditions and social and political participation of rural women. The dlw has around 450,000 members in 22 regional sections across Germany. As a strong national network for rural women, dlw offers training programs, advocates women's interests, implements projects and provides a supportive community.

Taking advantage of its collective strength and decades of experience, dlw has been involved in international development cooperation since 2017. In collaboration with local partners, dlw implements projects in African countries with the aim of empowering women in rural areas and thus promoting equal participation, particularly in the agricultural and food sector, in order to improve rural development, food security and agricultural production. The thematic focus is on association development, networking, lobbying and advocacy, nutrition education and skills development (leadership, entrepreneurship, business development, farming practices, etc.).

Facebook: [German Association of Rural Women](#)

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