



Panafrican farmers' organization
Organisation panafricaine des agriculteurs
المنظمة الإفريقية للفلاحين

NEWS LETTER

N°: 15
july 2024



Message Mr Ibrahima Coulibaly President of PAFO

As the FO4ACP program draws to a close, it is important to underline the vital importance of the international partnership for the development of farmers' organizations (FOs). Since 2019, this program - made possible thanks to the commitment of key partners such as OACPS, the EU and IFAD - has significantly strengthened the technical, organizational and business capacities of African FOs.

FO4ACP has helped to improve the livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers across the continent through better practices and access to markets, as well as creating off-farm jobs and income, especially for young people and women. Not to mention greater resilience to climatic and economic shocks.



But despite these remarkable results, the work is not over. The challenges for our organizations and members remain immense in the face of the climate emergency, soaring input prices and the economic crisis.

and the global economic crisis. That is why it is vital to continue and strengthen this international partnership, which has proved its worth and is more necessary than ever. A stronger international partnership would make it possible to consolidate the achievements and positive impacts of the FO4ACP program, build on the progress made to go even further, extend the benefits to a larger number of producers and help producer organizations adapt to the new challenges.

The current crises (climate, health, economic) are disrupting the production and livelihoods of our producers. Our organizations need support to adapt to these new challenges and to continue to serve their members effectively. PAFO and its member farmers' organizations are key players in agricultural and rural development in Africa. With the support of partners such as the European Union and the IDF, a continuation of the FO4ACP program would help improve the livelihoods of millions of smallholder family farmers. African farmers are ready to meet the challenge of sustainable, high-performing agriculture. But they need the support of partners like the European Union to get there.

We are pleased to present, to our members, partners and stakeholders, the July 2024 edition of our newsletter which provides an overview of the various programs of activities we carried out during the last quarter. With the support of our partners continue to implement the various pillars of our current **Strategic Plan** to deliver the activities developed in the plan.

The key activities during the reviewed period include the first Board meeting of the year held virtually in May, a workshop on the evaluation of the FO4ACP program which also took place in the same month in Kigali where our members and the program partners gathered together, for three days, to evaluate the program implementation. Also, we held a virtual workshop to discuss our organizational development process and considered the reports of the two working groups, on vision and governance, that were earlier set up in March.



The African Development Bank (AfDB) renewed the membership of PAFO to represent the agriculture sector in its civil society committee. PAFO chaired the meeting of the steering committee meeting of the Farmers' Organizations at the Forefront of Research and Innovation in Agroecology for Sustainable Food Systems (FORI) program to review the execution of the program. During the meeting, the partners expressed satisfaction with the progress made in the implementation.

A virtual meeting was held to evaluate the implementation of the Digital Resilience and Nutrition Policy Innovations (DERPIn) project. The meeting provided an avenue for the implementing NFOs and partners to discuss the project's progress to ensure that it is on track in the implementation of the planned activities.

The Pan-African FO Exchange Platform continues its capacity building activities that focuses on such issues as strategic planning, governance, communication and commercialization. Moreover, we published a book on "Managing farmers' knowledge: Good experiences and promising practices from the FO4ACP KM event" to document the success stories of our members in the implementation of the FO4ACP program. We continue to strengthen existing partnerships while reaching out to new partners.

The women leadership development program was held in Munich, Germany during the period. The PAFO Secretariat's staff strength was reinforced with the resumption of Mr. Aimable Twagirayezu as the Programme Officer.

Finally, we look forward to your continued support as we build the capacity of our members and advocate for a favourable enabling environment that will improve their income and welfare.

PAFO NEWS

PAFO 1ST BOARD MEETING

The first PAFO Board meeting for 2024 was held virtually last May with Board members and connected technicians from all over Africa. Despite the challenges of connectivity, the Board's discussions were fruitful and confirmed the dynamism in which PAFO is immersed. The Board members had to examine various issues and take a number of important decisions for the smooth running of PAFO and to support its future actions.

PAFO MEMBER OF THE AfDB CSO COMMITTEE

The African Development Bank announced the renewal of the Bank-Civil Society Committee for the period 2024-2026. A diverse and carefully selected group embodies a wealth of experience and is ready to ensure that civil society contributes effectively to inclusive growth and the transformation of the continent, in line with the Bank's Ten-Year Strategy. The Bank-CSO Committee will soon focus on key areas of collaboration. Mobilizing CSOs for Bank initiatives, promoting active participation in policy discussions, and fostering knowledge-sharing on civil society engagement are just a few of the ways they will use to engage citizens and communities.

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[List of new BANK-CSO Committee representatives](#)



COMITÉ BANQUE-SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE
REPRÉSENTANTS 2024 -2026



Richard HOUËSSOU
Thématique de la gouvernance
• AFROBAROMETER



Sefora KODJO
Thématique du genre
• SEPHIS FOUNDATION



Ibrahim COULIBALY
Thématique de l'agriculture
• PAFO



Julien Colman AGBESSI
Afrique de l'Ouest:
• REPOAC



Masheti MASINJILA
Afrique de l'Est:
• EACSGF



Guy-Christian MOUSSAVOU
Afrique de centrale
• OPAC



Monametsi R. SOKWE
Afrique australe
• SAG-ONGO



Ahmed FATHY
Afrique du Nord:
Thématique de la jeunesse
• YLEF



PAFO NEW PROGRAM OFFICER



PAFO is pleased to introduce its new Program Officer, Mr Aimable TWAGIRAYEZU. With 11 years' experience in the field of international development, he has acquired proven expertise in program design and management, human and financial resource management, as well as resource mobilization, monitoring and evaluation.

With a master's degree in business administration, specializing in Project Management, he has held the position of Project Manager and Country Representative for Global Civic Sharing, an international non-governmental organization based in South Korea, focusing on agricultural development.

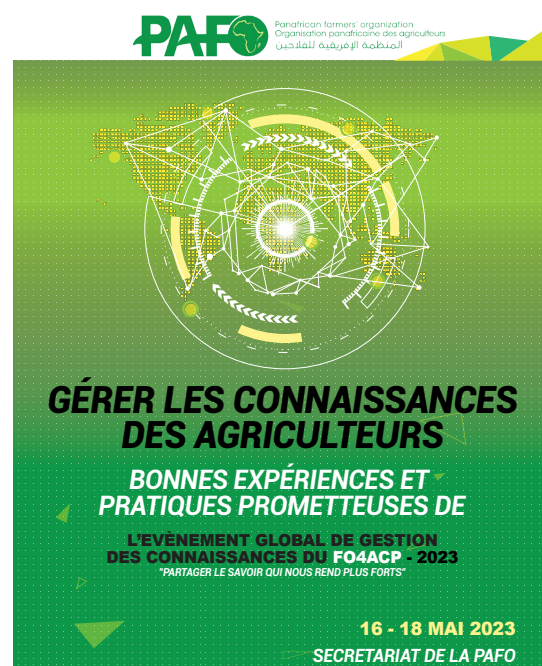
For further information

PAFO NEW PUBLICATION

MANAGING FARMER'S KNOWLEDGE

PAFO published a new document on knowledge management: **"Managing farmers' knowledge: Good experiences and promising practices from the FO4ACP KM event"**.

This document is a continuation of the knowledge management processes for collecting, processing, storing and disseminating data from the implementation of the FO4ACP program. Read the stories of innovation from different countries in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Islands.



See the document



AGRICORD'S CEO AT PAFO HEADQUARTERS



“In a gesture full of symbolism and promise, Mrs Katja Vuori, recently appointed CEO of Agricorn, made her first official visit to the PAFO headquarters. The visit was marked by a warm and fruitful exchange that underlined the importance of the existing relationship between the two organizations, while opening new doors for enhanced cooperation. Mrs Vuori’s visit is particularly significant as it underlines the strong commitment of PAFO and Agricorn to work together to address the challenges faced by African farmers’ organizations and farmers. PAFO took the opportunity to congratulate Katja Vuori, who has just been appointed CEO of Agricorn, and looks forward to working closely with Agricorn to promote the sustainable development of family farming in Africa.

[More information](#)

PAFO EVENTS IN TANZANIA



PAFO and its member networks will gather in Dar Es Salam, Tanzania, from 15 to 19 July for a series of events. These activities include an organizational development (OD) workshop in partnership with AHA; the Supporting the sustainability of the Panafrican FO exchange platform workshop, with the support of FO4ACP; and PAFO Board meeting.

These events aim to strengthen PAFO’s organizational and strategic capacity, while promoting collaboration and exchange of best practices among its members.

PARTNERSHIPS



FO4 - AFRICA EVALUATION WORKSHOP



It was in Kigali, Rwanda, the headquarters of PAFO, that IFAD chose to hold the Evaluation Workshop of the Support Program for Farmers' Organizations in Africa (FO4-Africa). The three-day event brought together experts, facilitators and key stakeholders in the implementation of FO4 to assess the performance and sustainability of farmers' organizations (FOs) under the program. Participants had the opportunity to look back at successes and challenges, and to reflect on future opportunities: the post-FO4 era. Discussions focused on the concrete results of the Africa Program and led to the formulation of strategic recommendations to guide future initiatives. Through interactive sessions and fruitful exchanges, participants shared their experiences and visions for the future.

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PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

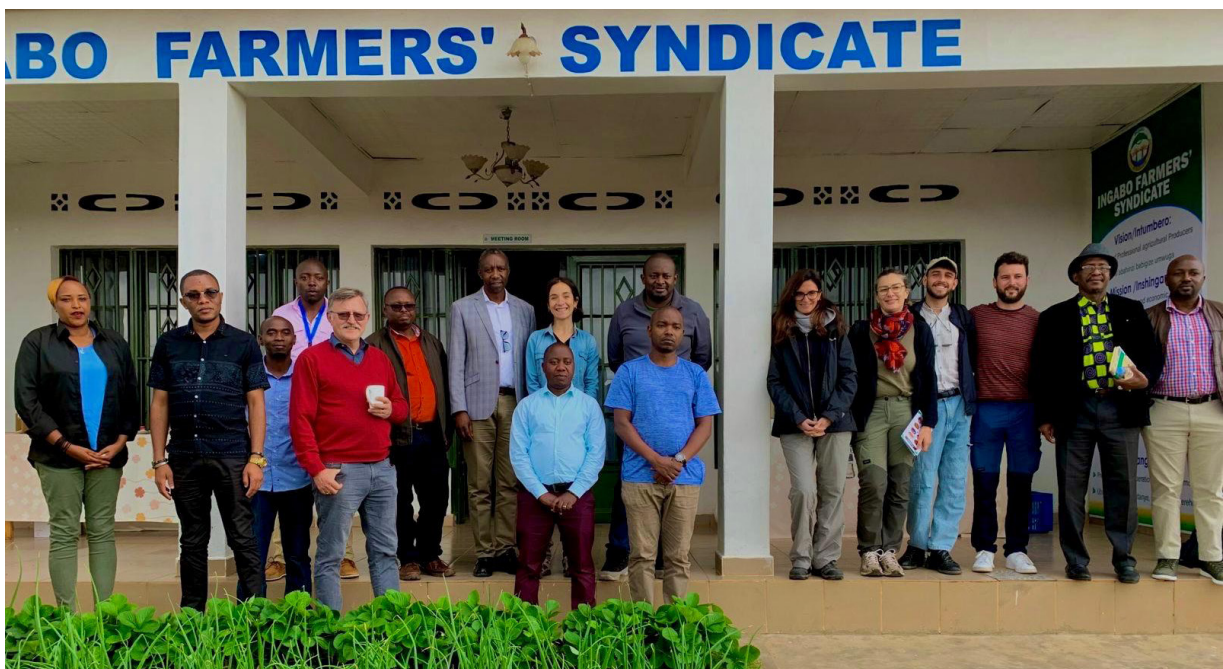


The workshop began with parallel working groups focusing on different critical aspects. One group assessed the delivery of economic services by farmer organizations (FOs) along priority value chains.

Their assessment highlighted both strengths and areas for improvement, with the aim of increasing economic benefits to members. Another group focused on the business environment, assessing FOs' efforts in policy dialogue and their influence on governance. Discussions centered on how FOs can engage more effectively in policy advocacy to create a favourable business environment. In addition, a working group analyzed the institutional development initiatives of FOs and tracked their progress. The aim was to identify successful strategies and areas for further development to strengthen institutional capacity.

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FIELD VISIT - INGABO FARMERS SYNDICATE



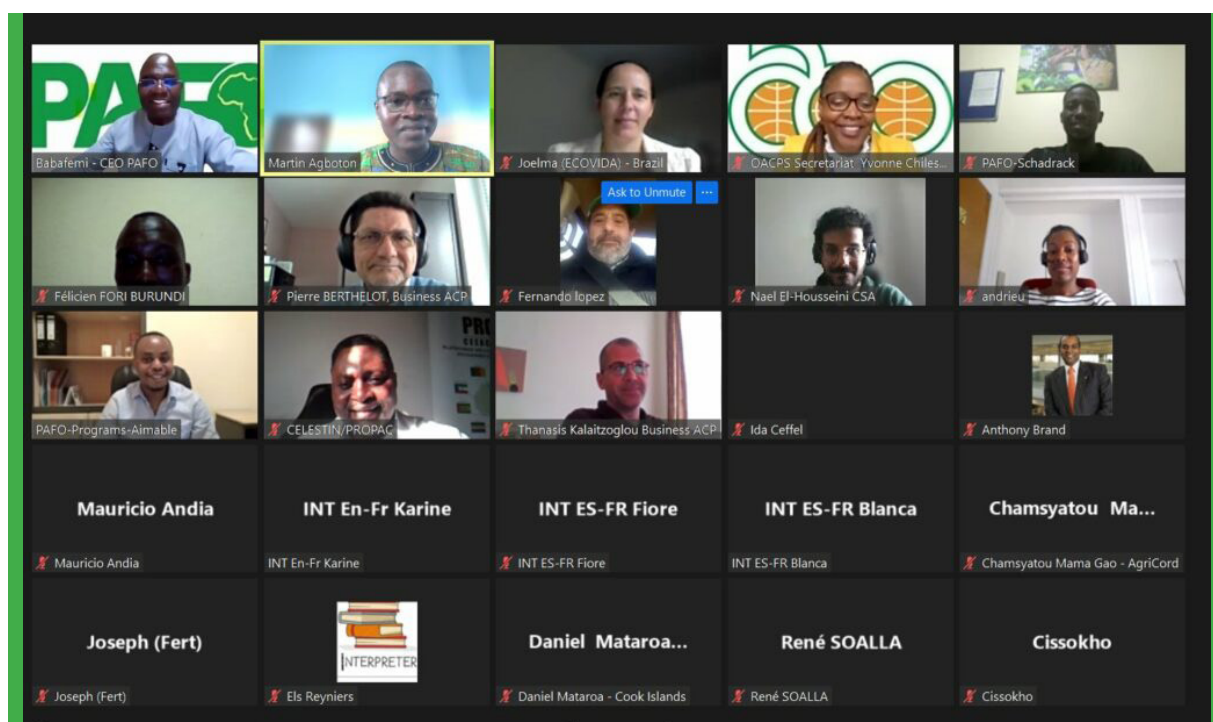
The IFAD team made a visit to the West of Kigali, in the Muhanga district, to meet with the INGABO FARMERS SYNDICATE, member of EAFF, East Africa, RFO member of PAFO. The IFAD representatives and advisors were able to learn about INGABO's activities in the cassava value chain through cooperatives and rural credit. The delegation also met directly with the local producer organizations involved in implementing the programme, encouraging a participatory approach to evaluation, suggestions and proposals for the future. The IFAD team studied the impact of FO4ACP in the field, closely evaluating the economic services provided, the integration of the value chain approach and the strengthening of institutional capacities.

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STEERING COMMITTEE ACKNOWLEDGING PROGRESS



The meeting of the Steering Committee meeting of the Farmers' Organizations at the Forefront of Research and Innovation in Agroecology for Sustainable Food Systems (FORI) program was chaired by PAFO CEO on behalf of the President. During the meeting, the European Commission and the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) expressed satisfaction with the results achieved after two years of implementation. The FORI program has demonstrated its ability to enhance farmers' learning through peer experiences and knowledge sharing in the ACP regions. Members of the Steering Committee highlighted the positive impact of this innovative approach, which enabled beneficiary farmer organizations to rapidly improve their skills in a manner adapted to their specific contexts. Fruitful exchanges between farmers from different ACP countries are helping to build resilience to challenges ranging from climate change to market volatility

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AGRICORD



DERPIn PROJECT MEETING



PAFO organized a virtual discussion meeting to evaluate the implementation of the Digital Resilience and Nutrition Policy Innovations (DERPIn) project. The virtual meeting provided a platform for stakeholders to discuss the project's progress and challenges, ensuring that the project remains on track to achieve its objectives of improving agricultural decision-making and advocacy by farmer organizations.

[Read more
Project details](#)



german cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Implemented by
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

In cooperation with:
AKADEMIYA2063

PAFO

Digitally Enabled Resilience and Nutrition Policy Innovations (DERPIn) Project

Hosted by **AKADEMIYA2063** and the **Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO)**

OFFICIAL LAUNCH
Wednesday
February 22, 2023
9:30 AM
Kigali, Rwanda & Online

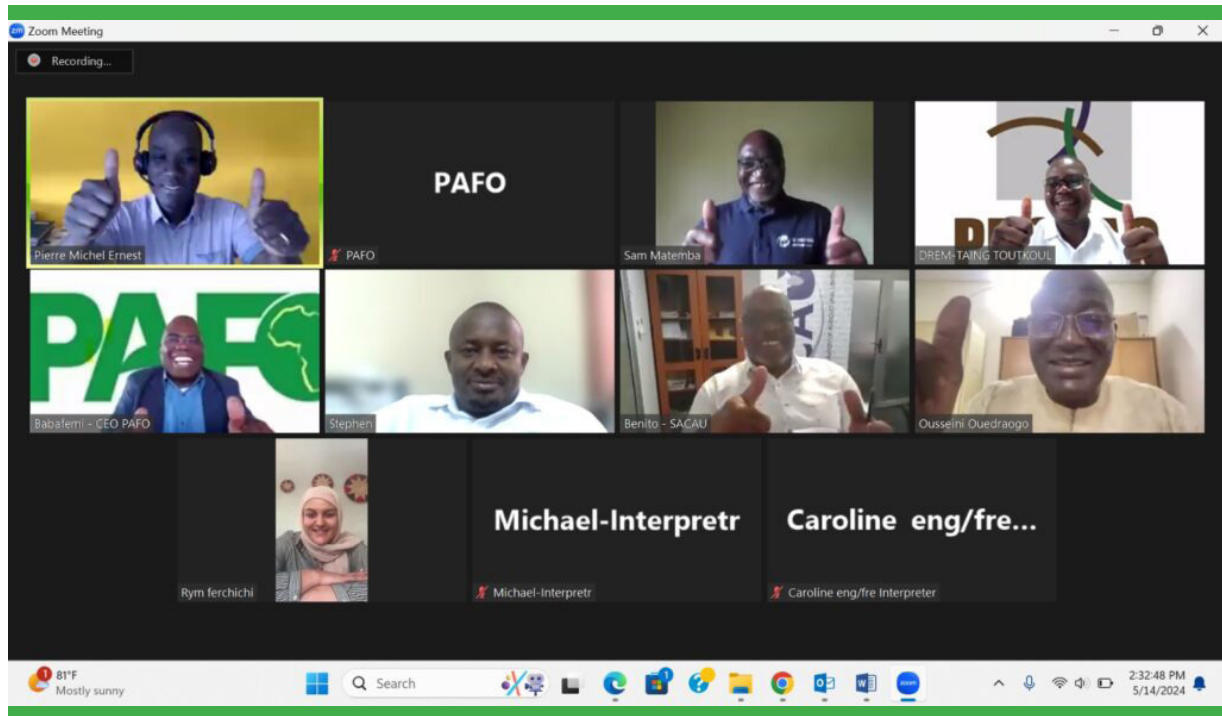
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ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP



PAFO CEOs and member networks continue to participate in the virtual organizational development (OD) workshops organized and facilitated by AHA. In the last four workshops, they explored more effective ways of managing, approaches to improving collective decision-making, and strategies for building organizational resilience in the face of economic and environmental challenges. The OD program will continue with a second physical workshop in Dar Es Salam, Tanzania, in July 2024.

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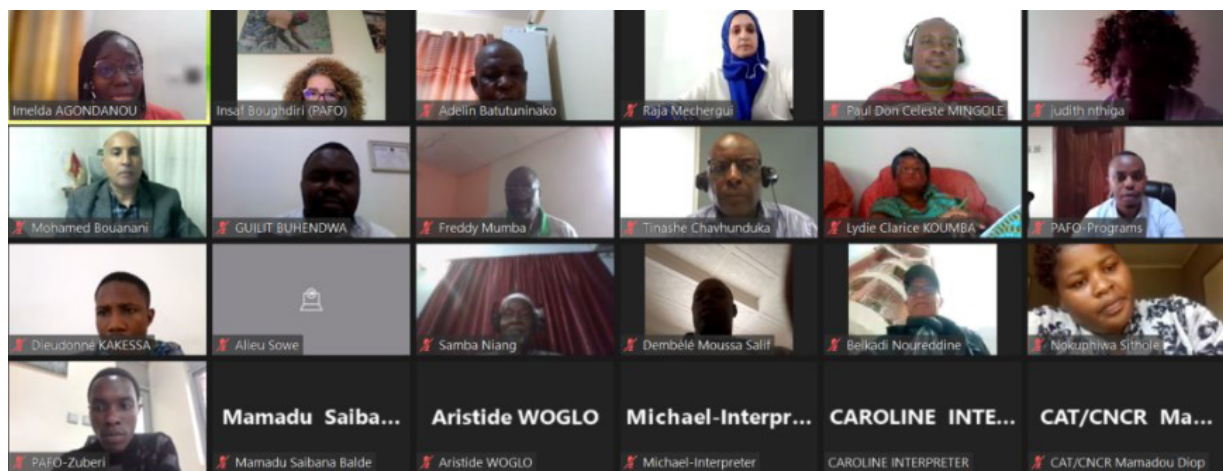


ANDREAS
HERMES
AKADEMIE



Deutscher
Bauernverband

PANAFRICAN FO EXCHANGE PLATFORM



The Pan-African FO Exchange Platform is actively pursuing its peer-to-peer learning sessions. It has just started a new cycle with new topics moderated by CMT members, selected by the FO to prepare and organize the session's content. The most recent sessions were prepared by ROPPA/UMNAGRI and EAFF/SACAU, bringing the total number of sessions held to 17 sessions.

- Session 16- "Strategic Planning", moderated by ROPPA & UMNAGRI"
- Session 17- "Agriculture Commercialization in Africa", moderated by EAFF & SACAU
- All Sessions

WOMEN FARMERS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM - PHASE 1



Phase 1 of the Women Leadership Program for French-speaking took place with an intensive workshop. The event brought together rural women, members of PAFO and German women, members of the German Association of Rural Women (dlv). The workshop was designed as a training session based on peer learning and took place from 27 to 31 May in Munich, Germany. The main objective of the workshop was to strengthen the skills of women in decision-making positions within farmers' organizations. The Rural Women's Leadership is a program implemented by PAFO in partnership with **AHA**, with technical support from the **German Rural Women's Association (dlv)** and financial support from **BMZ**.

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Project details](#)



ONLINE SEMINAR ON NEGOTIATION PROCESSES WITHIN UNFCCC

PAFO-AHA-FFD online seminars aim to prepare RFOs and NFOs to participate and engage effectively in the climate change negotiations in their respective countries and regions.

The seminar series will continue until 2024 and is open to the public. Three online seminars were organized in the last period:

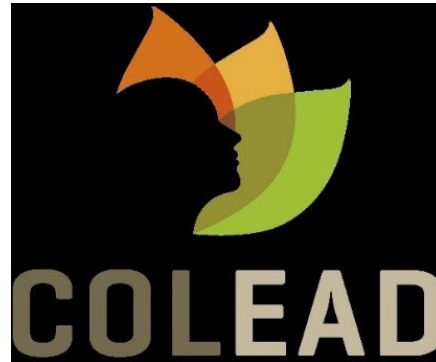
- *UNFCCC Capacity Building Webinar 8 : “National Determined Contributions (NDC)”*
- *UNFCCC Capacity Building Webinar 9 : “Loss and Damage Fund, Where Are We Now”?*
- *UNFCCC Capacity Building Webinar 10 : “Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) – What’s in it for you and your Farmers’ Organization?”*

[Project details](#)
[All Webinars](#)



PAFO - COLEAD INNOVATION SERIES

In the last quarter, three sessions were held as part of the Innovation Series, organized by PAFO and COLEAD:



- 17th Session "Innovations and successes of African farmer-led businesses and SMEs".
- 18th Session : " Innovations in packaging: opportunities for African entrepreneurs and SMEs".
- 19th Session: "Online agrifood marketplaces- Presence of African entrepreneurs and smallholder farmers".



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