



Panafrican farmers' organization
Organisation panafricaine des agriculteurs
المنظمة الإفريقية للفلاحين

NEWS LETTER

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This October, Rome will host the mid-term review of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming. This important event will provide a valuable opportunity to assess the progress made and to reaffirm our commitment to this fundamental initiative.

As President of PAFO, it is my responsibility to highlight not only our successes, but also the challenges that remain, while making a strong case for increased support for family farming. Since the launch of the Decade in 2019, we have made significant progress as family farming has been brought into the front burner in national, regional, continental and global discussions.

The emphasis on the fundamental role of family farming has led to greater recognition of its contribution to food security, environmental sustainability and economic stability. We have seen an increase in awareness and a gradual integration of family farming policies into national and regional strategies. However, it is crucial to consolidate these gains and to address the remaining challenges with renewed determination.

Family farming is the backbone of our food systems and rural economies as they contribute over 60% of the global food supply. Farming

families cultivate the land, preserve agricultural traditions and play a crucial role in the fight against hunger and poverty. However, they continue to face major obstacles: climate change, limited access to resources, and a lack of institutional support. These challenges compromise their ability to produce sustainably and meet the growing needs of our populations.

On the occasion of this mid-term review, I call on all stakeholders - governments, international organizations, development partners and the private sector - to step up their support for family farming. It is imperative to adopt appropriate policies, increase investment and improve infrastructure. We must fully recognize and value the role of family farmers in building resilient and sustainable food systems and they must be empowered to increase their incomes and livelihoods.

We have a unique opportunity in Rome to reaffirm our collective commitment to family farming. Let's turn this event into a starting point for concrete and decisive action. By working together, we can ensure a future where farming families are fully supported, their role recognized, their contributions valued and their conditions improved.

Word from Mr. Ibrahima Coulibaly

PAFO President



Towards a new FO4 Africa: Launch of consultations

The launch of the consultations for the new FO4 Africa program, scheduled for October 2024, marks a major turning point for African farmers' organizations. This crucial event paves the way for the co-design of a comprehensive framework program that will not only build on the successes of previous initiatives, but also respond specifically to the needs and challenges of farmers' organizations (FOs) across the African continent.

The consultations, to be held at the headquarters of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to actively participate in defining the strategic objectives, core components and indicators of success for this new program. These discussions will ensure that FO4 Africa accurately reflects the realities on the ground and is able to respond effectively to the current and future challenges facing farmers in Africa.

By directly involving stakeholders, this process aims to develop a program that is relevant, pragmatic and action-oriented, capable of providing concrete solutions to the complex challenges faced by FOs. In a context where agriculture and rural development are increasingly facing complex challenges such as climate change, resource sustainability and economic pressures, it is vital that this program provides FOs with the tools and resources they need to not only survive, but to thrive.

The aim is to create an enabling environment where FOs can adopt sustainable farming best practices and develop resilient business models to ensure their long-term sustainability and success.

We call on all stakeholders to actively participate in these consultations. Their input is essential to ensure that FO4 Africa is fully aligned with the real needs on the ground and can provide effective and sustainable support to FOs across the continent. Previous FO4 programs have achieved notable successes, but much remains to be done.

The progress made so far is worth the resources committed into the implementation of the FO4ACP, but also a reminder that the project need to be sustainable for more impact. With the continued commitment of all stakeholders, we are confident that FO4 Africa can maintain and even build on this positive momentum. Together, we can ensure that FOs are not just beneficiaries, but active partners and participants in Africa's sustainable development.

Through increased collaboration and recognition of farmers as a key stakeholder, we can build a prosperous and sustainable food systems and nutrition for Africa.

Editorial Dr. Babafemi, Oyewole

PAFO CEO

PAFO NEWS

PAFO EVENT TANZANIA



PAFO and its member networks met in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, from 15 to 19 July 2024 for a series of events. These included a workshop to support the implementation of a Pan-African platform for exchange between FOs, supported by FO4ACP, an organizational development (OD) workshop in partnership with AHA, and the second PAFO Board meeting for the year.

These events aim to strengthen PAFO's organizational and strategic capacity, while promoting collaboration and exchange of best practices among its members. The workshops provide valuable training and networking opportunities to support the sustainable development of farmers' organizations across the African continent.



PAFO SECOND BOARD MEETING



PAFO held its second **Board** meeting for the year **2024** on **July 19** in **Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania**. Discussions focused on the **strategic priorities** for the coming year, particularly the need to adapt programs to emerging challenges related to climate, markets, and agricultural policies. A central point of the meeting was the approval to develop the platform into a **"Panafrican Academy of Farmers."** This academy aims to enhance farmers' capacities by providing tailored training and resources, leveraging the experiences of members to promote **exchange and sharing of experiences** among peers. Furthermore, the Board validated an **action plan for organizational development (OD)**, which includes initiatives aimed at strengthening **PAFO's governance** according to **best international practices**. This plan is crucial for ensuring effective and transparent resource management, thereby fostering trust and collaboration among members.

[Read more](#)



PAFO FO EXCHANGE PLATFORM WORKSHOP



PAFO organized a workshop in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania on “Supporting the implementation of the Pan-African Farmers’ Organization Exchange Platform: Building Sustainable Exchange between FOs”. Supported by FO4ACP and AHA, the workshop brought together 31 participants, including PAFO leaders, executive secretaries of member networks, the 15 members of the Platform core and facilitation teams, and the PAFO Secretariat.

The exchange was very productive. The discussions enabled the identification of key strategic priorities to ensure the sustainability of the platform. Through this workshop, PAFO has laid the foundations for increased collaboration between African farmers’ organizations. By continuing to work together, participants aim to develop sustainable solutions that will enable organizations to have a more effective voice on agricultural issues, both nationally and internationally. A collective commitment to capacity building and knowledge sharing is essential to building a sustainable agricultural future in Africa.

[Read more about the workshop](#)

[Workshop Report](#)



ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP



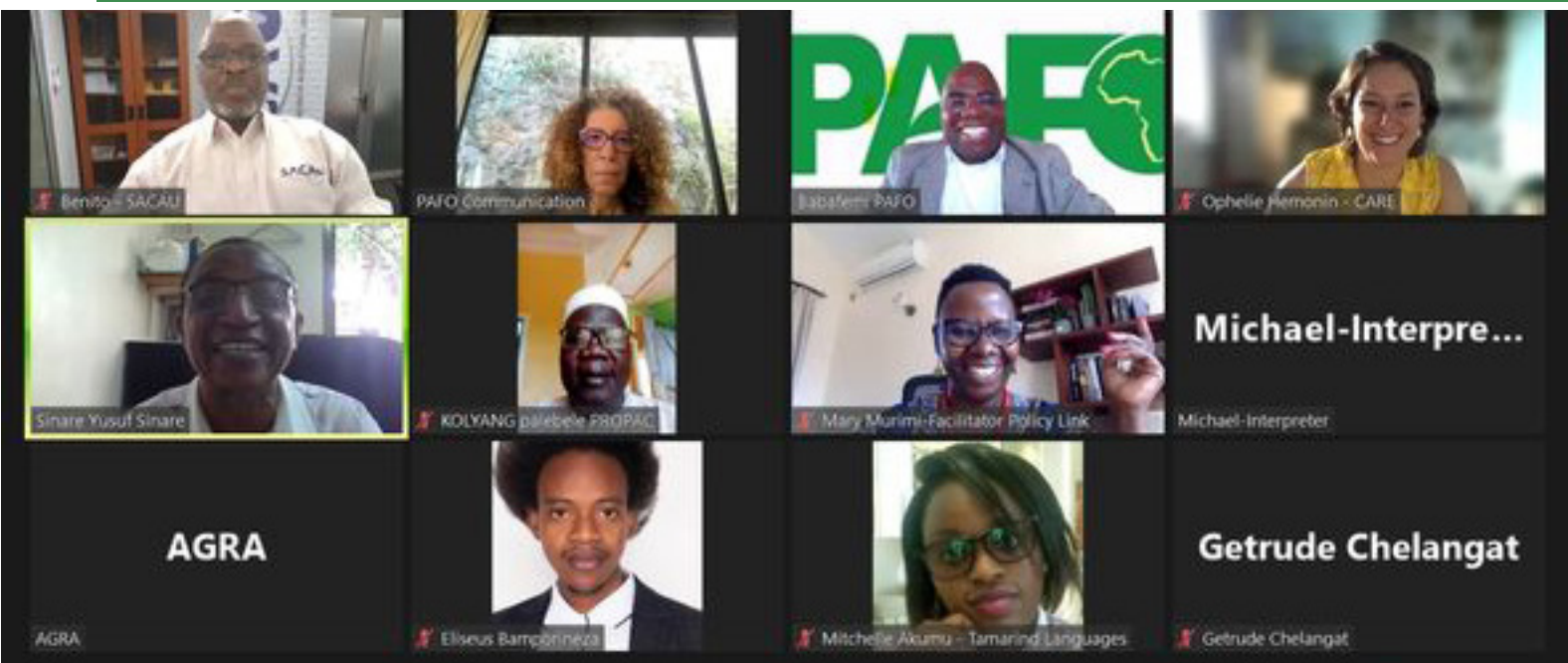
The leaders and CEOs of the PAFO member networks : **LEAFF, PROPAC, ROPPA, SACAU** and **UMNAGRI**, met in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, from 16 to 18 July for the final workshop of the first OD cycle. This face-to-face workshop is part of the Organizational Development (OD) project prepared by the Andreas Hermes Academy (AHA) under the **partnership agreement** between PAFO and AHA.



For three days, board members and CEOs from member networks focused on the internal challenges they face. The focus was on identifying solutions to overcome these obstacles, thereby ensuring greater effectiveness and impact of PAFO's initiatives. Since the start of the program, leaders and SEs have worked together to formulate a structured organizational development framework aimed at strengthening PAFO's institutional, operational and strategic capabilities.

[Read more](#)

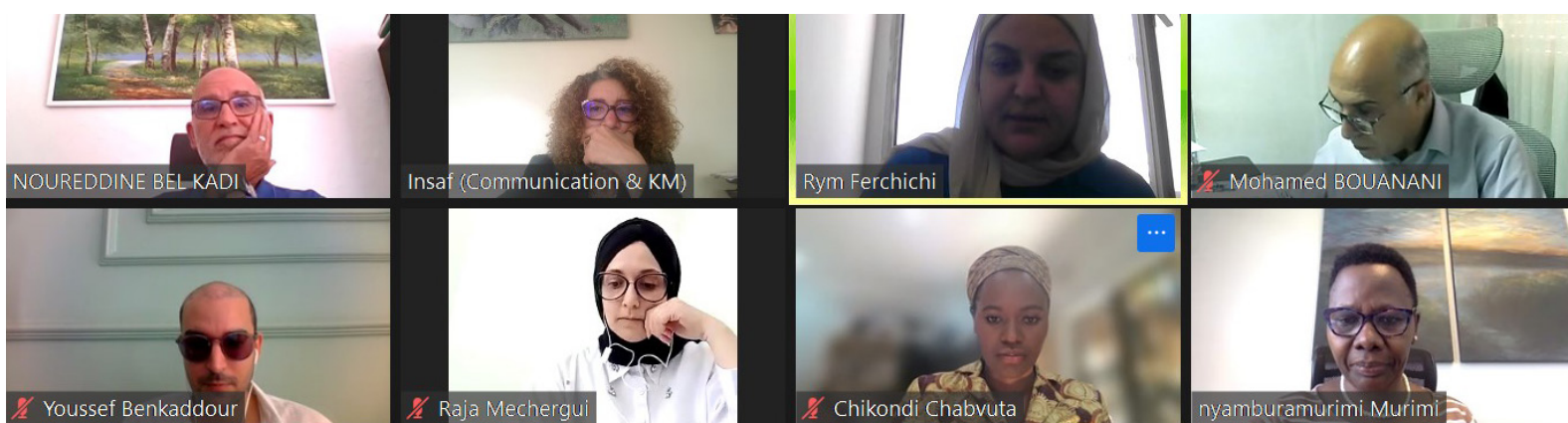
Post Malabo:PAFO INDEPENDENT MEMORANDUM



Post-Malabo Continental Consultation

The PAFO Independent Memorandum is the result of a series of consultations conducted by PAFO in collaboration with its regional member networks - EAFF, PROPAC, ROPPA, SACAUI and UMNAGRI - and with the support of AGRA, CARE and AKADEMIYA2063 - across the continent between 3 June and 3 July. Organized in English and French (with contributions in Portuguese and Arabic taken into account) to ensure the quality of the discussions and maximize participation, these consultations involved over 200 representatives of official national farmers' networks in more than 42 countries, representing very diverse geographical-ecological-climatic landscapes and a variety of types of agriculture, from subsistence to commercial, from farmers' organizations, family farmers and agro-ecological producers to export-oriented enterprises and large corporations.

PAFO Independent Memorandum



Consultation Post-Malabo- UMNAGRI



FARMERS FORUM (AFS 2024)



PAFO President opening Farmer's Forum

The African Food Systems Forum 2024 (AFS Forum), held at the **Kigali Convention Center** in **Rwanda** from September 2 to 6, 2024, brought together approximately 5,000 participants from over 70 countries under the theme **"Innovate, Accelerate, and Scale: Delivering Food Systems Transformation in a Digital and Climate Era"**. This landmark event gathered key representatives from governments, **the African Union (AU)**, **farmers' organizations (FOs)**, the private sector, and development partners. Various side events were organized to provide farmers with crucial information and connect them with financing opportunities. Among these was the **Farmers Forum**, organized by the **Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO)** in collaboration with **AGRA**. The main objective of the Forum is to provide smallholder farmers a platform and place them at the center of agricultural policy discussions in Africa.

Farmers forum highlights



PARTNERSHIPS

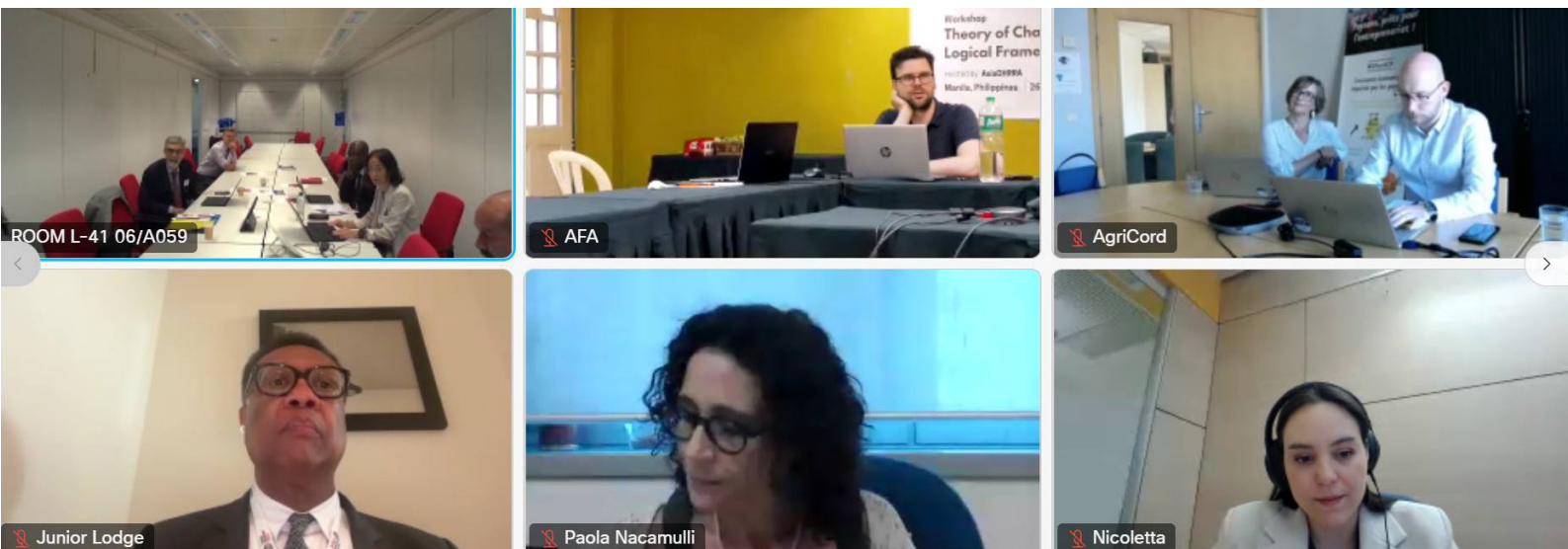
PAFO - EUROPEAN UNION



In the evolving landscape of international partnerships, the **European Union (EU)** and the **PAFO** are redefining their cooperation. **Nick Goetschalckx**, Policy Advisor at the **European Commission**, visited PAFO's headquarters in Kigali, Rwanda, to engage with PAFO's member networks. Discussions highlighted the need to improve **monitoring and evaluation (M&E)** and **coordination** of ongoing projects. Effective coordination between PAFO and its members is vital for maximizing the impact of agricultural initiatives. "Rigorous monitoring and effective coordination are key to achieving our common goals," added Goetschalckx. These enhancements will facilitate precise project evaluations and identify areas for adjustment.

[Read more](#)

KEY RESULTS & RECOMMENDATION - FO4 PROGRAMS EVALUATION



As part of a participatory and collaborative approach, the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** and the European Union presented the results of the joint impact evaluation of **support programs for farmers' organizations**, including the FO4A, FO4ACP, and FO4LA initiatives. This event, which brought together program beneficiaries, key stakeholders, and implementing partners, provided an in-depth assessment of the initiatives supported by these two institutions.

More Information



NEW FO4 AFRICAN PROGRAM CONSULTATIONS



From October 9th to 11th, 2024, the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** will host a series of strategic consultations in Rome to develop the new FO4 Africa program. This event will bring together representatives from farmers' organizations in Africa, the Pacific, and the Caribbean, as well as **Agricord**, to lay the groundwork for the framework program aimed at supporting these organizations. These consultations in Rome will focus on defining the strategic objectives of the new program, its components, and the common indicators to be used for measuring its impact. The discussions will build on the conclusions and recommendations from a recent evaluation of the **FO4ACP program**. This process is crucial to ensuring that the program effectively meets the needs of farmers' organizations, especially in a context where agricultural challenges are heightened by climate change and economic instability.

More information



NEW PROGRAM LEAFLET



AgriCord has published a detailed fact sheet on the **FO-RI program**, an agroecology research-action initiative characterized by its collaborative approach between farmers' organizations, research centers and agricultural agencies. The project, supported by AgriCord, aims to promote sustainable food systems through 13 initiatives in 17 countries in Africa, the Pacific, Latin America, Asia and the Caribbean, including countries such as Burkina Faso, Mali and Brazil. The program sheet provides information on the program's objectives and methodology, results and innovations, partnerships and collaborations. It also includes testimonials from farmers illustrating the positive impact of the proposed solutions, the outlook and lessons learned.

[New Program Leaflet](#)

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETING



Mme Katja Vuori, AGRICORD CEO

AgriCord continues to hold regular meetings of its Scientific Advisory Committee, which brings together experts from Africa, South America and Europe to discuss projects implemented under the FO-RI program. The scientific meetings aim to improve the action research approach for the benefit of farmers. The aim of these meetings is to analyze the results of 2023, provide methodological advice and make recommendations on knowledge capitalization and management initiatives.

[Read more](#)

AGRICORD





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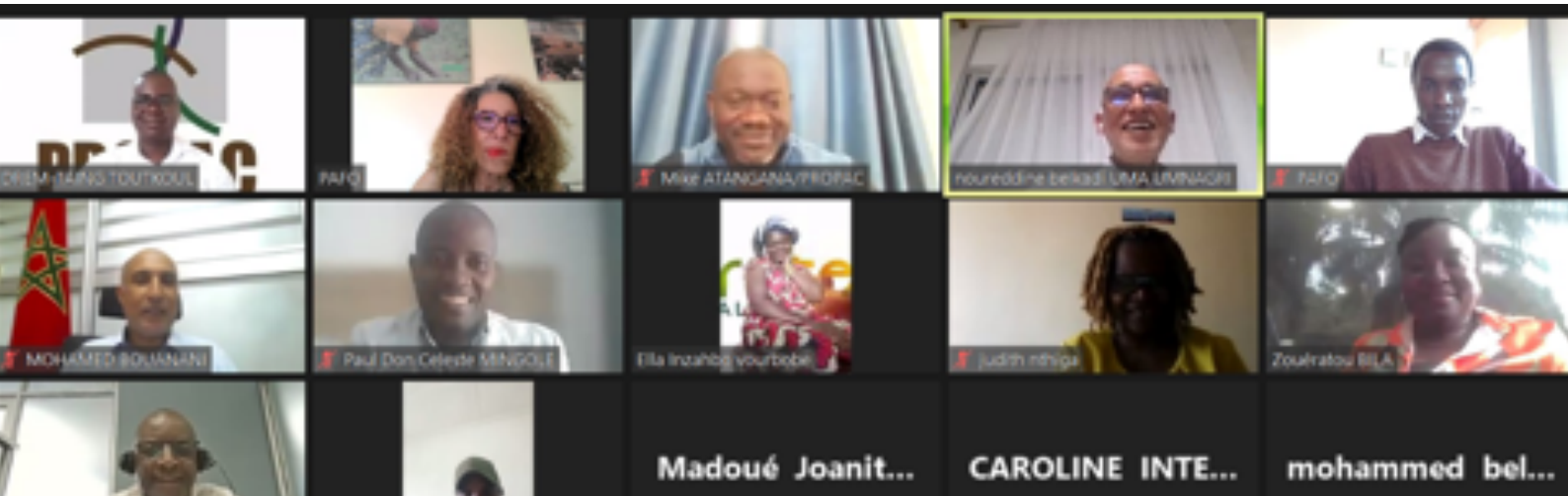


ANDREAS
HERMES
AKADEMIE



Deutscher
Bauernverband

PANAFRICAN FO EXCHANGE PLATFORM



Session 19: « SDGs , in Africa »

The FO exchange Platform continue online. The last two sessions were on “Climate Change: Disaster Preparedness” and ‘Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa”.

The Pan-African Platform FO Exchange Platform is a project implemented by PAFO in collaboration with AHA and funded by BMZ.

The Platform for Exchange between POs is a project implemented by PAFO in collaboration with AHA and with financial support from BMZ.

- **Session 18 : “Climate Change: Disaster Preparedness”, moderated by PROPAC-SACAU**
- **Session 19: “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in Africa”, moderated by PROPAC & UMNAGRI**
- **All sessions**

WOMEN FARMERS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

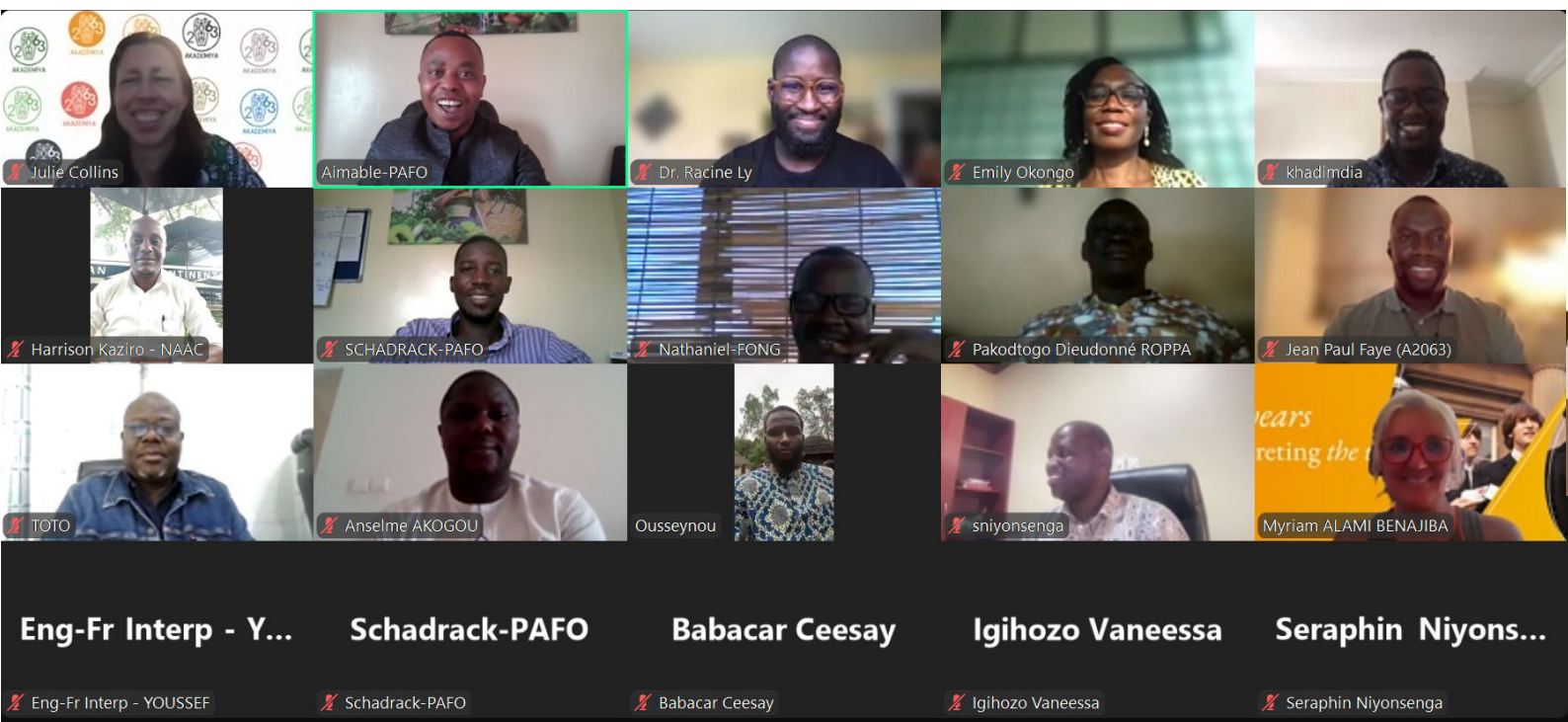


As part of the implementation of women activities which a cross-cutting activity in the Strategic Plan of PAFO, a strategic partnership was developed with **AHA** to develop the capacity of Fifteen rural women leaders from the five PAFO member networks and five rural women from the **German Association of Rural Women (dlv)** through participation in the second phase of the Leadership of Rural Women program. After a successful first phase in Germany, the exchange workshop between rural women from the two continents will take place in Kigali. The aim of the 'Promoting Rural Women's Participation in Decision-Making' program, implemented by PAFO-**AHA** in cooperation with the German Rural Women's Association (dlv), is to create pan-African role models for the empowerment of women in agricultural associations and farmers' organizations and to put them on the continent's agenda. Rural women leaders from Africa and Germany will meet in Kigali for a 5-day training workshop (18-22 October 2024). They will also have the opportunity to share their experiences of leading farmers' organizations and their knowledge of advocacy.

Article about the project

DERPIN PROJECT MEETING

Reassessing Progress in Ghana and Uganda



The last meeting between PAFO - AKADEMIYA2063 marked an important milestone in the development of the DERPIn project being implemented in Ghana and Uganda. The meeting provided an opportunity to assess progress, discuss next steps and highlight the importance of regular information sharing and rigorous planning to overcome challenges. Discussions also focused on coordinating efforts and adapting strategies to local realities, as well as clarifying the roles of each stakeholder to maximize the impact of interventions.

Among the other key issues discussed was the importance of promoting gender equality, with an emphasis on the equal participation of women in all phases of the project. Improved communication at all levels was identified as crucial to the success of the project, as was the identification of innovative solutions to strengthen the resilience of food systems to climate shocks. With the support of key partners such as the German Development Bank (BMZ) and the Fund for the Promotion of Innovation in Agriculture (i4Ag), DERPIn is well on its way to achieving its ambitious goals thanks to ongoing collaboration and an innovative approach.

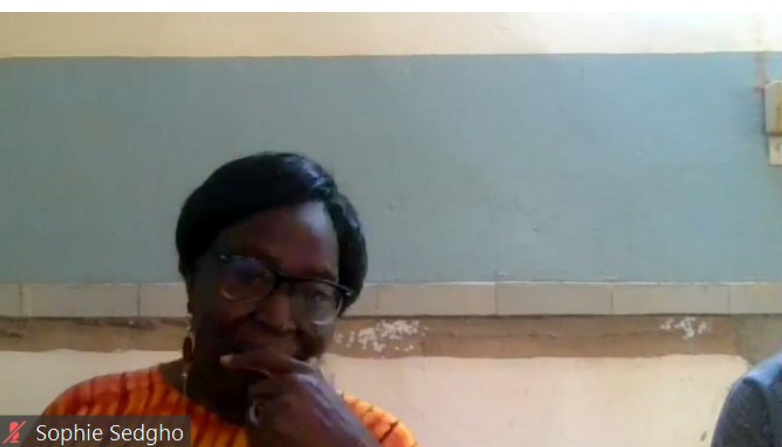
Project details

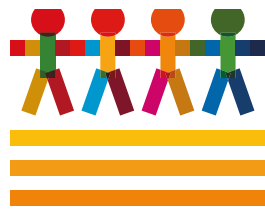




In 2024, PAFO - COLEAD continued to organize online innovation sessions, bringing together thousands of participants on a variety of topics. These sessions dealt with :

- **Session 17 : "Potential of African regional markets: Successes from SMEs and Smallholders".**
- **Session 18: "Innovations in packaging: opportunities for African entrepreneurs and SMEs".**
- **Session 19 : "Online agrifood marketplaces: presence of African entrepreneurs and smallholders".**
- **Session 20 : "Successful agroecological practices by farmers and SMEs in Africa".**





United Nations Decade of **FAMILY FARMING** 2019-2028



From October 15 to 18, 2024, Rome will be the center of a crucial strategic reflection on the future of family farming. The **World Food Forum**, organized by the **FAO**, will bring together experts, partners, and key stakeholders to discuss essential topics such as investment, youth, technology, and innovation. One of the key moments will be the mid-term review of the **United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNdff)**, launched in 2019. This strategic assessment, titled "Global Forum on Family Farming: UNdff 2019-28 Mid-Term Review," will highlight achievements, ongoing challenges, and the necessary adjustments to maximize the impact of family farming over the next five years. This review will also emphasize the crucial role of family farming in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

[Read more](#)



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