



Newsletter Number 01 | July 2020

Special Covid-19

PAFO's renewed commitment to Farmers Organizations and Farmers



Message from Elizabeth Nsimadala PAFO President

PAFO and its members (EAFF, PROPAC, ROPPA, SACAU & UMNAGRI) have been closely monitoring the harmful impacts of Covid-19. Impacts that have affected family farmers and the agricultural sectors not only in Africa but globally. However, as farmers, we never stopped working. We are in the front line to continue to feed the population and to feed Africa, even under lockdown. PAFO quickly adopted the new form of remote working. It continued its activities and honored its commitments towards African Farmers organizations and its partners.

From the beginning of the pandemic, PAFO reaffirmed its commitment to support African farmers. It has activated itself, in collaboration with regional member networks and its partners, to provide responses to the crisis implications.

This 1st PAFO Newsletter will go into details on PAFO initiatives and actions during the crisis period. This is a first edition but which will henceforth be a quarterly release to tell PAFO stories through what it undertakes.

I conclude by expressing my gratitude to the farmers working in difficult conditions: the urgency for us is to improve our livelihood in the long term. Every family farmer, big or small, Young or old, needs our support, our voice and our fight for a vibrant, prosperous and sustainable African agriculture that ensures food security and food sovereignty on our continent.



Editorial By Fatma Ben Rejeb CEO

In recent weeks, readers have already seen the impact of COVID-19. This Editorial is intended as a reminder to briefly address these challenges.

As regards of livelihoods: lack of cash-flow, increased debts, lower incomes, difficulty to access markets, loss of non-agricultural activities, etc. At the production level: lack of seasonal workers, lack of inputs, loss of livestock, worsening of the access to finance, disruption of the extension and overall agricultural services, reduction of agricultural productivity, etc.

At the post-production level: loss of value chain continuity, fluctuation in food and input prices have exacerbated the financial stress. At the global social level: food insecurity, poverty, unemployment, etc.

However, this pandemic linked to other prior challenges does not only expose us to our weaknesses but shows us our strengths and the opportunities that we must seize.

Political will and commitment are necessary with new strategies: decentralization, enhancing local governance and economy, including resource mobilization, focus on local value-chains and food systems to strengthen self-sufficiency and local food resilience, scaling of demand-driven innovations and farmer-led research linked to their needs and based, among others, on their knowledge and resilience capacities, adoption of rapid and efficient financial tools for the agricultural sectors, etc. are all fundamental for a rapid recovery of economies.

More than ever, African capacities and wealth as well as regional and continental integration are essential. The overall goal is to achieve resilient farming systems. Farmers' organizations should be seen as full partners an should be involved to achieve the expected results.



PAFO ensures the continuity of its actions

PAFO certifies the commitment and responsibility of African farmers to continue feeding Africa



The Pan-African Farmers Organization (PAFO) and its member organizations, namely: Eastern African Farmers Federation (EAFF), Plateforme Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale (PROPAC), Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA), Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), and Union Maghrébine et Nord-Africaine des Agriculteurs (UMNAGRI), are aware about the exceptional coronavirus situation spreading in the world and since last two weeks in Africa. Our sincere condolences to the families who have lost loved ones to this pandemic and our quick recovery prayers to the hospitalised.

In addition to the front lines of our "white" soldiers who provide medical and paramedical care to our fellow citizens, our farmers, the "green" soldiers of our Nations are on the front line to avoid food shortages and will ensure food security in this time of crisis.

The agricultural sector is a priority sector and the family farmers' production system and supply of food products is an absolute priority during this period. African farmers have always been and will always be engaged and responsible for the continuity of the food production chain from their farm level.

African farmers are aware of their responsibility and intend to accomplish their mission while fully respecting the protection framework put in place by Governments. We will continue participating in creating awareness on control measures using different media platforms, double our efforts in on-farm activities to produce more food, supply the available markets and feed Africa.

In continuation of its mission and commitment, PAFO has concentrated its efforts with its partners in order to provide urgent responses to the Covid-19

Farmers Organizations for ACP (FO4ACP)

With the support of IFAD, PAFO and Agricorn decided to adjust the FO4ACP program, co-funded by ACP-EU and IFAD, in order to provide urgent responses to the impact of Covid-19.

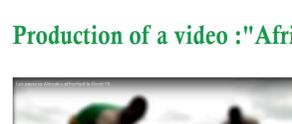
It is in this context that the FO4ACP continuity plan was developed, in consultation with the partners. The COVID-19 crisis will give way to a global economic crisis that will overwhelm already weakened agricultural and rural development sectors on the one hand and reduce development funds on the other. The partners intend to anticipate the consequences that would inure to the African farmers' organizations by developing a strategy and an action plan for strengthening and reviving FO4ACP activities.

The project allows to measure the situation of Farmers and agricultural businesses during the crisis and to analyze at both national and regional levels the impact of COVID19. The regional studies and their consolidation at the continental level will allow to anticipate post-COVID expectations and needs and to set up reinforced and targeted advocacy.

The first FO4ACP continental coordination meeting in Africa was held in June, by video-conference, with the participation of PAFO, its five member networks, Agricorn and its agriagencies members as well as technical and financial partners. The meeting focused on the presentation of coordination efforts between farmers' organizations and agriagencies in Africa, as well as actions in response to COVID-19 within the framework of FO4ACP or through other partnerships.



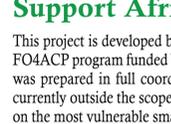
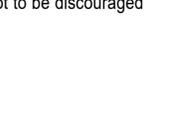
Production of a video : "African Farmers Face Covid-19"



Production of a mini-documentary "African Farmers Face Covid-19", with the support of the FO4ACP program, in which African farmers evoke the difficulties and challenges generated by Covid-19 and which seriously hamper their work. It also highlights their determination and their will not to give up, not to be discouraged and to continue to feed Africa. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXOUh6ROMw8>)

Support African Farmers in 2020 Emergency (SAFE 2020)

This project is developed by PAFO, its member networks, Agricorn and its member agriagencies, all involved in the FO4ACP program funded by ACP-EU/IFAD. The SAFE 2020 project completes the FO4ACP continuity plan which was prepared in full coordination between all the partners. SAFE 2020 will finance emergency activities that are currently outside the scope of FO4ACP, or for which the funds available are not sufficient to face Covid-19's impacts on the most vulnerable smallholder farmers in Africa.



The signature of the MoU between the PAFO President and the General Delegate of COLEACP

PAFO-COLEACP partnership

PAFO and COLEACP signed an Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding, previously engaged, to meet the additional challenges generated by the pandemic on agriculture in Africa. Both parties are determined to actively contribute to providing urgent responses to COVID-19 and its impacts on family farmers and all operators in the value chains. PAFO and COLEACP are aware of the urgency to strengthening national food production and distribution systems in African countries. In the short term, this means supporting the protection of the health and safety of producers and workers, safeguarding livelihoods as well as food and nutrition security.

The PAFO-COLEACP partnership action plan is not only intended to respond to the COVID-19 impact. The planned actions are intended to be sustainable and the activities combine technical support, digital solutions, joint advocacy and fundraising.

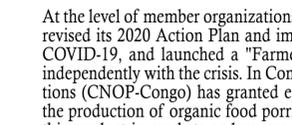
News from networks member



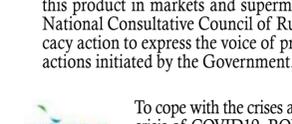
PROPAC has implemented a number of activities to limit the spread of the virus in the subregion. At the Executive Secretariat's level, PROPAC organized information and awareness-raising sessions for cassava processing cooperatives in Cameroon and the DRC on the importance of scrupulous compliance with hygienic rules. The disinfection of the Secretariat offices was part of the fight against COVID-19.



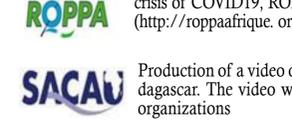
At the level of member organizations, the Confédération Paysanne du Congo (COPACO) revised its 2020 Action Plan and implemented an intervention strategy during and after COVID-19, and launched a "Farmer's Basket" fund to enable the DRC farms to cope independently with the crisis. In Congo, the National Concertation of Farmers' Organizations (CNOP-Congo) has granted economic support to a youth cooperative to increase the production of organic food porridge for infants in order to overcome the shortage of this product in markets and supermarkets of the country during the crisis. In Chad, the National Consultative Council of Rural Producers of Chad (CNCPR) initiated an advocacy action to express the voice of producers so that farmers are specifically considered in actions initiated by the Government. (<https://infopropac.org/>).



To cope with the crises affecting West African farming and the systemic crisis of COVID19, ROPPA has set up a Monitoring and Action Committee. (<http://roppaafrique.org/IMG/pdf/roppaas-160420-1.pdf>)



Production of a video on the impact of COVID-19 on family farming in Madagascar. The video was produced by FIFATA, one of SACAU's member organizations



UMNAGRI has set up a listening and advice unit in coordination with its member organizations. Initiatives have been adopted to facilitate the mobilization of inputs and coordination between actors in the sector. As health security is a priority, UMNAGRI has worked to identify and send protective devices to the field.



PAFO cited by post-Cotonou negotiators



Robert Dussey, Togolese Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Togolese abroad: « How to redefine a new strategy for the ACP countries »

"Fortunately, intra-ACP cooperation is at work. As witness the initiatives and measures taken by the organization in collaboration with the Pana African Farmers Organization (PAFO) against the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic on agricultural production and food supply systems...". (<https://magazinedelafrique.com/politique/robert-dussey-comment-redefinir-une-nouvelle-strategie-pour-les-pays-ACP/>)

The PAFO finalizes the recruitment of its Staff

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