

TERMS OF REFERENCE(ToR)

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STUDY ON "THE IMPACT OF AGROECOLOGY ON AFRICAN

Pan African Farmers Organization (PAFO)

Panfrican farmers' organization
Organisation panafricaine des agriculteurs
المنظمة الإفريقية للفلاحين

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1. Introduction

Agroecology is a holistic and integrated approach that applies ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of sustainable agriculture and food systems. It seeks to optimize the interactions between plants, animals, humans, and the environment while addressing the need for socially equitable food systems. Research shows that agroecology has emerged as a viable response to the challenges facing Africa's agricultural and food systems.

The current context of crises offers an opportunity to accelerate the change toward building agricultural models capable of responding sustainably to environmental emergencies and food price surges. The challenge of agroecology is to support the development of sustainable food systems in territories based on their demands, potential, and know-how.

A key constraint to the use of agroecology on the African continent is that the knowledge of farmers on the benefits and opportunities of applying agroecological practices is still inadequate. The continent also faces constraints such as land degradation, climate change, population growth, conflicts, political instability, and poverty. Decision-making efforts are insufficient to support the agroecological transition with farmers being excluded from the policy development process.

In that regard, previously PAFO conducted a continental study on [**"Exploring the Potential of Farmers' Organizations for Agroecology: Opportunities and Challenges"**](#) to identify and understand the situation of agroecology on the African continent. The study result was presented in the workshop that took place in Tunisia. The PAFO general assembly was satisfied with the findings but also recommended the secretariat of PAFO to **conduct another study on the impact of agroecology on African agriculture.**

Conducting a study on the impact of agroecology on African agriculture is crucial because it will address both the environmental and socio-economic challenges faced by the continent. Agroecology promotes sustainable farming practices that enhance soil fertility, conserve water, and increase biodiversity, which are essential for improving agricultural productivity and resilience in the face of climate change. In Africa, where many communities rely heavily on agriculture for their livelihoods and are increasingly affected by environmental degradation and erratic weather patterns, understanding how agroecology can enhance food security, boost local economies, and preserve natural resources is vital. This research will provide evidence-based strategies to support farmers, inform policy decisions, and foster more sustainable agricultural systems that benefit both people and the planet.

2. Overview of PAFO

PAFO was created in October 2010 by its constituent assembly under the sponsorship of the African Union. This constitutive assembly was the culmination of a process begun several years ago in collaboration with the five regional networks of Farmers' Organizations. PAFO is recognized as the representative body of African farmers' organizations at the highest continental level, based in Kigali. It brings the voice of 80 million African farmers integrated into nearly 70 national organizations, unions, federations, cooperatives, associations, etc., present in almost 50 African countries, and united in five regional networks: The East African Farmer Organization (EAFF); the Regional Platform of farmer organizations from Central Africa (PROPAC); The Network of farmers Organization and Agricultural Producers of West Africa (ROPFA); The Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) and the Maghreb and North African Union of Farmers (UMNAGRI). For more information about Pan-African Farmers Organization, please visit: <https://www.pafo-africa.org>

3. Study Objectives

3.1 General objective

The study aims to provide a holistic understanding of how agroecology can transform African agriculture, address current challenges, and promote sustainable development across the continent.

3.2 Specific Objectives

- **Analyze Environmental Impacts:** Investigate how agroecology affects environmental factors such as soil fertility, water conservation, biodiversity, and resilience to climate change. This includes measuring changes in ecosystem health and resource sustainability.
- **Evaluate Socio-Economic Outcomes:** Examine the impact of agroecology on the livelihoods of farmers, including improvements in income, food security, and access to markets. Assess how agroecological practices contribute to poverty reduction and social equity.
- **Identify Barriers and Opportunities:** Identify the key constraints and challenges faced by farmers in adopting agroecological practices, including knowledge gaps, policy constraints, and resource limitations. Also, explore the opportunities for scaling up agro ecology in different regions.

- **Provide Evidence-Based Recommendations:** Develop actionable recommendations for policymakers, farmer organizations, and other stakeholders to support the effective implementation and scaling of agroecological practices. This includes suggestions for policy adjustments, capacity-building, and support mechanisms.
- **Promote Knowledge Sharing and Policy Advocacy:** Highlight successful models and practices that can be replicated or adapted to different contexts within Africa.

4. Requirements, duties and Scope

4.1 Requirements

The Independent consultant/Private consulting firm/company should have the following minimum qualifications to spearhead this assignment:

- To be African citizen (Independent consultant or Managing Director in case of firm/company), residing in Africa is a plus
- Relevant academic background (post graduate qualification(s) as a minimum) in Research, agro ecological studies, environment policy, Public Policy, governance, Development studies, international development or related fields
- Demonstrated practical experiences (at least 5 years) in carrying out similar assignments related fields for Farmers organizations is a plus
- Having strong analytical, facilitation and communication skills.
- Having good understanding of critical issues and challenges in Agro ecology, African agriculture sector and Farmers organizations in particular impact of agro ecology impact
- Good understanding of Farmers organizations management,
- Excellent writing and presentation skills
- Being bilingual (English and French) is a plus
- Ability to work efficiently and deliver on committed outputs under the assignment within the agreed timeline and budget.

4.2 Duties

The expertise is under the direct supervision of the Chief Executive Officer of PAFO who may appoint technical staff/team to assist. The expected duties and responsibilities, among others, will comprise:

- Conduct research,
- Collaborate with the PAFO team to collect data from regional networks,
- Consolidate and synthesize research findings,
- Develop a study report and data visualizations for PAFO and its Regional Networks members.
- Develop a common position paper from the study outcomes.
- Proactively identify and propose alternatives to improve the performance and accuracy of the data.

4.3 Scope

Deliverables	Submission Timelines	Payment Schedule
4.3.1 Draft the study report	30 working days	40%
4.3.2 Prepare the final study report	10 working days	0%
4.3.3 Present the study's main findings and facilitate the workshop to elaborate a common position paper	20 working days	0%
4.3.4 To prepare the final document of the common position which will be validated by the PAFO Board	10 working days	60%
TOTALS	60 days	100%

Note: Details about the assignments terms and conditions, will be incorporated in the contract award which will be given to the best applicant. The timelines can be discussed and adjusted based on various factors.

5. The financial requirements

The expert is required to provide the total cost of his/her expertise on this mission. PAFO reserves the right to negotiate the financial offer of the selected consultant.

6. Conduct the mission

The expert will use a desk review and interviews with farmers' organizations members of PAFO and other relevant stakeholders. The interventions will require

virtual exchange with PAFO Secretariat and member networks facilitated by the PAFO Secretariat. The study will cover the African Continent and be conducted in targeted countries that will be identified in collaboration with regional networks.

The service will be the subject of a contract based on the price offer submitted and the terms of reference for the assignment. It will be issued in duplicate and signed by both parties. The working languages will be French and English depending on the country and the regional organization concerned.

7. Applications process

Submission deadline: 30th September 2024.

Submission: Applications are accepted only by email headed "Expertise to conduct a study on Agro ecology"; sent to ceo@pafo-africa.org and copy program@pafo-africa.org, finance@pafo-africa.org, communication@pafo-africa.org, info@pafo-africa.org; and assistant@pafo-africa.org

Documents to be submitted as attachments should be only PDF documents:

- Cover letter including the financial offer;
- Technical and financial proposals stating the methodology to be used for the mission
- Resume;
- Professional references, publications and any other relevant supporting documents
- All documents will be put together in one PDF document which will be attached to the emails. No more documents will be attached, only one.

8. Evaluation, Confidentiality and copyright

PAFO Team will conduct internal evaluation of all applications. Only short-listed applicants will be conducted in necessary for additional documents. If necessary, the interview will be organized. The evaluation will focus on: qualifications, similar experiences, communication skills, the expert agrees to the confidential nature of the study and the findings of his mission. PAFO owns the rights to all of the materials that will be produced under this research.

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