



Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs Agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest
(<http://www.roppa.info/>)

National members:

- PNOPPA, Benin
- CPF, Burkina Faso
- NACOFAG, Gambia
- FONG, Ghana
- CNOP-G, Guinea
- QCOFGB, Guinea Bissau
- ANOPACI, Ivory Coast
- CNOP-M, Mali
- PFP-N, Niger
- CNCR, Senegal
- NAFSL, Sierra Leone
- CTOP, Togo

Ouagadougou

Yaounde

Nairobi

Pretoria



PROPAC

Plateforme Sous-Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale

National members:

- UNACA, Angola
- CNOP-Burundi, Burundi
- CNOP-CAM, Cameroon
- CNOP-CAF, Central African Republic
- CNCPRT, Chad
- COPACO PRP, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- FENOGE, Equatorial Guinea
- CNOP Gabon, Gabon
- CNOP Congo, Republic of the Congo
- FENAPA, Sao Tomé and Principe



Eastern African Farmers Federation
(<http://eaffu.org/>)

National members:

- CAPAD, Burundi
- COOCENKI, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- FOPAC, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- LOFEPACO, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- SYDIP, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Djibouti Breeders Association, Djibouti
- NCEW, Eritrea
- Oromia Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union, Ethiopia
- CAK, Kenya
- KENFAP, Kenya
- IMBARAGA, Rwanda
- INGABO, Rwanda
- ACT, United Republic of Tanzania
- MVIWATA, United Republic of Tanzania
- TFC, United Republic of Tanzania
- NUCAFE, Uganda
- UCA, Uganda
- UNFFE, Uganda



Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions
(<http://www.sacau.org/>)

National members:

- BAU, Botswana
- LENAFU, Lesotho
- CPM, Madagascar
- FEKRITAMA, Madagascar
- FUM, Malawi
- NASFAM, Malawi
- NAU, Namibia
- SEYFA, Seychelles
- AGRISA, South Africa
- NAFU, South Africa
- SNAU, Swaziland
- ACT, United Republic of Tanzania
- ZNFU, Zambia
- CFU, Zimbabwe
- ZFU, Zimbabwe

National farmers' organizations in blue are receiving direct financial support from SFOAP

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Support to Farmers' Organizations in Africa Programme (SFOAP) 2009-2012



A partnership to build the capacity of smallholder organizations in sub-Saharan Africa



This project is funded by the European Commission



Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty

Background

June - August 2007

The representatives of the four regional networks open dialogue with the EC to receive funding support

November 2007 - November 2008

IFAD, FAO, CTA and the four regional networks negotiate the agreement with the EC for their financial support

December 2008 - January 2009

Signature of the EC-IFAD agreement to channel funds to the four regional networks: SFOAP becomes effective

March - June 2009

Detailed regional and national programming is undertaken through a participatory process of consultation among the organizations in Africa. A total of 40 workshops take place, 34 at the national level, 4 at the regional level, and 2 at the continental level

June 2009

The programme is launched with a start-up workshop held in Johannesburg

July - December 2009

National, regional and pan-African activities begin

Strength in numbers

Strong farmers' organizations can help smallholder farmers, pastoralists and fishers play a role in the market economy and benefit from it. Cooperation among rural producers improves their access to finance, technology, land and water, and to local, national and international markets. It allows for economies of scale and stronger bargaining power in value chains. It increases their capacity to manage resources and to collectively influence policy and development programmes.

Today, there are tens of thousands of grassroots farmers' organizations across Africa. Most play a dual role: as producers' groups or cooperatives they provide services to their members and they represent their members' interests with other stakeholders, including business partners, development projects and agricultural policy makers. Many grassroots farmers' organizations set up local federations or unions that are joined to national umbrella organizations. These umbrella organizations set up four regional networks in sub-Saharan Africa: Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF), Plateforme Sous-Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale (PROPAC), Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs Agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA), and Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU).

Providing support from the ground up

The Support to Farmers' Organizations in Africa Programme (SFOAP) was initiated in 2009 to provide assistance to membership-based farmers' organizations in sub-Saharan Africa.

The programme strengthens the institutional capacity of these organizations, and helps them have a greater say in agricultural development policy and programmes.

SFOAP is the first continental programme in Africa to be initiated by the four regional farmers' organization networks, EAFF, PROPAC, ROPPA and SACAU, providing support from the ground up. The objectives and activities are entirely defined and implemented by national farmers' organizations and by each regional network.

The programme currently supports 55 national organizations, their regional networks, and the Pan-African Farmers Forum (PAFFO).

Programme financing and partners

IFAD supervises and finances the programme, while the EC provides its funding through IFAD. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) provide additional support. The programme is endowed with €6.1 million: the EC contributes €5 million from 2009-2011, and IFAD provides €1.1 million from 2010-2012. (See chart 2).

Chart 1 – Use of funds

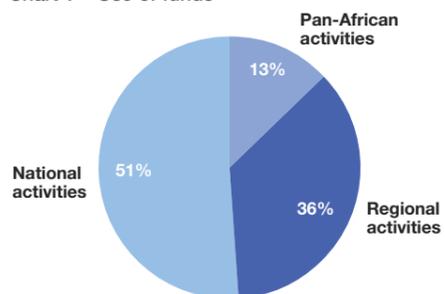
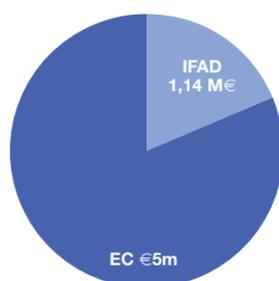


Chart 2 – Donors' contributions



A toolbox for building capacity

SFOAP activities are organized around capacity building and involvement in policy processes. (See chart 3)

The capacity building component provides farmers' organizations with:

- strategic tools such as constitutional texts and membership databases
- staff, equipment and resources
- training and expertise
- consultations and communication
- support to the Pan-African Farmers Forum

The component on policy processes helps farmers' organizations:

- produce policy studies and analyses
- promote meetings to forge common policy positions
- carry out advocacy and lobbying activities
- support the monitoring of policy implementation

SFOAP is guided by a set of key principles:

- **ownership:** organizations define objectives and activities, and are responsible for implementation
- **sustainability:** organizations more capable of mobilizing resources
- **coherence:** coordination and consultation between national and regional levels are maintained to develop synergies and generate stronger impact
- **flexibility:** if opportunities or unforeseen constraints emerge during implementation, the programme can be adapted to achieve its objectives
- **gender mainstreaming:** women's quotas are established and a focus on women's leadership is at the core of the programme.

SFOAP achievements to date

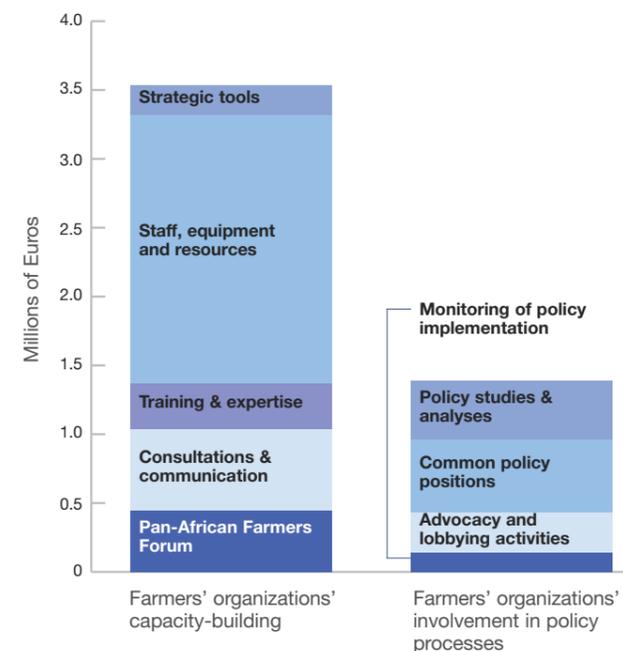
Increased management capacity: At the national level, 18 organizations have secured staff for day-to-day management and financial accounting. In Gambia, Ghana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Seychelles, Sierra Leone and Swaziland, farmers' organizations recruited and paid salaries of professional staff for the first time in their history. In Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Republic of the Congo and Swaziland, organizations recruited financial accounting staff.

Accountability of farmers' organizations to their base: the development of 18 Constitutional texts, manuals of procedures and institutional profiling, 9 member data bases and 8 strategic plans strengthened the corporate governance of national and regional farmers' organizations. In addition, the organization of 34 governing meetings and 72 consultation events among farmers' organizations reinforced linkages between the leadership and the membership base of both regional and national farmers' organizations.

Formulation of policy positions: EAFF and SACAU carried out evidence-based studies on land issues in their regions and launched policy discussions among their members and other stakeholders. EAFF and ROPPA launched a study on adaptation to climate change, and in August 2010 EAFF declared its policy position on measures needed to support small farmers to adapt to climate change.

Farmers' organizations as players in policy processes: African farmers' organizations launched their first continental forum (PAFFO) in close collaboration with the African Union. Regional networks have further consolidated their position as counterparts of the Regional Economic Communities and other institutions. For example, EAFF attained observer status in the East African Community, and the President of EAFF was elected the Chair of the Board of the Alliance for Common Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa. In Central Africa, PROPAC negotiated with the Central African Economic and Monetary Community to become its institutional partner.

Chart 3 – SFOAP activities



SFOAP in brief

Budget: €6.1 million (US\$8.1 million)

Donors: EC (€5 million), IFAD (US\$1.5 million)

Period: 2009-2012

Supervising agency: IFAD

Partners: FAO, CTA

Executing agencies: ROPPA, EAFF, PROPAC, SACAU

National farmers' organizations: 55

Countries involved: 38

Steering Committee members:

EAFF, PROPAC, ROPPA, SACAU, PAFFO and IFAD. EC, FAO and CTA have observer status.