

1st African Continental Policy Briefing

Envisioning the future of African agriculture and the renewed role of farmer's organizations

3-5 December 2013, Yaoundé, Cameroun

Organized by the Panafrican Farmer's Organisations (PAFO), the ACP-EU Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), African Union Commission (AUC)

This Briefing is linked to the Brussels Briefings organized by the CTA, EC/DGDEVCO, ACP Group and Concord every two months on key issues related to agriculture in ACP countries http://brusselsbriefings.net

Background Note

1. Context

Food production must clearly increase significantly to meet the future demands of a growing and more affluent world population. Considering the number of people starving worldwide - 925 million in 2012 – and the growing population – 9 billion people by 2050. Food demand and food production will be shaped by this demographic factor and by increasing levels of urbanization: by 2050, 70% of world population will live in urban area. Feeding this population will entail and substantial increase of food production of over 70% from 2007 to 2050, cereals (for human and animal feed) will be among the main demanded food crop. The increasing demand for food production will require an increase pressure on natural resources such as land and water if not improvement in productivity through agro ecological practices and improved inputs. Agriculture is critical to the food security of many Africans. Much of the population still lives in rural areas and most Africans farm: it is a key source of income, central to livelihoods. Agricultural development has the potential to reduce poverty and hunger, since it generates incomes for farmers and all those who work in agricultural and food chains providing inputs, transporting, storing and processing agricultural produce. Moreover, in domestic markets that are often isolated from world markets by distance and high transport costs, producing more food can help reduce the real cost of food to the benefit of the poor.²

After years of neglect, many African countries are pursuing efforts to rapidly modernise their agricultural sector, as it is seen as a vital contributor to economic growth, food security and poverty reduction. Consequently, new policies and public and private initiatives are focusing on promoting increased and sustainable food production, with farmers' organizations being portrayed as key catalysts in these processes.³

Agriculture remains a key sector for African's countries' economies. According to estimates from the World Bank, agriculture employs 65% of African labor force and counts for 32 percent

² Helping Africa to Feed Itself: Promoting Agriculture to Reduce Poverty and Hunger. Steve Wiggins and Henri Leturque. 2010

¹ FAO, 2009 'Global agriculture towards 2050'

³ John Thompson, Amdissa Teshome, David Hughes, Ephraim Chirwa and John Omiti . Challenges and Opportunities for Strengthening Farmers Organisations in Africa: Lessons from Ethiopia, Kenya

of gross domestic products. Furthermore, agriculture has a key potential role to play on poverty reduction, malnutrition and employment creation. According to FAO 'the role of agricultural growth in poverty reduction is greater than its impact on economic growth. This is due especially to the larger share of people working in agriculture than the share of economic output that comes from agriculture [...]. Provided income inequality is not excessive, agricultural growth reduces poverty among the poorest of the poor. In resource-poor low-income countries (excluding sub-Saharan Africa), a given rate of GDP growth due to agricultural growth reduces poverty five times more than does an identical dose of GDP growth due to non-agricultural growth. In sub-Saharan Africa, agricultural growth is 11 times more effective. Thus, raising agricultural production and productivity remains crucial for reducing poverty in a cost effective manner, especially in low-income countries'.⁴

Farmers' organisations (FOs) are increasingly being asked to play a central role in driving agricultural transformation processes in Sub-Saharan Africa, despite their mixed record of success. Farmers organization have become more and more involved in the design and implementation of policies and donors' programmes. Among the relevant issues there is also the role national states and international donors can play in supporting farmers organizations and their structural weaknesses. Private sector has become a key player in African agriculture, much of the success of farmers organizations will depend on the synergies created with it.

2. Diversity of agricultural systems in Africa

African agriculture is extremely diverse and many farming systems exist depending on the natural environment, the crop cultivated, the technology used etc. The Sahelian region is characterized by high vulnerability to natural hazards, food insecurity and small scale agricultural subsistence sector. The Sahelian countries are often exposed to cyclical food crises and the incidence of food insecurity is quite strong with countries such as Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Niger with half of the children under five suffering from chronic malnutrition.⁵

Other regions and countries, such as South Africa and Kenya have a strong export oriented agricultural sectors. Kenya, for example, managed to establish a competitive dairy industry putting together an informal sector providing raw milk and a formal processing sector.

Understanding the complexity and the differentiation of the farming systems is an important element to design effective policies to targeting agricultural challenges. One of the first work in the classification of farming system in Sub-Saharan was undergone by Dixon et al. in 2001. The research individuated 15 farming systems in Sub-Saharan Africa, on the base of access to natural resources; crop cultivated livelihood strategies in connection to markets; and the intensity of production activities.

The main farming systems individuated are:

- *Irrigated farming system.* It comprises large irrigations schemes coupled with rainfed agriculture or animal husbandry. The main crops are rice, cotton, vegetables.
- *Tree crop farming system* is characterize the humid zones of West and Central Africa. Main crop cultivated are commercial tree crops such as cocoa, coffee, oil palm and rubber. Intercropping is practiced for subsistence purposes..
- Cereal-root mixed crop faming system in the dry region of West Africa and parts of central and southern Africa. Livelihoods strategy are mainly based on the cultivation of maize, sorghum, millet, cassava, yam and legumes and on cattle rearing.
- Maize mixed farming system is an important source of food for Central and Southern Africa. This farming system is particularly spread on plateau and highlands at altitudes

⁴ FAO, 2012 'The State of Food Insecurity.'

⁵ AGIR, Global Alliance for Resilience_ Sahel and West Africa. Regional Roadmap

- between 800 and 1500 meters. The main food crop is maize, but livelihoods strategies are also based on the cultivation of cash crops such as tobacco, coffee and cotton.
- Agro/pastoral millet/sorghum farming system is characterized the dry areas in Western, East and Southern Africa. Farming and livestock have the same importance. Main cultivated crops are sorghum, pearl millet and pulses. Sheep, goats and cattle rearing is also important.6

3. Challenges and opportunities for African agriculture

Still many challenges face African agriculture...

Analyzing data from 1960 to 2007, FAO found that Africa has become a net importer of food and agricultural products. Africa imports almost 50 million \$ of food per year to satisfy the demand of growing urban population. According to FAO 'overall between 1980 and 2007, Africa total net food import in real term grew at 3.4 percent per year mostly fuelled by urban population growth (2,6% per year), the increase in per capita food consumption was only about 0,8%' Among the causes of this, FAO found out that population growth, low and stagnating productivity in food and agricultural production and policy distortions, poor infrastructures and weak institutional support are among the main factors influencing food deficit in Africa. Imports are mainly cereals, and to a minor extend livestock products, sugar and vegetable oils.8 From the export side, agricultural export are no longer the main source of foreign currency for many countries. Africa experienced a fall in agricultural exports over the total export, from 42% in the 60s to under 10% between 2001-2007.

The commodity market structure is generally characterized by a lack of market linkages. This means limited opportunities for adding value by postharvest processing and high post harvest losses, which are estimated at 30% for grains and 50% for other more rapidly perishable products. Access to improved seed and livestock and to the appropriate technology to increase output to labour and to reduce drudgery is limited. Lack of credit to access inputs at reasonable prices limits farmers. Despite the prominent role of women in food production, market and processing, they have limited access to land, agricultural extension services, credit, infrastructure, technology and markets that are crucial for enhancing their productivity.

Unstable international food prices represent a risk for African countries. The crisis of 2007/2008 and 2010 demonstrated that many countries in the region are poorly equipped to respond to global price surges.

But many opportunities have emerged....

Agriculture growth has a powerful impact on poverty across all country types. Estimates show that GDP growth originating in agriculture is at least twice as effective in reducing poverty as GDP growth originating outside agriculture. For China, aggregate growth originating in agriculture is estimated to have been 3.5 times more effective in reducing poverty than growth outside agriculture – and for Latin America 2.7 times more. 10

A broad consensus has recently emerged amongst governments and donors on the need for more efforts and investment for agricultural development. It is agreed that there needs to be more public investment in the sector, partly since that will help stimulate private investment, especially in public goods such as roads, research and extension, rural schooling, clean water

⁶FAO, 2001 'Farming systems and poverty. Improving famers' livelihood in a changing world'

⁸ FAO, 2012 'Why Africa has become a net food importer'

¹⁰ Source: World Development Report, 2008

and health care. In 2003, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and its Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), were launched to accelerate agricultural growth in the region. Also in 2003, African governments signed the Maputo Declaration committing to a minimum allocation of 10% of their national annual budgets to agriculture.

Most African countries have a comparative advantage in agriculture. Africa has more than half of the world's agriculturally suitable yet unused land, and its impressive water resources have scarcely been tapped. Although rapidly growing local and regional markets could be partly and efficiently sourced from imports, Africa's abundant natural resources, large and exploitable yield gaps, and an improving investment climate open major opportunities on the supply side, too.

Private sector interest in African agribusiness is unprecedented. Baked by the demand of growing urban populations and as effect changing diets (more diversified, processed and high quality products) supermarkets chains are spreading more and more in Latin America but also in Africa. International investors actively seek alternative venues to Asia and Latin America as a new source of supply and an opportunity for higher, risk-adjusted returns. The challenge is to harness investors' interest in ways that generate jobs, provide opportunities for smallholders, respect the rights of local communities, and protect the environment. Going forward, a key challenge is to curb speculative land investments or acquisitions that take advantage of weak institutions in African countries or disregard principles of responsible agricultural investment.¹¹

After years of neglect, agriculture is once again seizing the attention of African governments, business leaders, communities, and development donors, as a powerful driver of growth. Africa now earns an average of 24 per cent of its annual growth from its farmers and their crops. If matched with more electricity and irrigation, smart business and trade policies and a dynamic private agribusiness sector that works side by side with government to link farmers with consumers in an increasingly urbanized Africa, the World Bank estimates that agriculture and agribusiness together could command a US\$ 1 trillion presence in Africa's regional economy by 2030 (compared to US\$ 313 billion in 2010). Agribusiness can play a critical role in jump-starting economic transformation through the development of agro-based industries that bring much-needed jobs and incomes. Successful agribusiness investments stimulate agricultural growth through the provision of new markets and the development of input supply sector. The potential role that information and communication technology (ICTs) can play in agriculture is increasingly been recognized. ICTs can benefit business actors, farmers, researchers,

governments and citizens. Mobile phones, GPSs, barcode can be used in pre-cultivation, in cultivation and harvesting and in post-harvest operations. New successful example such as the SMS service established by the Zambia national Farmers' association or the Esoko Ghana commodity index, a rural communication platform giving market information prices. In Nigeria, 1.2 million farmers received their subsidized seeds and fertilizers through their mobile phones in 2012 and the target is to reach 5 million farmers in 2013. Satellite imagery and remote sensing tools were deployed to better assess the effects of climatic shocks on food production.

4. African famers organizations: history, evolution and new roles

After years of neglect, many African countries are pursuing efforts to rapidly modernise their agricultural sector, as it is once again seen as a vital contributor to economic growth, food security and poverty reduction. Consequently, new policies and public and private initiatives are

World Bank, 2012 'ICT for Agriculture in Africa.'

¹¹ World Bank, 2013 'Growing Africa. Unlocking the potential of agribusiness'

¹² Ibid

¹⁴ Minister Akin Adesina. Brussels Briefing on Agricultural Resilience. March 2013. http://brusselsbriefings.net

focusing on promoting increased and sustainable food production, with farmers' organisations being portrayed as key catalysts in these processes. As a co sequence of the reduced role of the state in service provision following the economic liberalization policies and structural reforms of the 1980s and 1990s, farmers are now being encouraged to take on roles previously played by governments, for example, in input provision, extension and marketing, but many are not be equipped to do so because of limited leadership skills, weak organisational capacity and severe resource constraints. They often cannot gain access to affordable and vital resources and infrastructure, such as land, water, credit, seeds, fertiliser, post-harvest storage facilities or transport and are locked out of lucrative markets.

The panorama of farmer associations in Africa is characterized by a great diversity of group types, going from small informal farmer groups to large farmers cooperatives, different sources and levels of initiatives and interventions, a variety of contexts, and changing policy approaches. Many of the FOs continue to share a common heritage – the farmer-run cooperative – which has been a mainstay of government policy for many years, but they have adjusted as well to take on new responsibilities in terms of, for example, extension and input provision. Some are increasing serving as key partners to the private sector, particularly in the production of high-value export crops. FOs have adjusted their roles over time, with some narrowing their focus to specialise in different sub-sectors, while others have broadened their scope to become 'multi-purpose' organizations.

To enhance the coordination among farmers and their contractual power, producers organizations evolved into national platforms. In 1993 the National committee of agricultural cooperative (CNCR) ¹⁶ was created in Senegal and the National Federation of agricultural cooperatives (CNOP)¹⁷ in Cameroon in 2000. As a way of facing the increasing challenges posed by economic liberalization to family farming, farmers organizations started being organized also at regional level. National FO federations have been formed to be better positioned in the political dialogue with economic community such as ECOWAS, SADC, COMESA and SACAU.' ¹⁸ Today the main FOs networks in Sub-Saharan¹⁹ regroup millions of producers in more than 30 countries and more than 40% of the member are women.

Particularly World Bank in the World development report of 2008 stressed the need to support the creation of FOs as a means to facilitate access to market and increasing the bargain power of its members, the development of social capital, the capacity of promoting women empowerment, the procurement of agricultural inputs and the dissemination of technology.

5. The way forward

Despite the global trends towards the decrease of rural population, Sub-Saharan Africa between 2010 and 2050 will experience an increase of 150 million people living in rural areas. The young people to be born will sum up to the 330 million already living in the area. Creating employment and attract them in a dynamic agricultural sector is essential to grant food security and counterbalance the rural exodus.²⁰

Among the main challenges that farmers organizations have to face are the lack capital to grow in scale and complexity, particularly investment in physical assets for value addition through processing and manufacturing; the lack of management capacity and good organisational governance; the compete in markets against economic forces that confound their traditionally

²⁰ IFPRI, 'Jobs for Africa youth'

¹⁵ John Thompson, Amdissa Teshome, David Hughes, Ephraim Chirwa, John Omiti. Challenges and Opportunities for Strengthening Farmers Organisations in Africa: Lessons from Ethiopia, Kenya and Malawi. Future Agricultures. Policy Brief 31. 2009

¹⁶ Comité National de Concertation et de Coopération de ruraux

¹⁷ Concertation National des Organisations Paysannes
¹⁸ IFAD, 2010 'Farmers speak out: The visions and recommendations of Farmers organizations for the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme'

⁹ ROPPA, West Africa; PROPAC, Central Africa; EAFF, East-Africa and SACAU Southern Africa

bureaucratic and unresponsive structures and strategies.²¹ With often few resources and limited organisational and technical capacities, many FOs need external support to start-up and/or expand their operations. But striking the right balance between reliance on external and internal resources, between accountability and proactive leadership, between adaptive and effective governance and between over- and under-ambition is a challenge for all farmer-led groups. External support to FOs needs to be well targeted, sensitive, consistent in four key areas: seed/input provision; extension and education; market access; and advocacy and policy engagement. ²²

In a market-driven economy, farmer cooperatives must operate in a business-like fashion or perish. Government extension services are increasingly limited in scope, thus FOs will have to assume more of these responsibilities in the future; Market entry demands (e.g. grades and standards), access requirements (e.g. transportation and credit) and adding value to production (e.g. packaging, processing, and quality control) are still difficult for many under-resourced FOs to address; and Though autonomy for FOs is seen as a positive, it also means becoming more self-sufficient, often when funding is scarce.

Sound public policies should promote sustainable intensification and provide farmers' organisations with the support required for them to be competitive and inclusive. The farmer's organizations need to be better organized, show increased governance and inclusiveness and develop knowledge systems allowing them to share knowledge and experiences on production methods, markets and policies.

6. Objectives of the Briefing

The main objectives of the Continental Briefing on "Envisioning the future of African agriculture and the renewed role of farmer's organizations" are: (i) highlight the key opportunities and challenges for farmers organizations leading the agricultural agenda; (ii) provide space for sharing experiences for an agricultural agenda driven by farmers organisations; and (iii) facilitate networking amongst FOs and other partners.

Target group

The representatives of the regional African farmer's organizations (PROPAC, SACAU, EAFF, ROPPA, UMAGRI) and the national farmer's organisations, policy-makers, civil society groups, research networks, development practitioners, and international organisations.

Available material

Input and comments before, during and after the meetings will be included in the Briefings blog: http://brusselsbriefings.net. A Reader and Highlights in printed and electronic format will be produced shortly after the meeting.

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²¹ ibid

²² John Thompson, Amdissa Teshome, David Hughes, Ephraim Chirwa, John Omiti. Challenges and Opportunities for Strengthening Farmers Organisations in Africa: Lessons from Ethiopia, Kenya and Malawi. Policy Brief 31. Future Agricultures. 2009.



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PROGRAMME

Tuesday 3 December: Trends in African agriculture and responses of farmer's organizations

8h00-8h30 Registration

8h30-9h00 Objectives and Programme

Introductory remarks: Kalilou Sylla, Executive Secretary of ROPPA on behalf of PAFO; Khecha Abderrahmane, Expert on rural infrastructure policies and market access, African Union Commission; Isolina Boto, Manager, CTA Brussels Office, Minister of Agriculture of Cameroun

9h00- 13h00 Session 1: Global trends of African agriculture and the role of Farmers Organizations

This session will present the key features of the African agriculture in the past decades and the main lessons learned. It will discuss the new policy frameworks at continental and regional levels and the regional integration processes which have impacted African agriculture. The role and response of farmers' organisations to the reforms of the global food systems and to the new risks and opportunities for African agriculture will be discussed.

Chair: Elisabeth Atangana, President, PROPAC

Keynote presentation

- African Agricuture in times of crisis and shocks: lessons for optimism?

Léopold Lokossou, President, National Platform of farmer's organisations in Benin PNOPPA/B)

Panel:

- What future for small farms in Africa and what renewed role for farmers? Mabel Ndakaripa Munyuki-Hungwe, Reseacher, Zimbabwe
- Successful services that banks and financial institutions offer to small-scale farmers Saleh Usman Gashua, Secretary General, the African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (AFRACA)
- Advisory and extension services to farmers: challenges and opportunities

 Mercy Akeredolu, Board member African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services
 (AFAAS), Nigeria

Debate moderated by farmer's organizations

13h00-14h30 Lunch

14h30-18h00 Session 2: Evolution of African Farmers Organizations: putting farmers at the center of rural development in Africa

This session will discuss the types of farming and the landmarks in farmer's organizations history and evolution in the last decades highlighting the creation of regional and continental entities. It will bring different perspectives on how have farmer's been responding to various policies and sharing successes and limitations in key areas. The debates will also include the issue of the new alliances at global and continental levels and the increasing South-South collaboration.

Chair: Jonathan Ocran, Policy Officer, African Union Commission

Keynote presentation

The evolution of farmer's organisations in Africa: an overview

Mamadou Goita, Executive Director, Institute for the Research and Promotion of Alternatives in Development (IRPAD), Mali

Panel:

- FOs perspective to Maputo commitment in support of agriculture Kalilou Sylla, Executive Secretary, ROPPA
- Drivers of agricultural transformation in Africa: what role for farmers?
 Isolina Boto, Manager, CTA Brussels Office
- Mapping farmer's organizations

 Buba Khan, Africa advocacy officer, ActionAid

Debate moderated by farmer's organizations

Wednesday 4 December: Building resilience of African agriculture and Farmer's Organisations

9h00-9h15 Reporting of day 1

9h15- 13h00 Session 3: Future challenges and opportunities for African agriculture

This session will discuss the major challenges and opportunities for African agriculture in the coming decades and the way the FOs will deal with them in terms of strategies, capacities and results to be achieved. Concrete examples from the various regions on resilient systems in production, market access, environment, institutional building will be presented.

Chair: Isolina Boto, CTA

Keynote presentation

- What opportunities for African agriculture and farmer's organisations? Philip Kiriro, President, EAFF

Panel:

- What benefits to farmers from current markets and capital in Africa? Sara Menker, Gro Venture, Ethiopia
- Investment, trade and regional markets: what benefits for the farmers?
 François Joseph Cabral, Scientific Coordinator for CRES, University Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, Senegal
- Climate change adaptation and climate financing: what opportunities for farmers? Theo de Jager, President, SACAU
- The benefits of rural resource centres and farmer-to-farmer extension services Ann Degrande, Socio-Economist, World Agroforestry Centre, Cameroun

Debate moderated by farmer's organizations

13h00-14h30 Lunch

14h30-18h00 Session 4: Building resilience of FOs

This session will discuss the ways in which the FOs can improve and/or strengthen their capacities and involvement in policy processes, financing mechanisms and innovative alliances. New opportunities and innovative approaches will be highlighted. Policy frameworks, global alliances and policies

Chair: Theo de Jager, President, SACAU

Keynote presentation

What opportunities for PPPs for PAFO and FOs?
 Abdoulaye Zonon, Community Development Programme, ECOWAS

Panel:

- Financing African agriculture: perspective from the private sector financing institutions Hans Balyamujura, Co-Founder/CEO, Zed Group Limited, South Africa
- Linking Farmers to research or farmer's led research?
 Francois Stepman, European Co-manager, Platform for African European Partnership in ARD
- Gender Dimensions within the Agricultural Value Chain Cesarie Kantarama, First Vice-president, EAFF and Rwanda

Debate moderated by farmer's organizations

Thursday 5 December: Contributing to the Agricultural knowledge economy

Chair: Philip Kiriro, President, EAFF

9h00-9h15 Reporting of day 2

9h15- 13h00 Session 5: Towards stronger knowledge & learning amongst the FOs

This session will discuss the ways FOs can strengthen the agricultural knowledge and establish learning mechanisms but also improved mechanisms by which partner organizations can better use the knowledge from FOs. It will summarise a partnership roadmap which will include actions to influence future agriculture, strengthen institutional capacities and promote learning and knowledge sharing facilities to consolidate the FOs position as knowledge brokers.

9h15-9h30 Information/Communication/Knowledge Management for Farmers & Farmers Organizations in the 21st century

Andrianjafy Rasoanindrainy, Chris Addison, CTA

9h30-10h30 Examples of Knowledge systems developed by RFOs

- Portal & usage of video for farmers
 Mike Atangana, Communication Officer, PROPAC
- Portal & the use of Facebook Pages
 Stella Kamuyu-Wanjau, Communications Officer, EAFF
- Portal & news
 Mohamadou Ouegraogo, Communication Officer, ROPPA

10h30-10h50 Presentation of the New PAFO Knowledge Platform

- Andrianjafy Rasoanindrainy

10h50-11h10 Coffee break

11h10-11h30 The Groupspaces e-discussion

- Summary of the discussions and findings Isaura Lopes, Expert, Cape Verde
- 11h30-12h00 **Panel:** How to improve Information, communication and KM among FOs? *KMC experts and contributors*

12h00-12h15 **Summarizing**

- Supporting the farmer's organisation knowledge base, experiences in building the platform and looking to the future *Chris Addison, Senior expert, Knowledge management, CTA*
- 12h15-12h30 Looking ahead: Declaration with policy recommendations
 - Official Launch of the PAFO Learning and Knowledge Platform PAFO

Closure

12h30-13h00 Practical Tech support

Using the Knowledge Management tools Working groups:

- Navigating in PAFO portal
- Using Groupspaces and the Forum
- Using Facebook

KMC experts

13h00-14h30 Lunch

14h30-15h30 Practical Tech support (continued)

Launch of the Continental policy framework on pastoralism in support of pastoralists $\ensuremath{\textit{AUC}}$

