



Panafrican farmers' organization
Organisation panafricaine des agriculteurs
المنظمة الإفريقية للفلاحين



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PAFO's CALL TO ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AT COP27.



The Panafrican Farmers Organisation (PAFO) is the voice of more than 80 million African farmers integrated into nearly 70 national organizations, unions, federations, cooperatives, associations, etc., in more than 49 countries on the continent, and united in five regional networks operating at the heart of African agriculture. **PAFO** is hereby presents its common position on the need to strengthen farmer-led climate actions in Africa.

This position is the aggregation of important messages from farmer organisations through the regional networks and contributions from the Secretariat in support of their members. It is important to note, from the outset, that PAFO acknowledges the critical role that agriculture and food systems play in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Furthermore, it points out the enormous threat that climate change poses to farmers across Africa and the needed support to enable them adapt to its effects on their farming activities.

This statement calls for, social and just outcomes for African farmers at COP27, with due recognition of their strategic importance as partners that represent vital climate constituencies. This is to draw the attention of the world to the predicaments of farmers in Africa and the dangers it will pose to food and nutrition security in the continent if climate change is not effectively addressed.

The world must put in place appropriate policies and strategies on climate change and undertake the necessary investments in innovation and technologies that will assist in lessening the effects of climate change on the vulnerable segment of the population. Given that the conference is being held in Africa, it is our hope and expectation that particular emphasis will be on actions that are critical to developing countries and in particular Africa, including climate finance, adaptation and loss and damage.



With specific reference to African farmers and the members of PAFO, climate change are seriously affecting them in the following areas:

1 Lower Farmers Productivity: The low productivity of African farmers has been worsened by the effects of climate change through the menace of inconsistent rains and droughts which cause damages and induce changes in land suitability for agriculture.

New pests and diseases appear where they were unknown. All PAFO networks reported the loss of outputs because of unfavourable climate change and the cost to African crop and livestock farmers has been put at about \$30billion. We recommend that these farmers should be supported because climate justice demands that in addition to mitigation and adaptation finance, loss and damage climate actions should focus on smallholder farmers that are directly affected due to adverse climatic conditions.

2 Increase in Farmers and herdsman Conflicts: One of the undisputed consequences of climate change on farmers in Africa is farmer-herder conflicts. Reports from PAFO members indicate that the consequences of climate change which has led to droughts and scarcity of water in the semi arid region in sub-Saharan Africa is responsible for the farmers-herdsman conflicts. Water, which is an essential resource and vitally required for agriculture production, has been very scarce due to climate change and therefore is causing violent conflicts between the farmers and herders.

This has had serious implications on local, national, and regional security, as well as socio-economic consequences. It has thus become imperative to devise means to mitigate the situation. Therefore, PAFO calls for climate action that will help farmers to adopt climate resilience agricultural practices and investment in mitigation and irrigation projects that would help to resolve the conflicts between the farmers and herders in Africa.

3 Limited Access to Climate Finance Resources: Africa requires USD 2.8 trillion between 2020-2030 to implement its Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. This is the cost of the continent's contribution to limiting warming to 1.5°C and addressing the biggest impacts of climate change. However, annual climate finance flows to Africa currently stand at only USD 30 billion. Out of this amount, it is estimated that only 1.7% of climate funds reach farmers in Africa. According to a CPI report, African countries collectively received only 12-15% of their required climate response investments in 2019 and 2020.

No doubt, the socio-economic, ecological, and developmental benefits of climate finance investments far outweigh the costs of implementing them. In Africa, there are vast opportunities to scale up climate finance to ensure a just, fair, and inclusive transition for the region. Climate finance must be mobilised at greater speed and scaled significantly if the continent is to achieve its mitigation outcomes and adapt to climate change.

PAFO, therefore, advocates for the implementation of concrete actions that would result in improving the access to climate finance to transform agriculture and food systems to support food and economic security. Therefore, Farmer organisations should be included in government applications for climate finance in agriculture and be supported to become accredited financial entities. In this regard, they require enhanced capacity and knowledge to document viable and scalable adaptation projects. In addition, there is a call to appoint more agriculture leaning accredited entities or alternative means to lobby for financial support.

4 Lower smallholder income and rise of poverty: Due to climate change, Africa is witnessing increased weather and climate variability, which leads to disasters and disruptions of economic, ecological and social systems. It is estimated that by 2030 up to 118 million extremely poor people (living below \$1.90/day) will be exposed to drought, floods and extreme heat in Africa if adequate response measures are not implemented. This will place additional burden on poverty alleviation efforts and constrain growth and development in the continent.

PAFO recommends that urgent measures and policies that will reduce the impact of climate change on the vulnerable segment of the population in Africa should be pursued by African leaders and development partners.

5 Increase in Food Insecurity: The compounded effects of climate change resulting in protracted conflicts, political instability, pest outbreaks and economic crisis were the key drivers of a significant increase in food insecurity in Africa. Food insecurity increases by 5-20 percentage points with each flood or drought in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2020, the population that were affected by food insecurity increased by almost 40% when compared to the figures in 2019.

6 Lack of Capacity for Participation in Climate Dialogue: Farmer organisations needs to develop the capacity on the knowledge of agriculture and food systems within UNFCCC architecture and other global resilience building policy processes.

Farmer organisations request support to better understand the mechanisms for climate-agriculture dialogue and to help translate the complex outcomes of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture into meaningful actions at the grassroots level. Moreover, farmer organisations would like to be included in the preparation of national and regional position statements preceding climate negotiations, as well as to form part of their national climate change negotiating teams to the UNFCCC.

This direct engagement of farmers can ensure better delivery of key messages, ensure that farmer proposals and positions are included in African common positions towards COP, and that farmer participation in oversight committees are affirmed.

7 Insufficient Capacity for Climate Policy Advocacy: A major challenge confronting farmers organisation in effectively engaging in climate policy is the lack of policy capacity and engagement knowledge. Capacity development, knowledge generation and advocacy training are needed to interpret climate policy decisions and decipher what they mean for farmers at a practical level. Farmer organisations demand a tailored training provided by relevant government ministries and related non-state actors to participate more effectively in climate policy drafting, implementation, and monitoring, acknowledging that climate policies, such as Nationally Determined Contributions and Long-Term Strategies, are important vehicles to pursue climate-related farmer interests.

In addition, PAFO calls upon the regional and international policy community to support farmer organisations that represent the common interests of farmers. These unifying structures provide a platform through which individuals and farmer organisations can come together to proactively develop policy engagement strategies, produce collective input, and effectively lobby the government in a structured way, to provide very specific requests.

In the absence of mechanisms to hold decision makers and financial entities to account at multiple scales, PAFO advocates for national governments to recognise the important role farmer organisations can play in the tracking and monitoring of policy implementation, including of COP decisions. To this end, farmers organisations request for support from governments and the international community to strengthen the capacities of national, regional, and continental farmer organisations to conduct monitoring and reporting for accountability and international commitments to sustainable development.

8 Unsatisfactory Climate Action: COP 27 is implementation COP and PAFO and its members advocates for a more committed implementation of the outcomes of this year's conference. This is because climate change is very close to the hearts of farmers who bear the brunt of its impacts and who have insufficient safety nets to buffer them from climate risks.

The regularity and intensity of climate shocks in Africa has increased dramatically in recent times, putting the regions food security in jeopardy, without sufficient compensation for damages and losses. It is imperative that COP27 makes progress on the structure and delivery of support needed, as well as the specific funding mechanisms to be employed. Scalable actions that promote adaptation and resilience-building are therefore major priority that should be addressed at COP27 and beyond. In addition, urgent progress is needed on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). This includes the development of indicators, timeframes, and targets to specifically track progress on this goal. These reporting indicators must be designed through engagement with various agricultural stakeholders, including farmers organisations, so that they are fit for purpose and realistic.

In addition to the above position, PAFO also commits to the following actions:

- To continuously advocate at national, regional, and continental levels for climate support policies and actions that will assist its members on climate change and to promote discussions, proposals and the monitoring of climate change programmes and projects.
- To assist our members in developing the requisite capacity with different local, national, and regional experts, to understand, interpret and communicate the decisions on COP and other related reports.
- To contribute physically to COP meetings and to lobby to have our member associations included in national, regional, and continental programmes.
- To partner with international stakeholder institutions in the agricultural sector to facilitate capacity building and knowledge management programmes that will help our national and regional members document better adaptation practices by farmers that are scalable
- To continuously call for, and participate in, promoting accountability at all levels and by all parties.
- Actively seek ways to improve the productivity of our members and support them in building resilience in agriculture, including access to information, technology, and markets.
- To lobby for more access to climate finance by farmers to enable them directly to benefit from loss and damage compensation, as well as from adaptation financing.



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