AGRICORD

Activity Report 2021

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FO4ACP

Farmers' Organizations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific

IFAD
Investing in rural people

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FO4ACP

Farmers' Organizations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific

AGRICORD

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

1. This document presents the second annual progress report of the programme "*FO4ACP – The Farmers' Organizations for the African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (Africa)*, as determined in the Grant Agreement 2000003055 signed between IFAD and AgriCord on October 22nd[th], 2019.
2. The implementation period of this programme started from the effective date of 22[nd] of October 2019 from May 6[th.] The project completion date is 30[th] of November 2023 and the grant closing date is 31[st] of March 2024. The grant agreement includes retroactive financing of maximum 300.000,00 EUR for expenditures that comply with the provisions of Schedule 3 and 4 of the agreement and incurred before the effective date but after 1[st] of May 2019.
3. This progress report covers the activities, outputs, outcomes and results for the implementation period from the 1[st] of January 2021 to December 31[st], 2021.
4. In general, in 2021 the program implementation progressed in a satisfactory manner in the 21 ongoing FO projects. Due to COVID19, extreme weather phenomena and political instability and deteriorations in the security situations, some changes in the planning were made. These changes did not change the orientation of the action and the modified activities remain well within the objectives of the program and are not, at this stage, expected to have major impacts on the logical framework indicator results. Three of the projects, **COOINDELO, COOPEBAS, COCAMA** and **CONAPAC** (AIN 8288) **in DRC**; **FUPRORIZ-HG, UPPRS** and **UERWL** (AIN 8289) **in Burkina Faso** and **Guinea Conakry**, both supported by **Trias**, and **CNCR** (AIN 8290) project **in Senegal**, supported by **UPA DI** finished the implementation in 2021.
5. The AWPB 2022 foresees to continue the implementation of the 18 FO projects already on going in 2021. In addition to these FO projects, a continental potato strategy project and the continental Climate Commission project will continue their activities. The East African Global GAP project is currently under revision as due to COVID19 pandemic, the activities foreseen within that project no longer corresponded the FO priorities.
6. It should be made clear that the FOs and agri-agencies are aware that observed results and impact cannot always be directly attributed to a specific activity or project: rather the activities are contributing, together with other possible factors within the operational environment of the FOs.

1.2 OBJECTIVES, COMPONENTS, AND OUTCOMES

7. The overall objective of the Project is to increase income and to improve livelihood, food and nutrition security and safety of organized smallholder and family farmers in the target areas. FO4ACP is demand driven meaning that the identified beneficiary FOs define the needs and priorities during the strategic project design dialogues with the agri-agencies supporting the activities.
8. Fo4ACP (Africa) supports the farmers' organisations under three main components:

   Component 1: Delivery of economic services along priority value chains
   Component 2: Enabling the business environment
   Component 3: Institutional development of FOs
9. In addition, the programme includes Component 4: Communication and visibility.
10. The activities described in this report will be contributing towards results covered by the indicators in the FO4ACP logical framework (see Annex II).

11. Agri-agencies support the projects implemented by their FO partners by providing project monitoring and reporting backstopping, by advisory services and by organizing farmer to famer and/or FO to FO peer advice, mentoring, learning exchanges and twinning arrangements.

1.3 Farmer's Organizations and Agri-Agencies

Table 1: Overview 21 Projects

AIN	AA	Country	Partners	Title
8259	Asprodeb	Senegal	CCPA; FNCAAS; **RNCPS**; FONGS; UNCAS; FPA; FEPROBA	Appui à la contractualisation dans les chaines de valeur arachide et riz
8262	Fert	Kenya	CGA; 5 county platforms	Cereal Value Chain Development Program
8265	FFD	Tanzania	TAHA	Value for Water in Morogoro
8269	Fert	Madagascar	Ceffel; 12 regional Fos	Ceffel : le développement des organisations par les filières
8270	Afdi	Mali	CNOP; 6 Fos; 31 cooperatives	Mali - Renforcer le poids économique et le positionnement stratégique des OP au sein de la filière maraîchage
8273	Afdi	Burkina Faso	CPF; UMPLB	Renforcement de la capacité d'influence des OP sur les politiques et les marchés de la filière lait
8274	Asprodeb	Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea	FEPA-B; **FPFD**; AOPP; CNDH	Appui à la formulation d'un programme régional d'autosuffisance en pomme de terre
8275	We Effect	Kenya	MDCU; 44 cooperatives; BAMSCOS; 20 cooperatives	Improved Livelihoods, Food and Nutrition Security and Safety for Farmers
8276	FFD	Kenya	FF-SPAK; 4 Fos	Sustainable and Profitable Smallholder Forestry in Kenya
8277	AHA	Kenya	KENAFF, 12 farmers associations	Supporting Value Chain Development through Strong County Associations in Kenya
8278	CSA	Burundi	CAPAD; 21 cooperatives	Améliorer le fonctionnement et les services de coopératives pour valoriser la production agricole familiale
8279	Afdi	Madagascar	SOA, 7 regional Fos	Renforcer le poids économique et le positionnement stratégique des OP au sein de la filière semences afin d'assurer un accès aux semences de qualité, certifies et en quantité suffisante aux producteurs malgaches
8281	We Effect	Malawi	CREMPA; 5 cooperatives	Malawi Dairy Value Chain project
8282	UPA DI	Benin	UGAM; 16 mixed groups; 45 women cooperatives	Projet de professionnalisation du système collectif de mise en marché dans la région de Savalou Bantè au Bénin
8283	AHA	Tanzania	MVIVATA Arusha; MVIWAMA	Horticulture FO in Tanzania - Entrepreneurship and Leadership
8284	UPA DI	Benin	PNOPPA	Projet d'appui aux services économiques (PASE)
8285	Afdi	Benin	Fupro; FNPS; CCPSM; CCPS-Save	Une filière semencière viable et pérenne au Bénin !

8288	Trias	DRC	CONAPAC; COOINDELO; COOPEBAS; COCAMA	Appui à la professionnalisation de la commercialisation du cacao et des produits vivriers à l'ouest de la RDC
8289	Trias	Burkina Faso	FUPRORIZ; UPPRS; UWERL; 24 cooperatives in total	Amélioration de l'employabilité des femmes et des jeunes dans la filière riz pour un meilleur revenu.
8290	UPA DI	Senegal	CNCR; 3 FOs	Approvisionnement en intrants et production dans la chaîne de valeur arachide
8291	Trias	Uganda	TUNADO; HODFA	Enabling growth of commercially oriented farmers

1.4 FINANCING (BUDGET)

12. The total cost of the action is 7 680 000,00 EUR million.

Table 2: Budget per Component

Component	EC Contribution (EUR)
C1 – Delivery of economic services along priority value chains	4.992.000
C2 – Enabling the business environment	768.000
C3 – Institutional development of FOs	1.536.000
C4 – Communication and visibility	384.000
Total	7.680.000

2 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE YEAR 2021

2.1 CHALLENGES AND ADAPTATION WORKPLAN

2.1.1 COVID-19

13. COVID19 continued to affect the implementation everywhere to varying degrees, particularly during the first semester of 2021. For example, in May 2021, Uganda entered the third wave of the pandemic, which was more severe than both the previous waves. Also, in Madagascar COVID19 situation has been difficult in 2021 and was further exacerbated by the droughts driving significant crop failure. The impacts of the drought were compounded by pest infestations.

14. FOs and agri-agencies were quite successful in anticipating different scenarios as much as possible in their planning and re-scheduling activities where necessary.

15. In relation to COVID19 pandemic, the SAFE 2020 program, financed by IFAD's Rural Poor Stimulus Facility, complemented well the FO4ACP activities in Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Kenya, Madagascar, and Senegal. SAFE 2020 allowed to support the FOs during the most critical phases of the pandemic by direct liquidity support and activities to improve access to markets and inputs. SAFE 2020 program, which closed at the end of the 2021, also complemented the dissemination of information about the pandemic and sanitary rules in rural areas where government's information channels did not reach.

16. In some projects SAFE 2020 budget was still used to provide hygiene kits to key staff and members directly participating in the core FOs core activities. These kits include items such as N95 masks, sanitizers, alcohol-based soaps, and antimicrobial wipes and allowed the planned activities within FO4ACP to be carried out.

17. Even when implementation areas were not severely affected by cases of COVID19, the counter measures and imposed restrictions of movement and larger gatherings created challenges. Almost every project reported in 2021 some delays, down-sizing of foreseen activities, cancellation or postponing meetings, events, and peer to peer exchanges. However, many of such activities were converted into to virtual activities at a lower cost.

18. One major challenge for the implementation during the pandemic, has been the lack – or poor quality - connectivity. The lack of smartphones, unreliable or lacking internet access and mobile data packages were everyday constraints to communication and implementation and in some projects small budgets has been repurposed for addressing these issues.

19. In some cases, the efforts to switch from face-to-face activities to online activities meant that the execution of the program from a budgetary point of view slowed down. It should be noted that this slower absorption of the budget was not necessarily reflected as diminished results. The FOs and agri-agencies were agile in finding solutions to unexpected situations and managed often to make progress towards the expected results despite the forementioned challenges.

2.1.2 Climate and Weather

20. COVID19 pandemic was not the only disaster impacting the work of some of the supported FOs. Droughts were reported as a major challenge in several countries from different African regions. **CEFFEL** reported a dramatic 30% reduction in its members rice production due to the drought in Madagascar. Equally, **UGAM** in Benin reported being short of their estimated output of corn and soy due to a lack of rainfall. In Kenya, **MDCU** and **BAMSCOS** reported that the drought had negatively affected their demonstration farms. On the other hand, in Burundi it was the excessive rainfall, which had challenged the farmers according to the information provided by **CAPAD**.

Farmers gathered at a demonstration plot supported by CGA / Fert in Kenya

21. Supported by the advisory services and technical assistance by agri-agencies, the FOs are stepping up to respond to the challenges caused by extreme weather and impacts of climate change. **CEFFEL** has revised its strategy to diversify from cereal production to complementary small livestock and vegetable production. Several FOs are also setting up experimental demonstration and training plots to test agroecological farming techniques to both share and transfer the existing knowledge and to gain new localized and context-specific insights on how to sustainably maintain and even increase production in the context of changing climatic context and dwindling water resources.

22. Several FOs, **FNPS** and **CCPSM** in Benin and **CEFFEL** and **SOA** in Madagascar are establishing or developing their own seed production as means to create autonomy and resilience. The convergence of droughts and COVID19 related impacts has further confirmed that reliable and autonomous access to seeds and other inputs can significantly improve the business conditions for farmers and make them more resistant to shocks.

2.1.3 Political Insecurity

23. In some countries, the challenging political and security situation impacted severely FOs operations but did not as such hamper the progress in the FO4ACP projects. However, if prolonged, instabilities in the political and security context might impact the results related to enabling environment and policy influencing.

24. In **Benin, UGAM** reported that in one of the communes where the project activities are carried out, the elections in the spring 2021 affected farmers' access to the markets and thus availability of goods. The elections had affected the price and availability of fertilizers but luckily **UGAM** had had the foresight to purchase in time the inputs needed for the following cycle. **UGAM** was also in the position to benefit from the higher prices for soja and maize due to its sufficient storage capacity which allowed to liquidate the stock at the right moment.

25. In **Burkina Faso, CPF** and **UMPLB** reported that insecurity and internal displacement throughout 2021 have led to the reduction of produce and the loss of means of production for farmers. Non-state armed groups have been active in the intervention zone of **FUPRORIZ** but without impacts on the FOs' activities in 2021.

26. **CONAPAC** reported that in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the changes in the government caused an atmosphere of insecurity during the first half of 2021 and the farmers had been harassed on the markets. The provincial leaders have struggled to rectify these local disturbances. This political landscape makes the lobby and advocacy at subnational level more difficult as identifying the right interlocutors is complicated.

27. In **Mali, CNOP** expressed a concern about limited perspectives to influence the government policies after the military acted. Also, one planned agricultural fair participation within FO4ACP project, had to be cancelled due to the political situation. In 2021, the security situation continues to deteriorate, particularly in the north and centre of the country. The regions of Ségou and Mopti in particular, which are part of the project's intervention zone, have seen insecurity increase further. The follow-up and peer exchange activities could not be implemented satisfactorily. For these reasons, some activities are not being carried out. The political situation is not conducive to the advocacy activities of farmers' organisations. Since the coup d'état in 2020, Mali has been going through a turbulent political transition, and the interlocutors of farmers' organisations in the ministries and administrations change regularly. At the end of 2020, the Land Law was adopted by ordinance by the National Transitional Council without the farmers' organisations, which had been lobbying for a better articulation of this law with the Agricultural Land Law, being informed. But there is a strong resilience of farmers' organisations. They manage to maintain a large part of their activities in the field and have the capacity to use the available resources for relevant activities.

2.2 Execution per Component

2.2.1 Component 1: Delivery of Economic Services along Priority Value Chains

28. As explained in the priori chapters, year 2021 was a challenging year for the FOs because of the continued disruptions caused by COVID19 pandemic, climate related issues and political insecurity in some countries. Despite this, the supported FOs implemented most of the foreseen activities, sometimes with slight repurposing to fit the changing context.

29. The agri-agencies are the operational arm of AgriCord and implement FO support programs through a joint delivery mechanism. Each agri-agency has their specific approach and areas of expertise, but all strengthen the FOs by a holistic approach in the support of the value chain integration of the FO. The main aspect of this approach consists of institutional/organisational development, promoting good governance, professionalization of the provision of extension and economic services to FO's members, reinforcing FOs lobby and advocacy capacities and facilitating links to private sector and other important value chain actors.

30. The AgriCord approach, also applied in FO4ACP (Africa), is a combination of financial resources transferred to the FO/cooperative, 1advisory services and mentoring provided or facilitated by the agri-agencies and peer to farmer -to -farmer or FO -to- FO exchanges North/South or South/South - mobilized for the projects. Close partnership based on a strategic dialogue and FOs organisational self-assessment process supported by the agri-agencies, is at the heart of the modus operandi. All agri-agencies participating in the implementation of FO4ACP (Africa) continued to provide advisory services throughout 2021 via online meetings, using different digital tools and field missions where travel was possible.

31. The duration of the agri-agency support and methods of advisory services are adapted according to the level of maturity of the partner FO, the priority needs of the FO and the market context. Agri-agencies work based on long-term capacity development trajectories and this approach of a longer-term investments in the partnerships between the agri-agencies and FOs and cooperatives is in line with current trends in EU policy for Development Cooperation focusing on building in-depth partnerships.

32. In 2021, all FO projects carried out activities under Component 1. This chapter consists of representative examples of the activities and outcomes and results achieved in the projects. The variety of activities carried out illustrates well that no one-size-fits-all solutions are applied but the activities and technical assistance provided is tailor made responding to the needs of the FO, the market context, and specific challenges of the value chain. The following examples illustrate different types of support provided by the agri-agencies to strengthen the FOs and showcase the results achieved.

33. In **Benin, UGAM**, supported by **UPA DI**, strengthened its services in soy, rice, maize and cassava value chains. Five (5) farmer field schools were established, benefitting 175 producers. **UGAM** supported its members to set prices for surplus on soy, maize and rice and negotiated access to micro-credits. Seven producers visited a seed production farms to emulate similar practices. A soybean (13t) and maize (16t) marketing campaign resulted in 5,246 EUR and 4,433 EUR respectively. Overall, 247 producers received technical extension from **UGAM** technicians. Also, a market study related to women's processing activities – from cassava to gari was carried out and small processing equipment was acquired.

34. In **Benin – CCPSM**, supported by **Afdi**, in N'Dali in the Borgou-Alibori region achieved important results in developing a local certified seed value chain for maize and soybean seeds. This successful example on how FO can challenge and change an established system for input production is fully documented in the annexed document, "LA VENTE LOCALE DE SEMENCES CERTIFIEES POUR CONSTUIRE UNE CHAINE DE VALEUR PERENNE AU BENIN". The full document can be consulted from the refences list provided with the logical framework. **FUPRO**, supported by **Afdi**, concluded sales of 23 tons of locally

produced certified seeds. **FNPS's** corn and soybean production received a certification by the Plant Protection Directorate. **CCPSM** sold 87 ton of corn and 24t of soybean seeds produced locally.

35. In **Benin**, **PNOPPA**, supported by **UPA DI**, established three group purchasing services (seeds, fertilizers, and plant protection), and three collective marketing services for maize and gari (processed cassava) on the cooperative level, and a collective marketing service for maize was set up on the national level.

36. In **Burkina Faso** & **Guinea Conakry,** the FO4ACP project implemented by **FUPRORIZ, UPPRS** and **UERWL** and supported by **Trias**, finished at the end of 2021. Working in the rice value chain, collective marketing was promoted by **FUPRORIZ** and **UPPRS.** A total of 1075t of paddy rice were sold in 2020-2021 through these collective marketing schemes. Three (3) agreements on paddy rice sales between UPPRS and UERWL, AMI, and Rasmata were signed, which led to improved processing. Annual meetings between producers and processors and traders were organized. UPPRS (290) and UERWL (156 women) members received B|U|S (**AHA**) and ERI (**Trias)** entrepreneurship trainings. **UERW**L's credit committee members, entrusted with overlooking the FOs member credits, received financial training. Women members were targeted for rice processing techniques training (see 2.4.1). Training with phyto-sanitary products were conducted with 269 youths and seven (7) people received training in the handling of motorized rice harvesters (see 2.4.2). Eighteen (18) trained relay-farmers demonstrated 1,200 how to produce compost techniques. Collective input purchase scheme distributed ninety tons (90t) of fertilizer to 641 members. To promote more sustainable agricultural practices, 25 demo fields were set up by **UPPRS**. One demo field is maintained by a group of 60 producers to test out new varieties and agroecological practices. Twenty-two (22) producers participated in a five-day exchange organized by **FUPRO** (see 2.5). FUPRORIZ's credit union collected 16 285 EUR credit reimbursements from the new members in 2021.

37. In **Burkina Faso CPF and UMPL-B,** supported by **Afdi** continued reinforcing the dairy value chain integration of small producers by improving the quality of the production of nine (9) mini-dairies. The charter defining good practices in terms of quality and hygiene at all levels of the sector was revised in 2020. The implementation of this charter in all the dairies continued in 2021, thanks to the support of **UMPL-B** facilitators and training offered to ninety (90) producers, collectors, and processors. In addition, three dairies requested specific training on good hygiene and quality practices in milk processing to supplement their initial training.

38. In parallel, the facilitators supported the mini-dairies' staff to strengthen their management skills, to use production and processing monitoring tools, to draw up growth plans (now available for all 9 mini-dairies), and to look for markets, particularly institutional markets such as school canteens. To improve the access to institutional markets, in 2021, awareness-raising work was carried out with municipal councillors in the project's areas of intervention. These meetings provided an opportunity to present the project and discuss possible collaborations for the promotion of the milk chain in the municipalities. This awareness-raising was concluded by a multi-actor workshop organised in December on the theme "What strategy for integrating local dairy products into school canteens in the Centre-North, Centre and Central Plateau regions? The discussions focused on the supply of dairy products in these regions and on the public ordering system in the town halls. Each dairy was thus able to meet with the municipal councillors of its commune to propose concrete actions for the promotion of local milk in the town halls. These institutional market research actions will continue in 2022, with the aim of reaching contractual agreements that are interesting for all parties.

39. **CAPAD** is a **Burundi**an national FO and its FO4ACP project focuses on strengthening its 21 member cooperatives. Going beyond the FO4ACP program but partially based on the capacities acquired within FO4ACP, CAPAD presented a successful proposal for the global GAFSP call. In 2020, under the FO4ACP activities, 21 bankable business plans were elaborated and validated by the cooperatives' governance bodies. In 2021 **CAPAD**, supported by **CSA**, accompanied, and monitored its members in

the process of seeking agricultural credit from microfinance institutions (MFIs). Several credits were successfully received and paid back. CA**PAD** continued to support its member-FOs with complying to new Burundian cooperative legislation. Thirty-seven (37) cooperatives were registered with ANACOOP (National Agency for the Promotion and Regulation of Cooperative Societies) after restructuring, statute-updating and inventory, for which **CAPAD** produced a tool.

40. **CAPAD**, supported its members business planning through marketing trainings for 82 leaders. Eighteen (18) cooperatives defined their business idea, objective, and timetable for activities. In support of collective marketing, a law was drafted related to the national school feeding programme. CAPAD has established a processing unit and four (4) technicians were trained to manage the unit better and the production is now performing better than before. Distance trainings were conducted with ten (10) CAPAD staff members on the safe use of pesticides. A training workshop was organised for cooperative leaders on marketing strategies.

41. In **Democratic Republic of Congo**, the project in cacao, chili, and honey value chains, implemented by CONAPAC and supported by **Trias** finished at the end of 2021. Planned exchange visits were adapted (Covid19) to local cocoa-to-chocolate processing trainings. Producers were sensitized to agroecological techniques to improve production. This activity benefitted 160 producers and 31 ha of new varieties plantations were installed. Twenty-one (21) cocoa processing sites were set up to turn wet cocoa beans into marketable cocoa and 47 women from **COINDELO** and **COOPEBAS** were trained on the processing of by-products of cocoa (butter, sweets).

42. **Trias** has been assisting cooperatives in the preparation of forecasted operating accounts (purchase, disposal, and sale). Through the Enable Rural Innovation (ERI) approach 219 producers were trained in entrepreneurship to improve strategic business decision and initiatives. The objective has been to enable the leaders of the cooperatives and their members to make decisions before undertaking a commercial activity and to learn from them afterwards. Further, 46 members (7 women and 3 youth) were assisted to develop operating accounts for the export of cacao, twenty-two (22) for the export of chili and twenty-six (26) for the production of honey. The biggest account was developed for the export of 137,615 tons of cocoa (31,364 tons for COOINDELO, 31,351 tons for COOPEBAS and 74,600 tons for COCAMA).

43. Twenty two (22) members, including 5 women and young people from the **COOPEBAS** and **COOINDELO** cooperatives participated in the preparation of the operating account for the sale of 1.6 tonnes of chilli pepper and 26 producers, including 7 women and 10 young members of the **COOINDELO** and **COOPEBAS** cooperatives, participated in the workshop on the preparation of operating accounts for the sale of 0.904 tonnes of honey The monitoring of business plans revealed that **COCAMA** had reached 71.5% of its projected turnover, **COOINDELO** 38%, and **COOPEBAS** 80%. During the project, **COCAMA** had renovated its coca dryer and warehouse and **COOPEBAS** had established a processing centre, which is fully operational at the end of the project. **COOPEBAS** managed to establish new markets for its honey produce and is now selling to Kinshasa supermarkets and has contracts with wholesalers and distributors. In Maya 2021, COOINDLO and COOPEBAS made their first sales through on online tool (300 l of honey). The Fairtrade certification of all three (3) FOs are on the way.

44. **Kenya** - As mentioned, poor connectivity hampers FOs efforts to digitalise their services and to use digital tools for improving their access to markets. The COVID19 pandemic and its impacts have pushed the FOs to accelerate the digitalisation and to search new partners who could serve the FO members digitally. In 2021, in Kenya, **KENAFF** member, the **Meru County Farmers Association** benefitting from FO4ACP support, managed to team up with a company, **Digifarm**, which provides farming input on credit, price information and insurance via a mobile platform.

45. As part of the COVID-19 relief in 2020 within FO4ACP, **KENAFF** itself, supported by AHA, established a USSD System *501# to provide access to to a variety of information – ie. related to weather, market,

COVID19 – to farmers. The process for setting up this system has been documented and disseminated in IFAD, AgriCord, **AHA** and KENAFF social media, IFAD Dgroups, as well as in the Kenyan national media. In 2021, the system continuous to be supported by the FO4ACP project. The support covers the SMS unit costs as well as maintenance costs of the system. The system has over has now more than 223,000 registered users (increase of 774% compared to January 2021) and KENAFF sends out 330,000 SMS per month on average. Monetization is planned to take place in two (2) to two-and-a-half (2,5) years. Capitalizing on KENAFF's promotion efforts of the USSD-system, **Meru County Farmers Association and DigiFarm** linked maize farmers to markets with its app/platform. This allows member producers to market at fair prices and access additional services and benefits (for more, see Annex). In 2021, KENAFF facilitated also the registration of 4,400 dairy cows to Kenya stud book with the motivation to increase milk production, and two (2) groups were linked to input suppliers.

46. **Kenya** - In 2021, the level of rainfall was low, and the start of the main rainy season (March to May) was relatively late. The negative impact on harvests was significant. The Kenya Food Security Steering Group estimated yields between 39% and 58% below average for maize and pulses in the southeast of the country. This growing climatic disruption is prompting the national cereal FO **CGA** to: i) provide more support to producers in adopting agroecological practices to gradually adapt and ii) organize contacts with input suppliers well in advance to prepare for the 2022 season and enable farmers to be ready in case of early rains. Many of the farmer trials and demonstration plots set up in the project have not been able to achieve the expected results because of this negative climatic impacts.

47. In 2021, **CGA**, supported by **Fert**, conducted project activities at the level of the 5 counties of Narok, Nakuru, Uasin Gishu, Meru and Laikipia. Farmers received training and counseling on good agricultural practices (Global GAP), on selected agroecological practices such as conservation agriculture, mulching, biofertilizers, early seeding and, in arm economic analysis. To strengthen the service provision in the proximity, relay farmers (endogenous advisors) received training and coaching in a different technical topic. (330 training sessions for close to 18 000-man days). A total of 280 leaders participated in 8 exchange visits and 149 relay farmers were trained, reaching 11,000 producers. To boost the production capacity, the FO facilitated access to 315 t. of inputs, equivalent to EUR 123 000 for about 1 200 farmers. In 2021, 46 demonstration and 4 experimental plots were maintained, 53 soil analyses were performed and 100 hectares were pulverized by drone. Access to input was improved by a collective purchasing scheme, which acquired 315t of inputs (123 000 EUR value) and reached 1,200 famers. The CGA team developed also one (1) tool for the collection and analysis of economic data and ten (10) farmers participated in piloting the tool.

48. **Kenya** – **MDCU** and **BAMSCOS** project, supported by **We Effect**, works on the dairy value chain. One of the project's focus areas has been the feed production and storing, in which good results can be observed at the end of 2021. The tonnage of fodder and pasture production and conservation in the intervention zone has increased by an average of 50% since the start of the project activities. This is attributed to fodder demonstration farms established at the cooperatives level where farmers can learn the good practices. Farmer-to-farmer approach was applied to train 35 members of five (5) affiliated associations on SALM practices. Training on producing drought resistant fodder was provided to 418 farmers from twelve (12) affiliated societies and 50 demo plots were established. Related to the activity, 1,100 training manuals were printed and distributed among 45 member associations. The extensionist network supported by the project has been sensitizing farmers on importance of fodder conservation for the dry season's sustainability. Fodder plans were created in thirteen (13) member associations, which improves the fodder management of 764 farmers directly. Certification and analysis of animal feeds was also carried out to ascertain crude protein content meeting the required standards.

49. The project activities have worked towards a paradigm shift in the animal rearing practices from majorly traditional practices with indigenous breeds to more modernized practices with improved breeds with an improved per cow milk production from 3 litres to 4.5-5 litres. Also, trainings of 2,523

farmers on new animal husbandry technologies led to already 24% among them to adopt silage making technologies and going ahead to adoption of semi/full zero grazing units. Behind this shift is the improved extension services by the cooperative union, including the establishment of an artificial insemination depot used to improve breeds. This depot provides the regional artificial insemination officers access to semen, liquid nitrogen for semen conservation and to various assorted artificial insemination kits. The provision of artificial insemination services by official at subsidized prices and possibly on credit basis was facilitated by the FO.

50. Improving the hygiene standards of the raw milk product has increased the marketability of the milk from the farmer members. To prevent post-collection loses, 212 members of fifteen (15) member associations were trained on milk handling and one association managed to already reduce the losses i to 0.2% per month. A milk lacto scan device was acquired for instant analysis of milk composition which will be used at factory and cooling station. The project has enabled the Union to establish a milk value addition enterprise through packaging of milk under a developed brand name "HILO MILK" currently in the market region of Baringo County and Nakuru County with a projected growth into Uasin Gishu and Elgeyo Marakwet Counties in the nearest future. The project has resulted in improved livelihoods of **BAMSCOS** union farmer members in terms of income generated through the dairy sector. At the start of project in 2020 the milk price per litre that the farmers could attain was 38.80 Ksh. Now it has increased to 44.50 Ksh at the end of 2021.The FOs supported also the development of twelve (12) business plans of their members.

51. Also, **MDCU** and **BAMSCOS** carried out financial trainings with Village Savings Groups (VSLA) and four (4) new groups were formed. Eleven (11) financial sensitization and inclusion fora were held resulting in more farmers channelling their income through the Village Savings Groups. Four (4) conferences on financial management targeted leading farmers. Forty-four (44) leaders were educated on insurances in the agricultural sector, an estimated 43,500 farmers could potentially benefit from the existing insurances.

52. In **Kenya**, **FF-SPAK**, supported by **FFD**, is implementing a project in 2 counties i.e., Muranga and Kiambu. This region is in central Kenya in the highlands and has good rainfall and high potential in agriculture. The focus for the project is sustainable and profitable forestry with avocados and macadamia nuts being the main value chains. In 2021, two quality tree nurseries were established in Kiambu and Muranga. Eventually, the nurseries are expected to lead to a higher quality timber by producing 500,000 multipurpose seedlings. They are being used as demonstration sites for certified nurseries which can be emulated by nursery operators among FFPO's. They will also serve as a source of quality germplasm for FFPO members thus serving to improve production quality and quantities. A checklist developed by stakeholders in the Kenya forestry sector is being used to ensure that the nurseries meet the highest standards required. Thirty (30) members were trained in nursery practices. A handbook updated by **the Finnish Producer Association - MTK** provided the foundation for the training.

53. Also, two (2) collection centres in two (2) counties were established for improved processing of quickly perishable avocados. In this context, a MoU was signed for leasing of care and harvesting tools. Fifty-five (55) members participated in training on the development of the avocado value chain. Six (6) meetings with avocado-exporting businesses were organized.

54. As a result of concerted efforts in promoting awareness on cooperatives and its benefits to farmers among potential members in the region, **FF-SPAK** membership numbers grew exponentially. While at the end of 2021 membership stood at 300, at the end of 2022 it had reached 1300. This increase can be attributed to potential members witnessing and hearing about benefits the members of the cooperative are getting – training and capacity building, better prices for products and access to superior inputs/information.

55. As a result of the interventions from the project so far, farmers have seen an increase in the quality and quantity of their products taken to the market. The change has come from better practices ranging from simple to complex ones. For instance, most farmers in the cooperatives have undertaken practices like pruning, thinning for correct spacing, mulching, correct manure, and pesticides application. Armed with this evidence, leaders of the cooperatives are bargaining for better prices per kilogram of avocado and macadamia nuts as they can assure exporters of the quality delivered. Thus, farmers are getting more income from the same number of trees than before.

56. Some 55 farmers were trained (25 females and 30 males) on identifying opportunities within the farm forestry and investing the available resources to exploit the opportunities for long term gains. The training focused also on developing and marketing of avocado fruits for the cooperatives. The following table shows the impact of the training on marketing of avocado in the year 2021.

Table 3: Impact Marketing Training

Cooperative	Volumes sold (tons)	Amount KSHS	Buyer
Lima Linda Coop	217	16.275 Million	MOFARM Exporters
Agrifruinuts Coop	9.552	716,400	MOFARM exporters
Agriculture Beyond	66	6.2 Million	KEITI Exporters

57. Four (4) extension officers were equipped to train over 1,000 farmers on silvicultural practices. Thirty (30) members participated in field visits on silvicultural practices and linked with potential buyers. The Kenya Commercial Forestry and Investment Expo was organized by Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI). The Conference and Expo was an opportunity for stakeholders in the commercial forestry sector in Kenya and the region, to showcase and exhibit commercial forestry technologies and opportunities that investors can tap into The forum brought together national and county government, timber merchants, timber industries, financial institutions, Tree Growers Associations, NGOs and Development Partners, professionals, researchers, wood processors, investors, and other key players in the commercial forestry sector to take stock of the status of the industry, challenges, and opportunities available. FF-SPAK participated in the event and showcased farm forestry products and technologies through farmers from Central highland tree Growers association (CHTGA) and Tree Growers Association of Nyandarua (TGAN). Fifty (50) members received trainings on business plan development and two (2) bankable business plans were developed in 2021.

58. **Madagascar** - The first half of 2021 was marked by technical demonstrations and minor support for acquiring agricultural equipment. Sanitary measures taken by the Malagasy government (isolation of certain regions, drastic reduction of travel and groupings of people, etc.) due to COVID19 cases upsurge limited certain collective activities. **Ceffel**, supported by **Fert**, favoured therefore activities close to the producers including oved in the second half of 2021 and Ceffel and its member FOs continued the planned activities for strengthening the FO services. Twenty-five (25) different organisations (750 individuals) visited Ceffel's training centre. Thirteen (13) trainings, ten (10) exchange visits and 250 demonstrations and experiments in the farming environment were conducted in 2021 and 7,372 farmers were reached with these educational activities. Some of the experiments test new apple varieties requiring less cold environment, other experiments test agroecological inputs as alternatives to conventional ones.

59. Seven (7) markets were monitored for a price survey and the information was distributed to the farmers. Three (3) storage buildings were built, and 85 storage spaces were installed. Sixty (60) tons of

seed potatoes were made available at Fifata (10% /6t were produced at Ceffel). Ceffel discussed the healthy potato seed strategy discussed with seed multipliers and a Potato Commission was established to monitor the implementation of the strategy.

60. Severe droughts hit several regions of the country at the beginning and end of 2021, heavily impacting the rice harvest - estimated by producers to be 30% lower than in previous years. Producers have sought to compensate for the losses by increasing production of vegetables and small livestock (chicken in particular).

61. In **Madagascar, SOA** supported **Apdip** to establish bean seeds production (see annexed reference list for the documentation). **Afdi** provides technical advice to the project. Apdip employed one field technician to provide extension to produce bean seeds. Two (2) training sessions with seed multipliers reaching forty (40) participants were conducted. A total of 64 seed multipliers produced ten (10) tons of RI5-2 bean seeds of which 3.6 tons were certified and 2.5 tons more are about to receive certification. Two (2) Technical and Economic Reference Frameworks (TEN) in Haute Matsiatra and Bongolava on different irrigated rice and bean varieties were established and they were validated by two (2) multi-stakeholder consultation workshops with thirty (30) participants. So far one (1) TEN has been published in French and Malagasy.

62. A database for regional seed producers was set up. The database compiles information on location, producer, crop variety and marketing. So far two (2) FOs have been trained in its use. The database will allow farmers in the **SOA network** to gain a global view on certified seed production, seek out the connections and make informed marketing decisions. One (1) study on the rice seed chain in Haute Matsiatra was finalized and validated by the SOA Board of Directors. The study was published and distributed among FO-networks, ministries, financial and technical partners. One (1) business plan for Cram Fianarantsoa, a regional seed-producing FO, was created. One (1) film (*SOA, 2021, Le Réseau SOA et la production de semences de qualité*) was produced to raise awareness on local certified seed production.

63. **Malawi** - The dairy value project with **CREMPA** in Malawi supported by **We Effect,** had a delay in its start launching the activities in 2021. Originally, another FO partner was foreseen but that partner had serious governance issues, which led to a change of the partner FO before the project could be launched. CREMPA has, however, started the activities in a swift manner and in 2021 several trainings in good practices in dairy production, including animal welfare and training and demonstrations in improved fodder were carried out.

Member of Ludzi Milk bulking Cooperative taking presenting group work during a training session on oil seed production (We Effect Malawi)

64. Also, one (1) Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) was conducted with 436 individual farmers to identify positive and negative impacts of the project, the impact of environmental change and gender issues. One (1) baseline and feasibility study were conducted with 118 respondents and eighteen (18) focus group discussions and ten (10) key informant interviews and the logframe indicators were reviewed. Project awareness meetings reached 440 stakeholders under direction of the Board members. The meeting sparked interest by the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources in the Circle Study Methodology

and Farmer Extension tool and they are looking into possibilities to roll out the methodology and tool through governmental institutions. Seven (7) trainers were identified and trained by **CREMPA** with study circles starting in January 2022.

65. To diversify the production of dairy farmers, including improving fodder production, trainings on pastures, legume and oil seed production were conducted by extension farmers reaching 484 dairy farmers. Oil extraction machines, feed mixers, pellet machines and feed choppers for dairy ration processing were acquired (Mpasa Milk Bulking Cooperative, Dowa). Further, 1,420kg of legume seeds were acquired reaching 100 dairy farmers to plant approximately half an acre (about 2,000 m2) each.

66. In **Mali, CNOP** aims to adapt to the changing climatic conditions and to raise sanitary standards among its member FOs with the help of **Afdi**. Exemplary for such adaptations are domestic and locally adapted seeds. Six (6) relay farmers deepened their knowledge on the conservation of local shallot varieties, another 35 were trained on agroecological practices, and 30 more on certification of organic produce. These relay farmers play a key role to reach as many of their peers as possible. In four (4) regional workshops, 85 relay farmers participated and 50 participated in a national meeting on agroecology in December. Overall, 1574 farmers were trained by the network of relay farmers on compost, biopesticides, gardening techniques, intercropping and livestock. including 797 men, 777 women and 804 young people. The themes addressed are varied and concern the subjects dealt with during the training sessions. The most popular subjects concern the manufacture of bokashi compost and biopesticides, but agroecological practices in market gardening (bedding, transplanting, water management, nurseries, etc.) and the combination with other crops and livestock (improved traditional poultry farming, processing of agri-food products) are also covered. Also, Issues of the Agricultural Land Law (LFA) and its application decrees were addressed.

67. A comparative study was launched to analyse structure, behaviours and performance of the garden market sectors in Bamako and Sikasso. The results are expected in 2022. The **CNOP** member participation open day at the UNCPM, gave a good visibility to the market gardeners of Mali and to agroecology and allowed for establishing contacts with the services of the Ministry of Agriculture.

68. **CNOP** organised also a workshop organised on participatory guarantee systems (PGS). This workshop aroused great interest among the cooperatives involved in the project and the subject will be addressed in depth in 2022.

69. In **Senegal**, building on the results and experiences from the FO4ACP project, implemented by **CNCR, CCPA, FNCAAS, RNCPS, FONGS, UNCAS, FPA** and **FEPROBA**, **Senegal** - **ASPRODEB** supported the **CNCR** in submitting a proposal to a GAFSP call for proposals. The proposal was successful and obtained funding of USD 2,286,017. Six (6) FOs, Asprodeb, CNAAS and OCP took part in the review of Farm Insurance Activities of the past two years concluding that there is a need to continue capacity building on index insurance within FOs and to continue awareness-raising within farmers through community radio and focus groups. Further, four years of collaboration on peanut contracting was reviewed by the FOs. Based on the assessment an action plan was drafted to improve the contract approach through computerization, local credit management and by diversification to shelled and unshelled peanuts.

70. **CCPA, FNCAAS, RNCPS, FONGS, UNCAS, FPA, FEPROBA,** supported by **Asprodeb,** continued the activities on strengthening the rice and peanut value chain, with strong focus on improving access to working capital and large-scale congratulation. Lack of consistent and consolidated information on agricultural producers' and their farm production is one of the major bottlenecks hampering smallholder access to working capital. The project explores and pilots adapting IT tools are available for the agricultural sector to reduce this gap in terms of availability of agricultural information and to further facilitate the marketing and financing in the agricultural sector. LBA (La Banque Agricole), being one of the most important financing institutions for the agricultural sector in the country has been an important stakeholder in the process since its conception.

71. **Sankofa Impact 2.0** services, following the specifications by the FOs and Asprodeb, developed a computer platform allowing for a rigorous and permanent monitoring of input supply, production, and farm deliver activities at individual farm level. The data collection through this platform was piloted during the winter agricultural season 2020. The indicate target was to have 10,000 producers profiled in the database but this proved to be a bit too ambitious. In 2020, the data of 6,095 producers was entered into the database and 3,361 production parcels were geo-referenced. In 2021, 40 permanent and 62 temporary data collectors who could also do the geo-referencing were recruited and trained. By the end of 2021, the data of 20,399 producers was entered in the database and 15,986 ha productions plots were geo-referenced.

72. The farm level monitoring is based on a regularly updated database which provides information (i) the identity of the operator, (ii) the location of the operator's domicile, (iii) the geo-referenced cultivated areas, (iv) the available farm equipment, (v) the available permanent workforce , (vi) agricultural input requirements, (vii) seasonal credit, (viii) actual dates of (vii) crop credit, (viii) actual dates of key cropping operations, (ix) projected yield, (x) delivered production (xi) the discharge of his campaign credit.

73. All these elements allow the managers of the of the contracting producer organizations to rigorously monitor their contractual and analyse the performance of their members. These elements of the database provide an important de-risking element for the buyers and potential financial institutions or value chain actors with the potential to provide working capital for the production cycle. The structuration of the producer and production information in 2021 enabled the FOs involved in the groundnut sector to mobilize 468,506,000 CFA francs from the Agricultural Bank for the acquisition of 2,238.24 tons of fertilizer and 37.17 tons of seed. With the DER, the FOs mobilized 1 182 662 940 FCFA working capital for purchasing 5638.99 tons of fertilizer.

74. In 2021, a workshop assessing Agricultural Insurance on the two previous campaigns was organised. Six primary FOs, **Asprodeb, CNAAS** and **OCP** took part in this virtual debriefing, which concluded that further capacity building of the FPOs (Basic Producers' Organizations) on index insurance was needed as well as sensitization of the actors through community radios and focus groups. Also, a need for further strengthening of farm level data collection infrastructure and the database management system is needed for improving the functioning of the agricultural insurances. FO leaders also received sensitization and information in the advantages and requirements of the warehouse receipt system.

75. The benefits and challenges of the contractual approach were analysed by 20 officials and technicians from the primary cooperatives, **CNCR, ASPRODEB** and **COPEOL** (industrial). An action plan was recommended: i) computerized management, monitoring and traceability of producers for greater loyalty ii) proximity management of credit and settlement of unpaid bills iv) reorganization of the certified seed production system. To further increase the mobilization of working capital the FOs should: i) diversify delivered products: in-shell peanuts and shelled peanuts ii) revitalize the groundnut sector's interprofession.

76. To boost the production of certified groundnut seeds 21 producers and FO technicians were trained on good agricultural practices related to the seed production and 13.108 T of groundnut seed in shell and 3.290 T of shelled seed were distributed to 84 producers in 19 primary FOs.

77. In **Senegal**, the project carried by **CNCR** and supported by **UPA DI** ended on 30 September 2021. Some delays were encountered due to the pandemic and the health measures put in place, but the results were not affected. An important part of the capacity building focused on the managers of the collective groundnut input supply service. Their capacities were strengthened to secure the supply of inputs, obtain approved inputs that meet production needs, obtain a gain in the producer's selling price, increase the sector's income through the service and to generate interest among producers. To project supported the development of tools to support the production of the supply chain service balance sheet and training to use those tools.

78. On important part of the project was the Farm Radio component, which extended the reach of activities to a larger number of people. The objective of Rural Radios was to develop interactive mass communication via rural radios by adapted training modules, and to set up and run inclusive (women and young people) and interactive listening clubs for rural populations. By setting up a regular, attractive, and interactive information and dialogue event in the local language, Radios Rurales has been able to win the loyalty of all of the project's stakeholders and partners, but more particularly the producers of the groundnut sector - whether through social networks popular with the target populations or through the local radio media, which are credible and also very popular. Rural Radios has thus made it possible to mobilise the communities working in the groundnut basin. By increasing the visibility of the programme of activities implemented under the various project components, the content developed and broadcast by the consultant and his field team has helped to attract new members to the producer groups, which means an increase in membership fees and therefore in equity. It also helps the producer groups demonstrate their professionalism to potential new partners and donors.

79. The Farm Radio activities were led by a consultant who worked near a field team created specifically Farm Radio within the FO. The consultant trained the team, and the sessions were conducted on the principle of action training, with maximum emphasis on practical exercises, combining good practices and the bottlenecks that a user may encounter daily, including during the production and post-production stages of multimedia content. Thus, the changes brought about by Farm Radio are at two levels. Firstly, the local teams' multimedia production skills have been enhanced and cemented by their practical application through the production of content in the context of the training courses, as mentioned above. It is worth noting that the production of quality content continued independently after the end of the trainings, demonstrating that a change in behaviour and performance through learning has taken place within the local production teams. Secondly, the knowledge of the listeners of the community radio programmes, the final beneficiaries of Rural Radios, was improved in relation to the themes broadcast, notably the marketing and contracting of agricultural products.

80. In **Tanzania** – In **TAHA** project, with technical support by **FFD**, aiming to develop an innovative business model for **TAHA** and its members around water distribution services. A guideline for implementing water distribution scheme was developed in 2021. Also, a summary report on key legal requirements on commercial set up of irrigation project in Kilimanjaro was completed. In addition, a training manual on the use of climate friendly production methods in horticultural sector was produced. Climate change may bring about positive or negative impacts to agriculture. Farmers should be capacitated to adapt to or mitigate the negative ones and to identify the potentially positive impacts to benefit from those in their farming activities (choice of crops etc.).

81. In the second trimester **TAHA** and **FFD**, designed an activity plan for the next phase of the project. During that phase, in two existing small scale irrigation schemes managed by farmers' Water User Groups in Moshi region a-pay-as-you-go water monitoring and usage optimization system (Maji Chap), including a smart water payment interface will be piloted. An important part of these pilot schemes is transitioning the water pumping systems into solar energy ones.

82. In **Tanzania, MVIVATA Arusha** and **MVIWAMA** rolled out b|u|s trainings (b|u|s method developed by **AHA**) with Tanzanian trainers who self-organized on a peer-to-peer basis. The trainers now offer their services to other organizations, too. A b|u|s competition took place, where the best presented business plans received a small motivation grant under the FO4ACP program.

83. In **Uganda, HODFA**, supported by **Trias**, increased its use of digital data for its business planning. It strengthened its SMS information system by designating one staff to regularly disseminate market information. By digital data collection from its members, **HODFA** is now able to set more accurate and up to date production volume projections. **HODFA** uses also digital platforms to search for new buyers. Three of **HOFDA**'s small farmer group associations became certified rice, beans, soya seed producers.

The production engages sixty (60) farmers. **HOFDA** reviewed its business model, especially regarding input financing and mechanization services. This led to clustering small farmer group associations based on performance data to improve the targeting of the services provided by **HOFDA**. Five (5) new cooperatives received training to meet legal requirements and for financial management. The members of 13 SFGAs (689 farmers) were reached with an awareness campaign on quality inputs and sales.

84. **HOFDA** was disappointed to learn that only thirty-five (35) farmers enrolled for crop insurance scheme. This is much lower than the targeted 500. The discrepancy is attributed to general unpopularity of insurance concepts among farmers and general public and shows that lot more awareness raising, and training efforts are required. In eight (8) SFGAs, 166 rice-farmers were supported in planning their enterprises. A total of 1576 farmers were linked to agro-mechanization services such as tractor ploughing (236 acres) or shellers. Ninety (90) leaders relay market information they receive on a weekly basis. Pest management trainings reached 1362 farmers. Refresher trainings on cost-benefit analysis (CBA) and marketing basics were conducted with 722 farmers and 400 were trained on System of Rice Intensification (SRI) and 479 farmers were trained on rice quality standards.

85. In **Uganda,Tunado,** supported by **Trias**, produced eight (8) documented success stories of women in the apiary sub-sector and four-thousand (4000) people were reached with at least one of the eight (8) documented success stories of women in the apiary sub-sector. Samples of bee-venom were obtained for profiling and possibly later applications. The staff of six (6) newly established bulking and trading centres were trained under the RTC-concept (Rural Transformation Centres). Beekeeping tutorials were produced for dissemination and the *World of Bees* – website was promoted.

86. The activities in the East African regional project aiming at promoting smallholders and FOs access to **Good Agricultural Practice** certification schemes was halted due to other priorities of the FO-partners during the COVID-19 pandemic and the recovery phase. Discussions are under way to decide, if the activities originally foreseen should be relaunched or if there would be other priorities for the remaining budget foreseen for this project.

87. **The continental potato strategy** work launched in 2019, continued in close co-operation with **PAFO** also in 2020. At the end of 2020, a concept note based on these reflections was produced. Four areas of intervention were identified: i) access to inputs ii) improvement of production – disease and pest management and climate change adaptation iii) post-harvest management – storage, processing, and commercial partnerships iv) coordination and knowledge management. The COVID-19 pandemic halted the implementation of the February 2020 Action Plan, which laid out the following steps for the operationalisation: i) clarify the specific constraints of each region and enhance the strong experiences of local and national FOs and sub-regional platforms ii) show the added value for family farms and their organisations iii) specify that the support concerns all family farm production systems iv) link the strategy to advocacy to facilitate sub-regional and regional trade v) partnership with research to access innovations vi) the documentation of the situation of value chains: volume of production, imports from outside the continent, intra-continental exports, origin and volume of seeds, financing.

88. As said, 2021 was a hiatus in the implementation but in the **PAFO** General Assembly in October 2021 the RFOs and their members reconfirmed the importance and priority given to this initiative. **PAFO** and AgriCord were invited to re-launch the organisation of the international workshop to operationalise the strategy. In the last quarter of 2021, **PAFO** and AgriCord continued to collaborate with the World Potato Congress to facilitate the FO participation in the upcoming events - Malawi Congress and World Congress. It is also in discussions that **PAFO** and AgriCord could approach donors to discuss possibilities for obtaining continent wide support for rolling out the continental strategy.

89. **The West African regional Irish and sweet potato project** is being implemented by **ASPRODEB** with close steering by **ROPPA**. This project is supporting Burkina Faso, Guinea Conakry, Mali, and Senegal to develop the two value chains at national and regional levels. In Senegal, the feasibility study on seed

potato value chain commissioned by **CNCR** in 2020 concluded that the value chain was potentially profitable and sustainable. Based on the study a pilot project for seed production was designed and launched in December 2020. A demonstration plot of 50 hectares and support by a team of researchers from ISRA were provided as resource for this pilot project.

90. In 2021, national FO-meetings and consultations were carried out to assess the current state of the value chains and the constraints to overcome. Three areas of regional cooperation were identified, namely (i) the production of certified seeds, (ii) the professionalisation of FOs and (iii) financing of the value chain. Each country has an Action Plan aimed at better structuring, with other public and private actors, the value chain. **ROPPA** is leading the arrangements for consultations with the Regional Economic Communities. External experts were consulted to validate the four (4) national action plans and the modalities for the set-up of a regional intervention framework. Two value chains in each country were diagnosed, actors identified, and environment analysed. Almost XAF 70 million (more than EUR 100,000) were raised from private and state financing to support the production and conservation of potato seeds.

2.2.2 Component 2: Enabling the Business Environment

91. Despite the relatively modest budget for Component 2 activities, the general image is that, due to overall institutional strengthening and increased professionalisation, the supported FOs have steadily widened their networks and are increasingly recognized as a relevant stakeholder and interlocutor in the policy processes. The FOs are taking their place at the negotiating table and in other policy contexts, presenting positions, often bases on consultations among their members.

92. Also, at subnational and local level, primary cooperatives are improving their capacity to participate in policy processes at the municipal and provincial level affecting different aspects of their farming business and they engage also more successfully with the authorities in charge of implementing government agricultural subsidy and grant programs at local levels.

93. In many projects, the lobby and advocacy specific activity has been training using by The Farmers Advocacy Consultation Tool (FACT). FACT combines the knowledge of farmers and farmer organizations together with expert advice to generate policies and position statements that are accountable, evidence-based, relevant to current issues, and technically feasible. Through dialogue between farmers' organizations, their constituents, and policy experts, FACT ensures all policy positions or statements respond to and reflect the reality of members' needs. FACT was developed by Agriterra, a Dutch advocacy and consultancy group working with farmers and farmers organizations around the world. The FACT approach contains four components: consultations, participatory research, writing SMART proposals, and stakeholder mapping and analysis for lobby and advocacy. Workshops using the FACT approach are guided by a reader, containing the basics of the process, two facilitators' guides, and two participants workbooks (1 + 2).

94. Despite the progress made so far within FO4ACP projects, some important challenges for reinforcing the FOs capacities to influence for enabling environment remain. First, it is one thing to present a policy position, and quite another to see it reflected in actual policies. It is important to follow up the policy processes all the way from the preparatory phases to the adoption of the proposed policy, but not all FOs are sufficiently aware of different policy initiatives at the earlier stages of the preparatory process and rely too much on providing inputs for official consultations. Their capacity to lobby through other, more informal, channels to influence already the basic orientations of policies and programs, remains a pending task in many cases.

95. In **Burkina Faso**, **UPPRS**, **UERWL** and **RCPB/KAYA,** supported by **Trias,** organised workshops on the implementation and monitoring of the paddy rice strategy to discuss the conditions, the desired

quantity, and the variety of rice. This is an important step allowing the FOs to position themselves in price negotiations.

96. In **Burkina Faso, CPF** and **UMPL-B** supported by **Afdi ,** produced an advocacy note on the distribution of the added value within the dairy value chain. The note contains a diagnosis of the local dairy sector and recommendations. These are broken down into 22 measures addressed to the administrative authorities, 6 key messages and 6 recommendations and advocacy messages formulated during the 72 hours 2021. This note is now used in the various institutional meetings. The "72 hours of local milk" event is an important moment for promoting the sector. The **UMPLB**, with the support of the **CPF,** held a press conference on Monday 25 October 2021 in Ouagadougou linked to the event. This press conference was held on the theme: "What strategies for a good consideration of the local milk sector in the presidential initiative: Ensure each child of school age at least one balanced meal per day? The conference was attended by about twenty journalists from television, radio, print and online media.

97. In **Burundi** there is a growing interest in supporting the banana sector, which is economically and socially promising in Burundi. To cope with the growing population and its needs on limited intensively farmed land, Burundian agriculture must improve its productivity, which is only possible if the actors together address their own challenges and constraints. As part of the development of agricultural products, and bananas, **CAPAD**, supported by **CSA** and in collaboration with other actors initiated the establishment of an inter-profession of the banana value chain.

98. To achieve this, various activities were carried out in 3 phases. Firstly, there was a consultation between banana value chain actors and professionals in collaboration with the with the IITA representation in Burundi. This workshop gathered the main actors of the banana sector, namely: banana producers the banana research services, the processors of bananas into various liquid and solid products and banana traders/transporters. Secondly, 4 national and 2 international consultants were commissioned to collect all the information on the banana value chain, analyse the data collected, facilitate the setting up of a steering committee, coordinate a workshop to set up the inter-profession and finally, the production of technical documents. Thirdly, the workshop to launch the banana inter-profession was held in Bujumbura in the presence of the different actors of the banana value chain (producers, processors, traders), representatives of research institutions, the public sector and the NGOs concerned.

99. The establishment of ANAGESSA, the National Agency for Food Security Stock Management, at the beginning of 2021, follows the promulgation of a presidential decree for the management of food security stocks in Burundi. By the end of 2020, **CAPAD** had called for the opening of public procurement to agricultural cooperatives, including a 40% quota reserved for cooperatives in the framework of forward contracts to be issued in calls for tender at the beginning of the agricultural seasons. A letter was sent by CAPAD to the President of the Republic of Burundi to this effect. It was recently decided that the market would indeed be open to agricultural cooperatives, but without specifying a quota. Consultations with the political authorities are still underway to continue to advocate for agricultural cooperatives.

100. In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, the project assisted the organisation of the National Steering Committee of **CONAPAC** in which policy positions on six themes were validated. Seventy participants from sixteen member organisations attended the Committee. Trias supported the process of preparing the policy positions by monitoring the provincial consultations with a focus on pooling concerns and gathering best practices. Ten of such monitoring workshops were held at the provincial level reaching 313 participants.

101. In **Kenya** – **CGA** lead negotiations with the Cereal Millers Association, which gathers the 20 major millers in Kenya led to obtaining a producer price higher than the market price (29€ per bushel instead of 23€). CGA held 5 meetings with the government and associated partners on the state storage receipt/warranty system led to 156 farmers being referred to the scheme.

102. In **Kenya**, **MDCU** and **BAMSCOS**, supported by **We Effect**, trained 89 leaders from 45 member organisations on the formulation of policy positions**. FF-SPAK**, supported by **FFD,** trained 20 farmers on lobby and advocacy. A stakeholder mapping was carried out and a forestry related policy paper was drafted and will be submitted to the county government. FF-SPAK is in contact with like-minded groups to lobby the county-level.

103. In **Madagascar, SOA,** supported by **Afdi,** held Consultation workshops with key stakeholders and partners including **The Official Seed Control and Certification Service** (SOC), **The Centre for International Cooperation in Agronomic Research for Development** (CIRAD), The National Centre for Applied Research in Rural Development (FOFIFA), the French Development Agency (AFD), Representatives of the Malagasy Chamber of Agriculture, and the Malagasy seed interprofession to discuss the challenges that seed producers face in Madagascar. Further, S**OA** participates in the revitalization of the inter-professional seed platform **Amprosem** through a committee that will establish a General Assembly and steers a study into the National Seed Strategy. Full documentation of the process of structuring the bean seeds value chain by the consolidation of the production of certified bean seeds by the farmers' association for inter-professional development can be consulted in the annexed document « *Consolidation de la production de semences certifies de haricot par l'association des paysans pour le développement inter-professionnel – APDIP à Madagascar* ».

104. In **Malawi** – **CREMPA**, supported by **We Effect**, held Consultative Meetings with the government to discuss barriers for the dairy sector including breed varieties, per capita milk consumption, farm-gate prices, artificial insemination and inactive cooperatives. **CREMPA** is currently drafting a position paper addresing some of the issues discussed. **CREMPA** also participated in legume platform meetings where farm-gate prices are set and information exchanged to plan the season ahead of time. **CREMPA** participated on the national-level World Milk Day, promoting the dairy sector and increasing visibility for the project.

105. In **Mali, UNCPM (CNOP** member and supported by **Afdi)** invited public and private stakeholders to an open days event. Two-hundred (200) participants took part in three (3) conferences on agroecology, Bandiagara shallots and paticipatory guarantee systems. Testimonies on interventions through digital tools, production techniques and consumer health completed the two-day event. Officials from the onion interprofession *Diaba Toumon Pay* met with Mopti AOPP to discuss the inclusion of the geographic origin on product labels and challenges to product packaging. In **Uganda**, **Hofda**'s board members received training by Trias on lobby and advocacy (FACT tool).Two (2) policy proposals were produced. **Tunado** met with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries to discuss a multi-annual apiculture sector strategy, laying out their ten (10) year draft. The strategy was further discussed with twenty (20) NGOs at a stakeholder meeting. The goal of the process is a closer coordination between the apiary sector's actors and stakeholders. Further, three (3) radio awareness talk shows with the Ugandan Revenue Authority were produced on the benefits of new digital tax stamps.

2.2.3 Component 3: Institutional Development of Farmer's Organizations

106. The most pressing challenges faced by the FO/FLE vary depending on the developmental stage of the organisation, which is why the agri-agencies always carry out an organisational assessment, both before starting work on this component and repeating the exercise every two or three years. Each agri-agency uses their own organisational assessment tool with slightly different areas of emphasis and indicator sets, but the main characteristic and developmental stage criteria remain similar.

107. Agri-agencies support the institutional development of FOs in by ie. training of trainers of cooperative management and governance, coaching the FO staff on leadership, providing training on financial management and accounting as well as on human resources management and monitoring and evaluation. Agri-agencies use different types of profiling tools, such as Spider self assessment and planning tool, for systematic assessment of FOs current level of professionalization and for identifying the most important capacity development needs of the FO. Agri-agencies have also developed specific assessment tools to respond to specific needs of FOs.

108. An example of organisational assessment tools used by agri-agencies and their FO partners: **Organisational Rapid Assessmen**t is a tool developed by the Belgian agri-agency **CSA**. The tool is used to classify cooperatives according to their level of professionalization. It is based on scores from 7 categories:

1. Level of formalization
2. Quality of governance
3. Financial management
4. Operational management of activities
5. Scope of activities
6. Level of autonomy and
7. External relations

Depending on the scores obtained, the level of professionalization of a cooperative is classified as follows:

Level 0 – Emerging structure, without any clearly defined objectives

Level 1 – Cooperative has clearly defined objectives but lacks relevant annual plan and management tools

Level 2 – Cooperative has an action plan and program of activities and management tools but lacks M&E system, issues setting up partnerships

Level 3 – cooperative is active and has all required tools to manage its activities, has contractual relations with traders and finance institutions

Level 4 – cooperative has completed all levels of professionalization

This tool allows to monitor the FO evolution during the capacity development trajectory.

Below some examples of the type of activities for insitutional development of farmers' organisations. For more details, consult the Annex "Activities per project".

109. In **Burkina Faso** - A needs and satisfaction survey was conducted (KoboCollect) with a provisional result of 70-80% satisfaction among members of **UPPRS** and **UERWL**. An annual capacity assessment was conducted using the SPIDER tool to improve the identification of challenges. **Trias** applied LEATRA modules for leadership trainings, and trainings on admin, management, finance, communication and monitoring practices were conducted, followed by an audit.

110. LEATRA - The Leadership Trajectory goes beyond simply imparting democratic principles on how to correctly and democratically manage member-based association. Instead, the Trajectory makes use of a variety of tried and tested techniques to sustainably contribute to leaders' personal development and the sustainability of their organisations. The trajectory: combines group training and one-on-one

coaching, focuses on participants' personal strengths, improves competencies and behaviour, rather than knowledge acquisition alone and employs a solution-focused approach. The full Leadership Trajectory takes approximately one year and starts with an appraisal exercise to identify the candidates who show coachability and a readiness for change. These candidates will follow the full Trajectory which includes the basic training course plus a number of additional modules, selected to tackle the competencies that are most important for them individually. Individual coaching sessions help them convert theory into practice. Participants who show potential get a training as facilitators and coaches to develop the next intake of leaders.

111. In **Burundi** - **CAPAD**, supported by **CSA**, provided capacity building on four (4) different themes were subject to capacity building at coop-level: peaceful conflict management (210 participants), leadership (42 participants), meeting facilitation (40 participants), and governance (21 participants).

112. In **DRC**, the independent preparation of financial statements by **COOINDELO**, **COOPEBAS** and **COCAMA** was trained and accompanied by Trias. The finance officers were trained in using the accounting software (MONTANGI). The insitutionalisation of inclusion of gender and youth was advanced; the mainstreaming of gender is facilitated through the RUTA pathway, and 110 producers participated in women's leadership workshops.

113. In **Kenya**, **CGA** supported its 48 member groups to improve their membership fee collection and payment status monitoring systems.

114. In **Kenya**, **MDCU** and **BAMSCOS** supported the installation of a Management Information System was installed at four (4) affiliated societies, effectively linking the different FO sections for improved financial management, offering credit-based access to input, and raising the bar for quality produce. Dairy Information Systems were installed in four (4) affiliated societies which will greatly improve the FO's professional capacities. Three (3) strategic plans were elaborated. Better internal controls were achieved through the aforementioned set of trainings, and policies were established on elections, procurement and gender.

115. In **Kenya**, **FF-SPAK** laid the groundworks for group certification schemes were laid, inlcuding raising awareness and familiarization with manuals and checklists. Thirty-one (31) members were trained in leadership and governance skills. Study circles and gender awareness trainings were established / conducted applying We Effect's gender approaches.

116. In **Kenya**, **KENAFF** facilitated 12 member groups to receive financial training provided by the Equity Bank Foundation. Six (6) Producer Business Groups are supported and currently being registered. Member recruitment campaign "Building Bridges Initiative" - over 1000 new members (new member cooperative of 9900 producers) for Nakuru Farmers' County Association, 10 new member groups for Taita Taveta Farmers' County Association, 9 new member groups Meru Farmers' County Association. Financial management and Access software training was provided to Kakamega Farmers' County Association and member recruitment campaign carried out at Uasin Kishu County Association. A leadership strategy workshop for the KENAFF national Board was organised on the 8th-11th of June.

117. In **Madagascar**, Fert supported CEFFEL's process to elaborate a strategic plan 2021-2025.

118. In **Malawi**, **CREMPA** was supported to carry out an organizational capacity assessment with the board members and issues of transparency and accountability in relation to its membership were elaborated as areas of improvement. Gender trainings were conducted with FO staff.

119. In **Mali**, **CNOP's** members organised three (3) sessions, 37 cooperative leaders were trained on principles, institutional organs, roles, statutes, and regulations; and challenges as well as solutions were identified. The decision to recruit a facilitator in 2020 resulted in increased membership figures for **UNCPM** (+2 FOs, and from 5,000 in 2019 to 14,000 producers in 2021).

120. In **Senegal, RNCPS** trained forty-seven (47) leaders were trained on the principles of good governance and a handbook was produced.

121. In **Uganda, HOFDA,** supported by **Trias** provided leadership trainings for 44 women and youths from two of its member cooperatives and 33 relay farmers refresher trainings for relay farmers on coaching and tutoring methodologies. Selected **HOFDA** members received further LEATRA coaching to further successful representation and negotiation with public and private actors and consequently, three successful proposal were presented for public programs. Bi-annual internal SPIDER assessments, supported by Trias took place to finetune future service delivery and improve business performance. At **Tunado,** ten (10) members received leadership trainings, 23 new staff underwent capacity building trainings, ten (10) received refresher trainings on financial analysis and risk management and full surveying with SPIDER tools took place.

122. Several FOs strengthened either the leadership capacities among their staff and elected leaders or provided leadership training to their members. One of the training methodologies used is LEATRA – Leadership Trajectory described below in the Box 4.

123. Trias developed the Leadership Trajectory based on scientific research into effective leadership. This comprehensive methodology aims to achieve behavioral change among the current and future leaders of farmers' and entrepreneurs' associations.

2.3 Cross Cutting Issues

124. Four major transversal topics are of relevance in the FO4ACP programme: Gender, Youth, environmental sustainability and climate change, and nutrition. Some of the following examples will show that these ideal categories are hardly separable, as they are in practice very integrated. The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment conducted in the Malawi Dairy Value Chain project, for instance, observes that matters of environmental sustainability, gender and youth converge in the local dairy sector and thus must be treated jointly to address them individually. Most of the following examples are therefore embedded into activities that address more than one dimension.

2.3.1 Gender

125. All participating agri-agencies mainstream gender into their approaches with the aim to support FOs in improving gender equality and inclusiveness. Gender-specific activities can be geared toward women's capacities and skills specifically (e.g. through financial literacy training), or activities that aim to create a more inclusive environment by creating awareness for women-specific challenges and the advantages of representative farmer organizations among those who lead FOs. Figures on women's attendance in statutory meetings and individual women assuming leadership positions are indicative to more inclusive farmer organizations. But also, the capturing of disaggregated data by FOs has already a reflective character and fosters awareness about the (im-) balance of women and youth involvement.

126. An example of an applied methodology in this programme is **Trias** *Inclusion Route Roadmap*[1]. The tool intervenes both at FO- and at farmer household level and offers a twenty (20) step guideline that allows FOs to create their own roadmap to improved gender inclusion.

127. A conventional but effective way in which gender is approached in our projects, is by offering workshops, trainings and mentoring on technical skills that relate to either the leading and managing of businesses, or to agricultural skills and techniques per se.

128. **Asprodeb's** project in **Senegal** with the Réseau National des Coopératives de Producteurs de Semences d'Arachide (**RNCPS**) for instance employs women for the registration and geo-referencing of plots, empowering women in fields of activities that benefit the cooperative as a whole and require technical and technological skillsets. These approaches not only benefit women on the individual level but improve the cooperatives' capabilities to provide quality services to its members.

129. In **Burkina Faso** (**Trias**), women were targeted in the trainings for rice processing and access to equipment (17 at **UERWL**-level, 180 at **FUPRORIZ**-level) resulting in improved product quality and improved income among women in the FO.

130. Many value chains are traditionally dominated by men. **UPA DI's** partner **CNCR** in **Senegal** aims to counter the exlusive dominance of men in the peanut sector. Two (2) women-operated processing units and two (2) women FOs were supported with the goal to establish women in the peanut sector in the long term.

131. Business skills and leadership qualities are another way to boost the engagement of women. One of **UGAM**'s members, **UCoFAT**, conducted workshop targeting specifically women on processing and marketing strategies. In this project, supported by **UPA DI**, 45 women were reached.

132. **Tunado** in **Uganda**, supported by **Trias**, went on to implement one-year mentorship programmes that supports women (and youth) in their leadership competences. Raising numbers in leadership positions

[1] For more information on methodology: Gender inclusion trajectory | Trias

of farmer organizations is a lenghty process that has to be nurtured, but trainings, workshops and mentorships have shown effective.Tunado has registered a significant number of women participating and assuming leadership roles. Its board of directors consists of 9 elected members including 4 women, the top management consists of 4 members, including 3 women; and 57% of all processing companies are owned by women.

133. Similarly strong was women' attendance in leadership trainings at **MVIWAMA** and **MIVAArusha** in **Tanzania**. The **AHA**-supported project registered attendances above 60% for women.

134. For many FOs, there is still a long way to go in terms of inclusion. Often, overall figures distort positive tendencies. **FNPS** and **CCPSM** (Fupro-members) in **Benin** registered female membership figures of 10% and 12%. These numbers seem low, but when contextualized with women representation in decision-making bodies of 15% (FNPS) and 18% (CCPSM), we see that women are proportionally well represented. **Afdi** will keep supporting the process to raise the share of women in the membership and preserve the proportional representation in the process.

135. Some FOs might decide to introduce policies to regulate women's representation and participation in decision-making bodies. **CGA** in **Kenya** for instance, introduced with support of **Fert** a one-third quota for women in governing bodies. These measures help to formalize and normalize women in leading positions among FOs with gender imbalances at the top.

136. In reality, many FOs start at the collection of disaggregated membership data and the participation of awareness raising events. These two aspects provide the groundwork for long-term strategies to mainstream gender. **Trias** has advanced its multi-pillar approach (institutionalisation, specific strengthening of women, and alliance building) in several FOs of **CONAPAC** in the **DRC**, which are at different stages of gender mainstreaming. An element in the long term strategy is to put a emphasis on postitive masculinity and social justice to appeal not only to women but also men.

137. Overall, gender mainstreaming advances in all projects and countries. But there are socio-cultural and socio-economic boundaries in many local contexts. In **Mali** for example, **Afdi's** project with **CNOP** shows a high share of women and youths among vegetable producers. This is due to the small land requirements for market gardening and the possibilities it creates off season. Despite this strong share, only 35% of relay farmers of the project are women. This has to do with factors such as lower mobility and literacy compared to men, which effectively keeps women from taking on such responsibilities in their cooperatives.

2.3.2 YOUTH

138. Youth inclusion and empowerment go often hand in hand with gender strategies. The challenges for youth and women are not the same per se, but they are similar as they can be addressed with activities that aim for capacity improvements and the raising of awareness as groundwork, hence the choice for similar activities (capacity and awareness trainings, exchanges). Further, gender and youth intersect for many young women in agricultural communities with householding, familial and agricultural obligations.

139. Youth are an important pillar of the agricultural sector and the FOs. Their inclusion is a matter of long-term sustainability. FOs must be able to offer young people prospects and also permanent participation in business and leadership decisions. Universal tendencies such as rural land flight can be hardly countered otherwise. Here, too, the number of trainings, workshops and exchanges reflect the efforts mobilized, while the increases in attendance to statutory meetings and youth in leadership positions indicate the effectivity of such measures.

140. Technical skills were taught to youths in several projects. In many cases, youth and women lack access to farmable land, and strategies thus need to take this into account. **FF-SPAK** in **Kenya**, with the

support of **FFD**, for example, trains youth in tree-nursing which requires little to no land and it supports the FO as a whole. Silvicultural skills are taught in trainings earmarked for youths and certain activities in FOs, such as the avocado harvest, are mostly done by youths.

141. Also in **Kenya**, **KENAFF** linked its youth-inclusion efforts with its environmental initiatives; the nurturing and follow-up care of previously planted trees is mostly done by youths in cooperation and guidance of the Kenyan Forest Service.

142. **UERWL** in Burkina Faso, supported by **Trias**, taught the use of phyto-sanitary products, a key technical skill, in earmarked trainings to 269 youths. Seven (7) more learned to handle motorized rice harvesters. These technical skills aim to create job opportunities in the agrarian sector and improve their standing within the FOs.

143. Beyond earmarking activities specifically for youths, attention is payed to the integration of youths to trainings in general. **AHA's** partners in **Tanzania** have shown serious committment to give youths a greater role in their everyday business and leadership. The share of youth in business trainings and leadership trainings reached 29% and in 21% in the FOs of **MVIWAMA** and **MVIWAArusha**.

144. Besides acquiring technical skills, the boosting of representation plays a key role for the inclusion of youths. Some FOs of **MDCU** and **BAMSCOS** in **Kenya** (**We Effect**) established that their youth committees are being represented at board meetings. Similiarly, **UGAM's** recently established Youth College (supported by **UPA DI**)sends elected representatives to FUPRO board meetings and other youth representatives gained observer status at UGAM's board of directors.

145. A creative example to motivate and boost youth participation was the award-initiative of **TUNADO**. In the apiary project, supported by **Trias**, an award for the best locally sourced beekeeping equipment was presented. The idea is to motivate youths in finding innovative production solutions to local demands and gain independence from expensive imports.

2.3.3 Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change

146. Farmers in Africa have seen several challenges in 2021 which are reflective of the climate crisis at large. Droughts, excessive rainfalls, and changes in previously stable patterns of seasonal rainfall are consequences of climate change that are felt by many farmers right now.

147. Climate change adaptation and mitigation are not choice but a necessity in the daily lifes of many African farmers. Climatic change, paired with other man-made and natural circumstances such as soil erosion, crop diseases, the (un)availability of water, the (un)avalability of external inputs such as fertilizers or seeds, define how farmers take on the challenge of creating environmentally and economically sustainable businesses in the local context.

148. The projects of this programme start from different baselines. In some cases studies and surveys were needed to assess the environmental situation which then allowed to develop action plans that suited local specificities.

1. **CGA** in **Kenya** conducted such a study with the help of **Fert** in Meru and Laikipia to assess the degree of soil erosion.
2. **FFD** and **FF-SPAK** conducted a climate risk assessment and developed an environmental and climate change action plan.
3. And **We Effect** conducted an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) to understand the current state of cross-cutting issues at **CREMPA** in **Malawi**.
4. **Trias** and **CONAPAC** in the **DRC** identified two main risks (drought and wind) and 4 types of agricultural products were identified as endangered upon which farmers' livelihoods currently

depend (cassava, cocoa, rice and forest). Adaptations are based on these assessments and include: irrigation wells, shade plants, restoration of soil moisture through organic matter, adapting crop choices, mulching and others.

149. Local varieties and the build up of seed capital increasingly gain importance. **Asprodeb's** partner **RNCPS** in **Senegal** pursues this goal. Also **Fupro's** farmers in **Benin,** supported by **Afdi,** identified the need to switch to more drought resistant varieties paired with organic production techniques. The projects in **Madagascar** with **SOA** and **Ceffel,** supported by the French agencies **Afdi** and **Fert,** are now quite advanced by having found resilient genetic variants.

150. Such strategic and lon-term adaptations can be supported through information-based partnerships. A success in this regard is the agreement between the **Directorate General of Metereology** (Direction générale de la météorologie – DGM) in Madagascar and the **Soa Network** about the provision and dissemination of meteorological data (historical and forecast) to members. The improved informational situation will enable farmers to take strategic decisions in relation to climatic changes and they will be warned about immanent weather events.

151. Informational exchanges are also the focus of the advisory club on healthy soil founded by **FEGPAB, CCPA and UGPM in Senegal** (CNCR members supported by **UPA DI**). Sixty (60) demonstration plots were established in to promote resilient and sustainable techniques.

152. Agroecological practices and techniques become the central theme in many projects for several reasons, may it be more cost efficient, increase product quality, offer independence from possibly unreliable channels of external inputs (lesson from pandemic), allow for restoration of exhausted soils and diversification of produce and services. Activities that convey such knowledge and skills were trainings (and training of trainers), workshops, study circles, demo - and experimental plotting.

    1. Eighteen (18) trained relay-farmers demonstrated 1,200 how to produce compost techniques. To promote more sustainable agricultural practices, 25 demo fields were set up by **UPPRS, Burkina Faso**. One demo field is maintained by a group of 60 producers to test out new varieties and agroecological practices.

    2. Agroecological practices have an entire module dedicated to them in the ERI (Facilitating Rural Innovation) approach of **Trias** employed in the **DRC**. Soil restoration practices, use of waste products (cocoa pods), reforestation of shade trees in cocoa plantations are promoted and monitored by Trias. 35 participants benefitted from COOPEBAS workshops on climate impacts.

    3. **FF-SPAK** joined the Training of Trainers, Building Resilience Workshop, organized by **FAO**, AgriCord and **FFD** in March 2021. In December **MTK** and FF-SPAK organized a joint-learning session on climate-change risks in forestry in **Kenya** and **Finland**. During 2021, capacity building for producers on issues of climate adaptation and resilience was conducted to help improve coping capacities. Further FF-SPAK events were for instance a Training-of-Trainers with 40 cooperative members on practical interventions such as water conservation.

    4. **Afdi's** project with **CNOP** in **Mali** is focussed exclusively on the advancement of agroecological practices. Here, inclusionary efforts interlock with the environmentally beneficial practices. Vegetable gardening with cost-efficient agroecological inputs offers income opportunities without much access to land and off season to women and youths.

153. Agroecological practices and climate change adaptation still require promotion and awareness raising. Some activities that were mainly pursuing that goal were: the education of representatives and employees in **Benin** by **UGAM** who extended the information to 200 more producers; or **We Effect's** reach out in **Kenya** to 435 Farmers of **MDCU** and **BAMSCOS** in the adoption of Sustainable Agricultural Land Practices (SALM) including fodder production.

154. Some wider initiatives on climate change mitigation were also supported mainly through tree planting. FO4ACP funds were utilized in **AHA's** project with **KENAFF** in the context of the National Tree Planting Week. Eucalyptus, Cupressus/Cypress, Prunus africana, Bamboo, and Casuarina equisetifolia were planted in six (6) sub-counties of Uasin Gishu County. The activities align with the overall Kenyan national strategy to enlarge the country's tree cover by claiming eroded and degraded lands. The measures are expected to conserve water and biodiversity in semi-arid areas.

155. Similarly, more than 200 000 seedlings were raised and distributed among farmers by **Hodfa** in cooperation with the **Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom** to expand the tree cover with multi-purpose species. **Tunado** planted 400 macadamia trees to strengthen and diversify beekeeping activities. Six (6) tree nursery demonstration centers were established.

156. At **AgriCord level,** within the framework of **AgriCord Climate Commission** some key steps were taken in 2021 related to climate action. These activities are coordinated by FFD. The Climate Framework Program (CFP) was approved. The roll out of the Building Resilience toolkit continued in 2021. The training of trainers (ToT) methodology exists also as an on-line training and the tool is available in English, French and Spanish. According to the evaluation carried after the first three ToT session, the training given was well appreciated but it became clear that the on line training format does not allow going into the same level of detail and understanding than a person-to-person workshops do. The demand for the ToT training has passed largely the expectations and resources available.

157. Also, in 2021 there were important occassions for lobby for better access for farmers and FOs for different types of climate funds. The Climate Commission works together with **PAFO** and **RFO**s in trying to strategize how to get better access for FOs for climate financing both at national and at globel levels and develop mechanisms for channelling such funds all the way to the farmer level. Below a summary of the main results from 2021.

Table 4: Climate Commission 2022 Results

TECHNICAL LEVEL	INDICATOR	ACHIEVEMENT	OBSERVATIONS
TOOL AND METHODOLOGY DEVELOPMENT: BUILDING RESILIENCE TOOLKIT	50 AA and FO members trained. 25 times used in the field	130 AA and FO staff trained. 10 times used at the farmer level.	Collaboration with FFF
	Users' Manual prepared for BR-I	Manual available in English, French and Spanish	
	Building Resilience Part II developed for testing	Draft BR-II ready by the end of 2021	preliminary testing in Tanzania with Trias and FFD done with FFF support
PARTICIPATION IN CLIMATE EVENTS AND VISIBILITY	Number of events participated in /organized	Afdi – FAO/Koronivia event 30.9. RFO consultation for COP26 organized 15.11. AgriCord/FFF resilience publication launch 15.11. Trias/ROPPA/AFDI – Side event in Francophone pavilion 29.10. NFU/CFA/DBV/AgriCord/FFF UNFCCC side event 3.11. FFD/IFFA/DAFC side event in Nordic pavilion 5.11.	Introductory videos prepared for 3 events. Number of combined participants: Videos streamed:

M&E SUPPORT AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT	Piloting of climate baseline setting suitable for FO programs	A baseline with a guidance note prepared; a set of indicators proposed.	There is a need to develop this further and look for linkages with BR toolkit.
	Publication on landscape resilience	Publication finalized.	
STRATEGIC LEVEL	**INDICATOR**	**ACHIEVEMENT**	**OBSERVATIONS**
FARMER CLIMATE FACILITY FOR CHANNELLING CLIMATE FUNDS TO FO LEVEL	Proposal developed and agreed with RFOs	A proposal developed and presented to RFOs;	There is a need to have a more concrete funds
CLIMATE MATERIAL	Development of FO climate promotional material	A brochure on AA/FO climate resilience prepared for COP26.	
PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS	FSS and COP26	FSS participation was done on-line; 2 persons participating in Cop26	

2.4 PEER-TO-PEER

158. Peer to peer, farmer to farmer and FO to FO approach is at the heart of the AgriCord intervention model and all projects apply this approach in some form. As seen in the prior chapters, in some projects, the strenghtening of the FO extension services is built on training of farmer extensionist who can support their peers in technical aspects related to agricultural production.

159. Below some examples of the exchanges and learning visits that took place in 2021:

160. **Burkina Faso** and **Guinea Conakry** - Twenty-two (22) producers participated in a five-day exchange on intensive rice system organized by **FUPRORIZ**.

161. **Burundi and DRC –** An exchange meeting between **CAPAD, COCOPA, FWA** and **CSA** took place to strengthen partnerships and synergies (41 participants).

162. **Benin** – **FUPRO** and **Afdi** organised two North-South peer exchanges in 2021: 1/ a maize seed producer and professional manager from the Landes department (in France) shared his experience of cooperative structuring and took part in a workshop on the soybean chain. This workshop brought together all the actors in the soya sector in the Collines region of Benin with the aim of identifying the value chains, the interdependencies between the links and the prospects for working together. 2/ an organic soybean producer contributed his expertise in structuring the commodity chain in France and took part in a workshop in Benin on the soybean commodity chain.

163. **Kenya** – **MDCU** and **BAMSCOS** organised farmer to farmer trianing and CGA organised 8 inter-communal peer to peer visits for 280 primary group leaders.

164. **Madagascar** – **Ceffel** – **Fert** - Given the sanitary situation, exchanges took place locally between producers from different regions. As every year, all the seed potato multipliers from different regions of Madagascar met for 2 days for a "potato assessment" workshop. This meeting allowed to : - Share good agricultural practices adopted in the regions and at the experimentation center

165. In **Malawi, Crempa** organised a learning visit for Mpasa Milk Bulking Cooperative to visit oil production factory at Madisi Milk Bulking Cooperative. The visit was aimed at giving Mpasa MBC members an opportunity to learn from fellow dairy farmers on how to set up a dairy ration production unit and

sustainably manage production. The knowledge and information gained from this learning visit has helped the cooperative leaders to supervise the construction of the structure that will house the feed making machinery and oil extraction machinery and plan for their role in dairy ration and oil production that will be set up at the cooperative.

166. In **Mali**, Afdi mobilised 3 French farmers for the following exchange and expertise missions: A young farmer went to CROJRK from 21 to 25 June 2021 for an exchange on the follow-up of their actions (Jardim and services proposed by the PO to the young people, in particular the digital services). A French agricultural manager was mobilised from 8 to 20 November to monitor the activities of the Jardim project in the Yanfolila sector. A market gardener from Normandy went to the Koulikoro region from 26 November to 5 December to monitor relay farmers and visit market gardening plots, as well as taking part in the workshop on participatory guarantee systems.

2.5 VISIBILITY

167. AgriCord has disseminated the FO4ACP brochure produced by IFAD to agri-agencies and different technical partners and other stakeholders. AgriCord has also promoted in its meetings with agri-agencies the Dgroups platform, the community of practitioners, hosted by IFAD. AgriCord secretariat will had workshops with all the agri-agencies implementing projects within FO4ACP program on visibility and communication guidelines during March-May 2020.

168. AgriCord established a photo database and launched a collection of photos from FO4ACP projects among the agri-agencies at the end of 2020. Each photo will be accompanied by basic information about the project and the people in the photo, which facilitates the use of the database when preparing communication products and producing social media content.

169. In a meeting with the agri-agencies where visibility, communication and knowledge management was discussed, it was agreed that each agri-agency will try to identify success stories of which further visibility and knowledge management products and contents can be developed in cooperation with IFAD's FO4ACP team.

170. FO4ACP activities related content has been published and shared through AgriCord's social media accounts in Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. AgriCord Board, which has four FO leader members, is also regularly updated on FO4ACP program progress.

171. AgriCord participated in the presentation of FO4ACP during Farmers' Forum in Rome, in February 2020.

172. Event on FOs' access to climate finance and FOs role in combatting deforestation and accelerating reforestation with FO4ACP partners, which was meant to be organised in the European Parliament in March 2020, could not be held due to the COVID19 eruption. Instead of this, the Resilience webinar was organized (see paragraph 59).

173. FO4ACP program was presented to AgriCord alliance member agri-agencies' mandating FO representatives during AgriCord's virtual General Assembly in June 2020.

174. An EU Infopoint, aimed at the EU decision and policymakers, European government officials and international development organisations present in Brussels, on a thematic relevant to smallholders and FOs access to finance is foreseen to take place in Brussels on the second half of 2020 was postponed.

175. AgriCord's Project Committee meeting, joining together all the member agri-agencies, in October 2020 focused on exchanging experiences from the first six months of the FO4ACP implementation and

discussing the challenges related to effective visibility and communication activities in the context of multi-actor program such as FO4ACP.

176. The details of the visibility activities at project level can be found from the reference lists provided together with the logical framework results.

2.6 Synergies and Complementarity

177. One of the major issues identified to be tackled in 2021 is to facilitate the interaction with important technical partners and donors at country level, such as IFAD country offices, EU delegations and UN bodies in charge of big public programs.

178. Guidelines for agri-agencies related to the national and regional coordination mechanisms, and experiences from the coordination meetings already held, have been discussed and analyzed in the AgriCord's Project Committee meetings and other internal meetings with agri-agencies implementing FO4ACP. Agri-agencies are now better informed about the existing partnerships at AgriCord level, for example within Forest and Farm Facility, and more aware about who are the relevant stakeholders to be involved in the coordination efforts at the country level. The possibilities to strengthen the thematic cooperation withing the coordination mechanisms has been explored. This is already the case in Tanzania where a common themes related to water management have been agreed upon.

179. Important synergies are being created with the Forest and Farm Facility – FAO in Tanzania and Kenya. These efforts have led to cooperation in organising trainings, in coordinating lobby and advocacy efforts and, for example, in rolling out the FO resilience tool. The Forest and Farm Facility – FAO country facilitators are also participating in the national coordination meetings for mutual sharing of information.

180. AgriCord has led the co-construction of a 10 million EUR global FOledResarch and Innovation program and it that process the complementarity with the FO4ACP program has been one of the main points of attention.

2.6.1 Continental Coordination

181. In 2021, PAFO and AgriCord had several informal virtual coordination meetings to discuss issues related to FO4ACP implementation and other joint processes such as the IFAD led access to finance survey preparations. Going beyond the FO4ACP program context, PAFO and AgriCord held several meetings in the context of Continental Climate Commission discussing fundraising opportunities for climate change adaptation and mitigation activities. PAFO and AgriCord exchanged also information related to FO participation in COP26 and FO participation to Food System Summit Dialogues. Mamadou Cissokho, honorary president of ROPPA and a resource person for FO4ACP program coordination efforts has been facilitating these discussions by providing timely information about different programming processes within major donors, as well as on evolutions in NEPAD and African Union and EU partnership. He has also virtually participated in some of the forementioned meetings.

182. The continental coordination meetings were jointly prepared. The two virtual ones were organized on the 4th of February and on 17th of June 2021. The meeting on the 17th of June included a special session on the ABC funds with presentations by Injaro fund manager, Agriterra as Technical Assistance Facility, Asprodeb – the Senegalese agri-agency and EAFF.

183. AgriCord and PAFO have also been mutually sharing and disseminating information about each other's events, such as Innovation Series which PAFO is co-organizing with COLE-ACP. In the coordination meetings, updates about SAFE 2020 implementation by the FO4ACP partners in Africa have also been provided.

184. The third continental meeting was held during PAFO's General Assembly week on the 18th-22nd of October in Kigali. AgriCord participated to the whole week with a delegation consisting of Katja Vuori, Program Advisor- Ousmane Ndiaye, director of Asprodeb – Marek Poznanski, director of CSA and Marianne Streel – chair of Federation Wallonne de l'Agriculture. Other agri-agencies followed the discussions online and Sophie Fonquernie, chair of Afdi, gave a virtual presentation on the FOs implication on the African Union – EU partnership processes and the thematic of youth in agriculture.

2.6.2 Regional Coordination and national coordination

185. AgriCord's program advisor prepared and coordinated agri-agencies participation to IFAD's SIS missions, which included a specific session related to the regional aspect of the implementation.

186. **SACAU** has been following up closely the national coordination meetings in its region and the agri-agencies and SACAU are well aware of each other's projects and their focus areas. SACAU is also following closely the climate change work of AgriCord and participates regularly in AgriCord's thematic and strategic meetings on that topic and exchanges information and ideas with FFD who is the lead agri-agency for climate. Outside the FO4ACP program, AHA has also been supporting SACAU work on trade policies

187. **EAFF** and AHA as the regional lead agri-agency for the Eastern Africa are regularly in touch to exchange information on the FO4ACP projects and exploring the possibilities for synergies and cooperation between EAFF and agri-agencies also beyond FO4ACP context.

188. In **Central Africa**, the regional and national coordination mechanisms have given an impetus for a closer cooperation between **PROPAC** and Trias. Trias approached PROPAC through a mission to Cameroon in February 2021 to explore possibilities for collaboration between Trias and PROPAC beyond FO4ACP, which will take place in 2022.

189. In **West Africa**, the coordination between **ROPPA** and agri-agencies is well established and happens naturally also outside FO4ACP context as many agri-agencies are collaborating with ROPPA within other initiatives.

190. In **Burkina Faso** in the framework of the national consultations initiated on the FO4ACP projects, for the sharing of knowledge and experiences by country, the Confédération Paysanne du Faso (CPF) in partnership with AFDI and ROPPA organised the first national meeting on 25 January 2021. This meeting brought together all the actors: CPF, ROPPA, UMPLB, beneficiary FOs, Trias, FERT and AFDI.

191. In **Burundi** there is only one FO4ACP project financed but a meeting of exchanges between the delegates of **CSA**, **FWA**, the executives and leaders of **CAPAD** and **SOCOPA**, was held in Bujumbura on 13/10/2021 in order to strengthen the partnership between CAPAD, SOCOPA, FWA and CSA and to evaluate the state of play of the activities of the projects in partnership and synergy such as DGD, FO4ACP and TIN.

192. In **DRC**, Trias participated in the virtual meetings organised within the framework of the FO4ACP project at the Central African level and the organisation of the National Steering Committee (NSC) meeting of the PASPOR Programme brought together the provincial federations and national platforms, as well as support partners. In the context of FO4ACP, a Memorandum of Understanding for the national coordination was signed in February 2021 at the national level.

193. In **Kenya**, the third national coordination meeting was organised virtually on the 25th of August 2021. The meeting was attended by **We Effect, FFD, BAMSCOS, Fert, FFF-FAO, CGA, Meru Dairy, KENAFF** and **CAK.**

194. In **Mali,** CNOP convened the coordination meeting organised in a hybrid mode on the 26th of January 2021. The meeting was attended by **l'UNCPM, la CROJRK, la CROJRS, l'AOPP** de Mopti (à distance), le **CLCR** (à distance), **Asprodeb** (à distance) et **UPA DI** (à distance).

195. In **Tanzania,** the 2nd national coordination meeting took place on the 7th of October 2021. The meeting was attended by all the FO4ACP implementing partners in Tanzania.

2.7 Monitoring and Evaluation

2.7.1 M&E System and Processes

196. AgriCord's M&E system has undergone profound systemic changes over the last quarter of 2021. A dedicated M&E specialist was contracted at the Secretariat to lead this process. The alliance has significantly reformed its system of organizational pillars to improve data quality and optimize data management and flow.

197. More concretely, in the context of the FO4 progammes, this was realized through:

1. The creation of standardized AgriCord templates, in accordance with IFAD/EC guidelines and reporting requirements. The templates include:

    i. a logical framework in Excel with all core FO4 performance indicators;
    ii. a narrative report with a structured focus on main achievements as well as a component-by-component review of activities;
    iii. a narrative section to the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) and
    iv. a reference list of key products (e.g., communications, advocacy, knowledge products etc) in Excel.

    These templates were created and distributed among agri-agencies, starting from September 2021.

2. The establishment of a centralized database through the OneDrive/SharePoint environment. Each agri-agency received its own main folder with specific sub-folders for all programmes. Within each of these, specific project folders were added, identified by its AIN (AgriCord InfoNet) number. This system was rolled out in late December 2021 in preparation of the 2022 reporting period for all Fo4 programmes.

198. A variety of supporting documents were also developed and/or shared through the OneDrive/SharePoint spaces to support data collection, management, and analysis throughout the alliance. This includes a Gantt chart with information on important internal and external deadlines and dates as well as key documents, such as the IFAD indicator definitions and the Project Implementation Manual.

199. Quite apart from providing the basic instruments, the Secretariat has also set up processes to strengthen data quality. Prior to reporting, an internal data verification process was set up by the M&E focal point with an internal deadline for submission (January 20th). This allowed AgriCord's M&E person to coordinate submissions and review documentation, before reporting to IFAD. AgriCord will continue this practice before every reporting period, as it allows AgriCord as an alliance to strengthen data quality.

200. In addition, the Secretariat remains committed towards strengthening the capacities of all alliance members in order to improve M&E processes. To this end, AgriCord's M&E specialist organized and conducted a series of workshops in English, French and Spanish on key topics (including indicator definitions and calculation methods) between November 29th-December 1st. 28 agri-agency staff from 8 agri-agencies (Trias, Fert, AHA, Afdi, UPA DI, ACODEA, FFD and AsiaDHRRA) participated in

these sessions. The Secretariat envisages to conduct regular sessions at least twice per year, including for incoming staff.

201. Generally, this has resulted in more efficient data management and improved data flow. All agri-agencies have been able to report in a timely manner to ensure submission to IFAD by February 15th. Documentation included logical frameworks, narrative reports, reference lists and the narrative sections of the AWPBs.

202. Nonetheless, challenges remain for the alliance. These include both technical issues and problems with data validity. Among technical issues, access to OneDrive/SharePoint has been a key issue. These spaces had to be established just prior to reporting, meaning that a large amount of data had to be transferred to a different platform and proper rights assigned to all users among agri-agencies in a very short time period. Given differing organizational security settings and technical capacities, this implied that many users encountered access issues to the SharePoint/OneDrive environments. Though the overall majority of these issues were resolved and reporting was sent through email in exceptional cases, a few users still report that access remains problematic.

203. Another key issue has been data validity. At various times, submitted data had to be reviewed again, as it was deemed inaccurate. Most issues were resolved during the internal data verification process and the logical framework is accompanied by a detailed analysis providing further explanations on the data gathered. The issues stemmed from a lack of understanding of some of the indicator definitions and from the fact that FOs had received funding from different donor sources for similar type of objectives. Whilst it is understood in general, in the capacity building programs such as FO4ACP, the results are most of the time not coming from a specific set of activities but are influenced by a combination of internal and external factors.

204. Despite these challenges, it should be noted that the alliance has been able to report on all projects, apart from one. Steady progress has been made in terms of performance (see above and consolidated logical framework). Apart from continuing to improve data quality through verification processes and capacity-building, in future the alliance commits to:

1. Create strategic frameworks, including a M&E policy with data quality standards, an organizational Theory of Change, and a logical framework with performance measures.
2. Introduce a simplified monitoring tool to track FO development more systematically over time.

2.7.2 Brief Analysis of Results

205. An analysis of our results can be consulted in Annex I.

2.8 KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

206. Knowledge management provides an opportunity for the alliance to continue its development. A number of agri-agencies have taken the lead in creating already knowledge products - Afdi and Fert and AHA. These knowledge products have been shared within IFAD Dgroups network.

207. However, there has been a lack of capacity in this area. This has been addressed at the level of the Secretariat in 2021 and a dedicated person to M&E and knowledge management was contracted in late July 2021. The development of the M&E system, including the transition into a more collaborative digital platform, took priority, as per the recommendations of IFADs aide memoire on the subject. Thus, as the M&E reform is being currently finalized, AgriCord commits itself to develop a more coordinated and systematic approach in generating and sharing knowledge. This coincides well with the mid term milestone of the program implementation, as now it is expected that the best practices start to emerge from the ongoing projects. To support the process further, AgriCord's M&E and knowledge management expert will draft an appropriate KM strategy to map out the alliance's path in this area.

208. In the short-term, measures are taken to improve the KM processes. AgriCord's website is being redesigned to include a resource library with specific sections for knowledge management products (e.g., short videos, articles etc.). The site will be pivotal in the alliance's efforts in knowledge creation. The redesigning process is expected to be finalized by the end of first quarter of 2022.

209. Among specific products, the AgriCord will start a regular series of newsletters, each focusing a particular topic of interest for the agri-agencies and their partner FOs. A mock-up has already been created in October 2021. It will be adapted for use, starting in early March 2022 monthly. The audience will be limited in the short-term to agri-agency staff and the FO partners in the program. Topics will be selected based on case studies highlighting challenges and/or successes as well as lessons learnt for fellow peers.

210. Peer to peer exchange sessions will be organized by the Secretariat, during which agri-agencies with their FO partners when pertinent can present short case studies and lessons learnt on specific pre-set topics and discuss openly in an informal setting to enhance learning.

211. IFAD, PAFO and AgriCord will also conduct sessions on joint themes (e.g., peer-to-peer farmer learning), as discussed during a meeting on the subject in February 2022. The Secreteriat commits itself to a more active involvement in Dgroups, sharing knowledge and encouraging others to do so as well.

212. As highlighted above, there is much work to be done. However, through the concrete methods and practices, AgriCord envisages to further cultivate a culture of joint learning and sharing knowledge among agri-agencies and FOs and technical and financial partners.

2.9 BUDGET AND STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE

213. The budget and statement of expenditure for the year 2021 will be submitted shortly.

Version 1 (18/02/2022), for submission to IFAD

The here presented information might be subject to corrections.

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