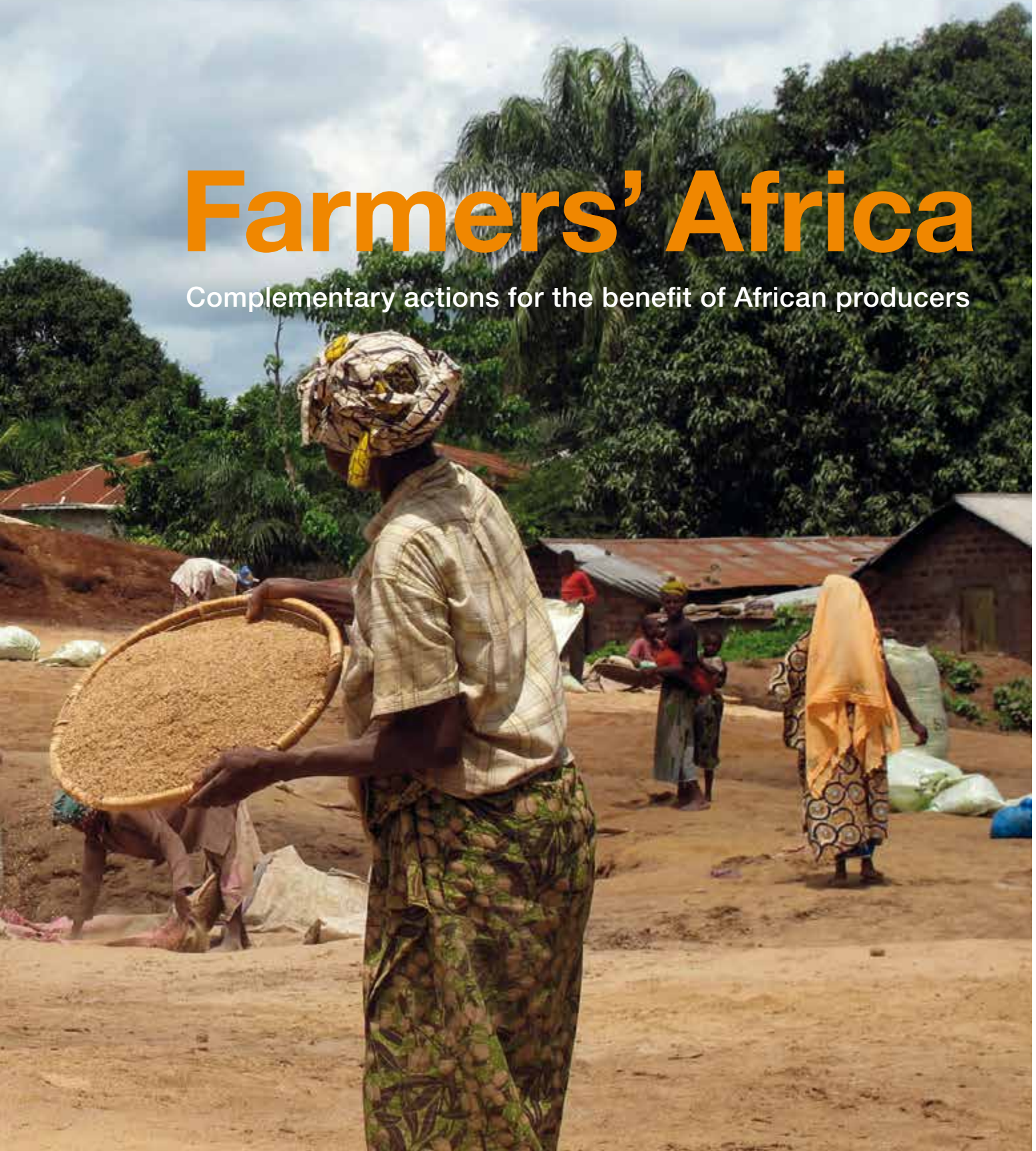


AGRICORD



Farmers' Africa

Complementary actions for the benefit of African producers



This programme is financed by the European Union



Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



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Regional farmers' networks

EAFF

Eastern Africa Farmers Federation

PROPAC

Plateforme Sous-Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale

ROPPA

Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest

SACAU

Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions

UMAGRI

Union Maghrébine des Agriculteurs

Farmers' Africa is a capacity-building programme that aims to improve the livelihoods and food security of rural producers in Africa. It works with farmers' organizations (FOs) to help them evolve into more stable, performing and accountable organizations that effectively represent their members and advise them on farming enterprises.

The programme supports the main functions of FOs, promotes their engagement in policy processes and contributes to their professionalization. It also supports the efforts of FOs to provide economic services to their members.

The total cost of the programme is estimated at EUR 40 million over five years and includes an overall contribution of EUR 26.9 million from the European Union (EU).

Four objectives/components

The programme's objectives are to:

- Strengthen the institutional and organizational capacities of FOs (*Component 1: Institutional strengthening*)
- Enable FOs at different levels to influence policies on priority subjects (*Component 2: Policy engagement*)
- Improve the entrepreneurial capacities of FOs and their participation in value chains (*Component 3: Provision of economic services*)
- Strengthen the capacity of the Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO) to participate in and influence policy processes on agriculture and rural development at continental and international levels (*Component 4: Support to pan-African activities*)

Two complementary programmes

Farmers' Africa consists of two highly complementary programmes:

- Support to Farmers' Organizations in Africa Programme (SFOAP) – main phase
- Farmers Fighting Poverty – Food Security Initiatives of Farmers' Organizations in a Regional Perspective (Africa) (FFP/AFRICA)

The SFOAP main phase (2013-2017) scales up the pilot phase of the SFOAP (2009-2012).¹ It is cofinanced by the EU for EUR 15 million and IFAD, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and the *Agence Française de Développement* (AFD) for EUR 4.9 million. Total programme cost is EUR 19.9 million.

The SFOAP operates at the national, regional and continental levels. It supports 68 national farmers' organizations (NFOs) in the 49 countries: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The programme also supports the five regional African networks of FOs – EAFF, PROPAC, ROPPA, SACAU and UMAGRI – and PAFO.

^{1/} The pilot phase of the SFOAP was cofinanced by the EU (EUR 5 million) and IFAD (US\$1.5 million).

FFP/AFRICA (2013-2015) is an initiative of the global Farmers Fighting Poverty programme established by AgriCord, the network of agri-agencies for development cooperation with structural links to farmers and rural members' organizations in their home countries (10 agri-agencies and 4 associated farmers' organisations). AgriCord and agri-agencies support FOs in developing countries, covering both capacity-building and concrete operations. FFP/AFRICA focuses solely on FOs in sub-Saharan Africa. The total cost of the programme is EUR 20.2 million, which includes a contribution from the EU of EUR 11.9 million. An additional EUR 8.3 million is to be provided by agri-agencies, their governments and other donors. The programme involves mainly FOs at local level and national value chain specialized FOs from the local to national level. In fact, one of the main pillars of Farmers Fighting Poverty is the funding of small organizations and local associations.

Through these levels of intervention, the two programmes complement each other and cover the entire range of FOs.

Two complementary approaches

The SFOAP main phase supports the strategic plans that regional and national FOs have defined for themselves. Funds go to regional farmers' organizations both to implement regional level activities and to channel part of them to NFOs in support of national level activities. In North Africa, in parallel with the direct institutional support provided to UMAGRI, the *Formation pour l'Épanouissement et le Renouveau de la Terre* (Fert) – an agri-agency member of AgriCord – develops

and pilots test tools for NFOs principally geared towards inclusion in value chains.

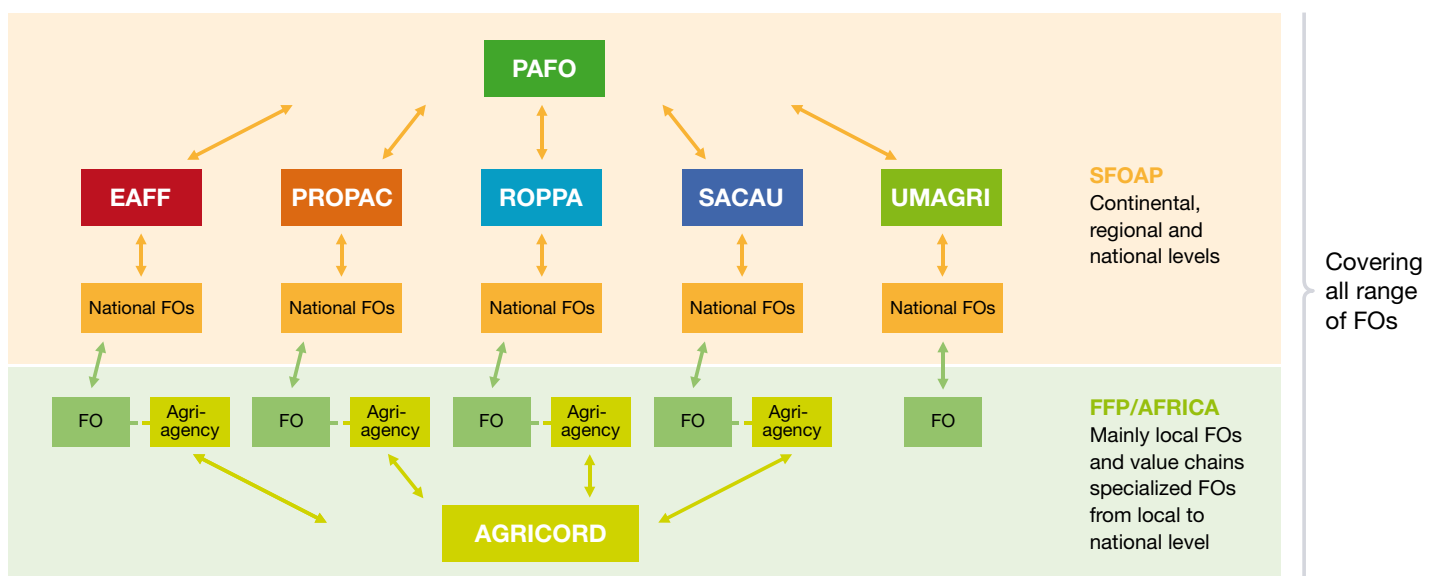
The FFP/AFRICA's approach is demand driven for single initiatives. In close collaboration with one of the agri-agencies, participating FOs formulate proposals and submit them to the AgriCord project committee for review and approval. The working relationship between FOs and agri-agencies is not only project-based; it also involves long-term shared commitments that include a variety of activities and focus on the operations or services of the FO, as well as on the capacities needed to deliver these services.

Complementary steering and coordination

IFAD was selected as the common implementing partner of all donors for both programmes because of its unique expertise and extensive partnership and dialogue with African FOs and with AgriCord.

IFAD establishes channels of communication between stakeholders of the programmes so that they can inform each other about progress. AgriCord, with its 20 years of experience and knowledge of working with FOs, is a member (observer status) of SFOAP's steering committee. Similarly, regional FO representatives are members of the FFP advisory committee and provide guidance and policy backup.

Farmers' Africa, articulated through the main phase of SFOAP and FFP/AFRICA, builds synergies between these two complementary actions for the benefit of African smallholder farmers.





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