

Declaration of Grand-Bassam

From November 16 to 18, 2022

Considering the strategic position of the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sector (ASPH) in the economic, social and cultural development of West and Central Africa;

Considering that the Governments of West and Central Africa and their economic integration institutions are currently engaged in political reforms aimed at meeting the challenges of food and nutritional security, food sovereignty and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, including the eradication of extreme poverty.

Considering that Farmers' Organizations and Rural Producers are key economic, social, and political actors in the political dialogue on the design, implementation and monitoring of policies, strategies and programs for the development of the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sector;

Considering that the farmers' forum constitutes a framework for dialogue and tripartite exchanges between governments, IFAD and Farmers' Organizations on the strategic themes of the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sector;

Considering the joint Decentralization process of IFAD and the Farmers' Forum as an opportunity to achieve more efficient collaboration for actors in the field;

Taking into account the current context marked by climate change, armed conflicts, political tensions, the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, international trade tensions linked to the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, financial and social crises accentuating the vulnerability of family farms in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sector;

We, representatives of the networks of organizations of agricultural producers, breeders, pastoralists, fishermen and food processors gathered within the framework of the second edition of the regional farmers' forum of West and Central Africa, have adopted this declaration in order to express our vision and our expectations vis-à-vis governments, regional economic integration institutions (ECOWAS, ECCAS) and IFAD, for a sustainable and inclusive transformation of the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sector.

We thank the government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire for facilitating the smooth running of this edition of the regional farmers' forum for West and Central Africa;

We acknowledge the commitment of IFAD, which spares no effort to further support the farmers' forum, which constitutes an important framework for consultation and constructive exchange between IFAD, Governments and farmers' organizations.

We recommend :

To governments and regional economic integration institutions

- Support IFAD's key role by putting in place the necessary conditions and measures to strengthen its action, in particular by supporting it in replenishing the fund;
- Put in place policies and public programs co-constructed with farmers, pastoralists and fishing organizations to strengthen the resilience of family farms to multiple crises and ensure sustainable incomes for women and young people;
- Ensure the sustainability of projects by placing particular emphasis on strengthening the organizational and institutional capacities of FOs;

- Develop, in consultation with beneficiary FOs and IFAD projects, manuals for the management and operation of economic infrastructure, including the responsibility of each party
- Support the initiatives of national and regional farmers' organizations within the framework of the United Nations Decade of family farming.

To IFAD

- Support and strengthen co-construction between FOs, IFAD and Governments so that, through political dialogue and long-term partnership, the effective and efficient participation of FOs in the COSOP process, in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of projects/programs lead to sustainable and inclusive economic, social and political impacts of the different social strata of the countries;
- Integrate in its intervention priorities, artisanal fishing, livestock and pastoralism with regard to their contributions to food and nutritional security, job and income creation and social cohesion;
- Support FO programs on strengthening agro-ecological systems and agro-food processing promoted by rural women and young people;
- Encourage the establishment of direct collaboration agreements between IFAD and FOs in the countries around citizen engagement and monitoring;
- Strengthen the specific funds dedicated to the direct financing of FOs, in particular by pursuing joint FO-IFAD mobilization of additional resources from donors
- Support the observatory systems developed by FOs to feed into their national and regional policy dialogue processes, and better orient services to family farms;

- Strengthen the level of involvement of FOs in the formulation and implementation of projects financed by green climate funds: a meeting between IFAD's technical climate/FO teams and the regional networks of FOs will be organized by January 2023
- Promote a strong commitment to financing the implementation of national action plans for the United Nations Decade of Family Farming, building in particular on the tools and resources of IFAD country programs
- Include in future agreements between IFAD and our governments that the ownership and management of economic infrastructure for private use will be attributed to local beneficiary FOs and that this be formalized in property deeds;
- Pay specific attention to countries where FO-IFAD collaboration is still underdeveloped by facilitating dialogue between Governments and FOs
- Promote the results of the regional farmers' forum and the regional implementation workshop of Grand Bassam to strengthen knowledge exchanges on collaboration innovations between IFAD projects and FOs;

We take the following resolutions through our networks of organizations to:

- Ensure institutional and organizational strengthening in terms of governance, accountability and transparency, structuring, social inclusion of FOs at all territorial levels, vis-à-vis their members and their communities
- Further coordinate the action of regional networks of FOs to pool and disseminate achievements, to contribute to the achievement of strategies for the sustainability of the impacts of public investments and to positively influence national and regional public policies for agro-sylvo-pastoral development and fisheries

- Strengthen the support and involvement of women and young people in the governance bodies of our organizations for a successful generational transition within the decision-making bodies of FOs;
- Conduct a policy dialogue between FOs, Government and IFAD to formalize the ownership and management of private economic infrastructure for the FOs that operate them, and commit to managing them well, operating them, making them profitable and maintaining them for their sustainable management.
- Establish jointly with IFAD in the region a regular monitoring mechanism of the action plans of the Farmers' Forum of Grand Bassam at national and regional level,
- Respect our commitments for the implementation of the recommendations and conclusions resulting from the work of this forum in particular;

Grand Bassam, 18/11/2022

The 2nd Edition of the Regional Farmers' Forum

West and Central Africa