



AGRICORD

INTERIM ACTIVITY REPORT

FO4ACP AFRICA S1 2022

FO4ACP

**Farmers' Organizations for
Africa, Caribbean and Pacific**

AUGUST 2022



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FO4ACP

Farmers' Organizations for
Africa, Caribbean and Pacific

AGRICORD



**AGRICORD'S FO4ACP
PROGRAMME
IS IMPLEMENTED BY**

**AGRICULTEURS FRANÇAIS ET
DÉVELOPPEMENT INTERNATIONAL**

11 RUE DE LA BAUME, 75008 PARIS, FRANCE
TÉL: +33 1 45 62 25 54, FAX: +33 1 42 89 58 16
E-MAIL : AFDI@AFDI-OPA.ORG

**ANDREAS HERMES AKADEMIE
IM BILDUNGSWERK DER DEUTSCHEN LANDWIRTSCHAFT E.V.**

GODESBERGER ALLEE 66, 53175 BONN, GERMANY
TEL. +49 (0) 228 919 29-0
E-MAIL : INFO@ANDREAS-HERMES-AKADEMIE.DE

**ASSOCIATION SÉNÉGALAISE POUR
LA PROMOTION DU DÉVELOPPEMENT À LA BASE**

LOTISSEMENT CICES, LOT N° 58 A, DAKAR, SÉNÉGAL
TÉL: + 221 33 869 60 00
E-MAIL: ASPRODEB@ASPRODEB.ORG

COLLECTIF STRATÉGIES ALIMENTAIRES

BOULEVARD LÉOPOLD II 184-D, 1080 BRUXELLES,
BELGIQUE, TÉL: +32 2 412 06 60
E-MAIL: INFO@CSA-BE.ORG

FERT

5 RUE JOSEPH ET MARIE HACKIIN, 75116 PARIS, FRANCE
PHONE: +33 1 44 31 16 70,
EMAIL: FERT@FERT.FR

**FINNISH AGRI-AGENCY FOR FOOD
AND FOREST DEVELOPMENT**

SIMONKATU 6, P.O.BOX 510,
00100 HELSINKI, FINLAND
PHONE: +358-40-159 5667
EMAIL: TIINA.HUVIO@FFD.FI

TRIAS

WETSTRAAT 89, B-1040 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
PHONE: +32 2 513 75 34,
EMAIL: INFO@TRIAS.NGO

**UPA DÉVELOPPEMENT
INTERNATIONAL**

555, BOUL. ROLAND-THERRIEN, BUREAU 020,
LONGUEUIL (QUÉBEC) J4H 4E7, CANADA
TÉL.: +450 679-0530,
EMAIL: UPADI@UPA.QC.CA

WE EFFECT

FRANZÉNGATAN 6
105 33 STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN
TEL: +46 812037120
EMAIL: INFO@WEEFFECT.SE

FO4ACP

Farmers' Organizations for
Africa, Caribbean and Pacific

AGRICORD



**AGRICORD'S FO4ACP
PROGRAMME
IS MANAGED BY**

**AGRICORD
SECRETARIAT**

**RUE DE TRÈVES 61
1040 BRUSSELS
BELGIUM**

**KATJA VUORI
PROGRAM ADVISOR**

KATJA.VUORI@AGRICORD.ORG

**KRIS GOOSSENAERTS
FINANCE MANAGER**

KRIS.GOOSSENAERTS@AGRICORD.ORG

**DANIEL SZCZEPANSKI
KNOWLEDGE AND RESULTS MANAGER
DANIEL.SZCZEPANSKI@AGRICORD.ORG**

**LUKAS HADASCH
JUNIOR PROGRAM MANAGER
LUKAS.HADASCH@AGRICORD.ORG**

**INFO@AGRICORD.ORG
+32 02 239 23 30**

CONTENTS

1	SUMMARY	7
2	INTRODUCTION	9
2.1	OVERVIEW	9
2.2	OBJECTIVES, COMPONENTS, AND OUTCOMES.....	10
2.3	FARMER’S ORGANIZATIONS AND AGRI-AGENCIES	11
2.4	FINANCING (BUDGET).....	12
3	INTERIM ACTIVITY REPORT FOR S1 2022	13
3.1	CHALLENGES AND ADAPTATION WORKPLAN	13
3.1.1	<i>INPUT PRICES</i>	15
3.1.2	<i>CLIMATE AND WEATHER</i>	16
3.1.3	<i>POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT</i>	16
3.2	EXECUTION PER COMPONENT	18
3.2.1	<i>COMPONENT 1: DELIVERY OF ECONOMIC SERVICES ALONG PRIORITY VALUE CHAINS</i>	18
3.2.2	<i>COMPONENT 2: ENABLING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT</i>	28
3.2.3	<i>COMPONENT 3: INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF FARMER’S ORGANIZATIONS</i>	32
3.3	CROSS CUTTING ISSUES	35
3.3.1	<i>GENDER</i>	35
3.3.2	<i>YOUTH</i>	37
3.3.3	<i>ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE</i>	38
3.4	PEER-TO-PEER	41
3.5	VISIBILITY	42
3.6	SYNERGIES AND COMPLEMENTARITY	44
3.7	CONTINENTAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL COORDINATION	45
3.8	MONITORING AND EVALUATION	46
3.8.1	<i>STRATEGIC ACTIONS</i>	46
3.8.2	<i>ONGOING M&E PROCESSES AND EVENTS</i>	47
3.9	KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT	48
3.10	BUDGET AND STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE	50

TABLES

Table 1: Overview Projects

Table 2: Budget per Component

ANNEXED

- I. Report AgriCord Potato Strategy (PDF)

1 SUMMARY

1. This Interim Report for AgriCord’s FO4ACP (Africa) programme covers the progress made during the first six (6) months of the year 2022. The period coincides with the IFAD Mid-Term Review to which AgriCord and its member agri-agencies facilitated.
2. The programme architecture aims at the sustainable development of Farmer Organizations / Farmer-led Organizations in sub-saharan Africa and is defined in the grant agreement, under three main components. All activities of this programme pursue some or all of the following goals: The building FO-capacities to deliver services to FO-members, the creation of conducive and enabling environments for FO-businesses, and the internal organizational development of farmer organizations.
3. Out of 23 sub-projects¹ of this intervention, three (3) are concluded, one (1) started implementation, and 19 more are in the ongoing implementation phase.
4. The overall implementation continues as planned with minor adaptations. During the first semester of 2022, no issues were encountered that would endanger the implementation of any project. However, the period was marked by mainly two challenges: a) rising input prices for farming, and b) unfavourable weather patterns especially in East Africa. Only few activities planned under this programme were severely affected by those issues, which is due to the nature of activities e.g. institutional workshops and capacity buildings can take place despite lack of rainfall. However, production volumes and profits are affected by both challenges and some FOs had to reduce their productive and commercial expectations for the year 2022.
5. Transversal Issue were tackled by many projects and in some cases, women/youth inclusion or environmental sustainability form the central theme around which the interventions revolve. Overall, the types of activities can vary widely between the sub-projects and are highly dependent on the needs of the farmers’ organization.
6. Exchanges could finally resume in many cases after the cumbersome and restricting first years of the pandemic. Local exchanges enabled by relay farmers and technical staff are the most frequent forms of exchange and often paired with capacity buildings. Limited North-South and South-South exchanges took place.
7. Synergies with the EU-funded FoledRI programme are expected to develop, as agroecology is one of the main themes. Synergies already exist with the AFD-financed SEPOP programme in Madagascar, Mali, Benin, Burkina Faso, Kenya and Senegal, and with FAO’s Forest and Farm Facility in Kenya and Tanzania.

FO4ACP (Africa)

*Farmers’ Organizations for
 Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific*

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Implementing Agri-Agencies:

- Afdi
- AHA
- Asprodeb
- CSA
- Fert
- FFD
- Trias
- UPA DI
- We Effect

¹ Each with its separate implementation agreement

8. The regional coordination with RFOs is close and permanently ongoing and the national coordination between the project participants and national actors is improving.
9. AgriCord's M&E System is permanently evolving including regular adaptations. The reporting process for this report was regular and without significant problems. Capacity building on M&E-related processes will be conducted after an initial survey later this year to further improve our internal functioning as implementing alliance. New knowledge products were piloted during S1 and will be further developed. Going forward, the AgriCord secretariat wants to motivate the creation of a joint learning culture within the alliance.
10. The statement of expenditure for the reporting period was submitted separately by AgriCord's financial department.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 OVERVIEW

11. This document presents the interim progress report of the programme “*FO4ACP – The Farmers’ Organizations for the African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (Africa)*” for the first six months of the year 2022, as determined in the Grant Agreement 2000003055 signed between IFAD and AgriCord on October 22nd, 2019.
12. The implementation period of this programme started from the effective date of 22nd of October 2019 from May 6th. The project completion date is 30th of November 2023 and the grant closing date is 31st 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 1st of May 2019.
13. This progress report covers the activities, outputs, outcomes, and results for the implementation period from the 1st of January 2022 to June 30th, 2022.
14. In general, the programme implementation continued in a satisfactory manner during the first semester of 2022. No acute or severe obstacles were encountered that would make project implementations impossible. However, some persistent and fluid challenges give concerns: most notably the costs and availability of farming inputs, and unfavourable weather. Both are external factors that can have severe effects on the planning, implementation, and success of any project. Resilience to both is thus a leading consideration in most projects. If adaptations were made, they were in line with the purpose and logic of the project, as well as its budget allocation.
15. The AWPB 2022 foresaw a continuation of the implementation of the 18 FO projects that were already on going in 2021. Another one started (8271 / NADO / FFD / Tanzania) during the first semester. In addition to these FO projects, activities related to the continental potato strategy project and the continental Climate Commission project continued. Due to COVID19 pandemic and extreme weather phenomenon, the East African Global GAP project originally foreseen in the planning, no longer corresponded the FO priorities. It was decided that the relatively modest budget of 150 000 EUR would be used to boost the climate activities, which are getting more and more central for the FOs, and potato value chain activities, in which new dynamics were emerging related to the coordinated FO preparation process for the participation to World Potato Congress held in Dublin on 30th of May – 2nd of June.
16. National and regional coordination activities took also place during the first semester. The resource person Mamadou Cissokho continued his work on facilitating strategic reflections between AgriCord and regional FOs on the African Union and the EU relations and on the possible modalities to improve FOs access to finance by combining grants with public bank loan funds. AgriCord, Asprodeb and Afdi also continued the cooperation with IFAD in disseminating the IFAD’s access to finance survey among their FO partners and in accompanying the FOs in providing comprehensive answers.
17. AgriCord facilitated actively the mid-term review process and the program management team has started to organise the internal process with the agri-agencies and their FO partners to distil the lessons learnt from the process and to discuss how the learnings can advise and improve the remaining implementation.
18. AgriCord and its member agri-agencies want to disclaim that all the presented results and impacts can be attributed to the interventions described in this report. The developments of farmer organizations underly wide ranges of internal and external factors of varying nature that can align with or diverge from each other. The results must be therefore assessed with respect to this field of tension. The here presented activities contribute to this field of tension and thus shape the observed results.

2.2 OBJECTIVES, COMPONENTS, AND OUTCOMES

19. 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.
20. Fo4ACP (Africa) supports the farmers' organisations under three main components:
Component 1: Delivery of economic services along priority value chains

Economic Services in the context of this program mean „*services that enable smallholders to foster partnerships with larger market actors, access and mobilize financing from the private [or public sector], increase productivity, reduce risk, manage their produce, create employment, and increase incomes.* (Grant Agreement, p.3) “
21. Component 2: Enabling the business environment

This may be achieved through advisory services by agri-agencies that "*strengthen the capacities for structured dialogue, lobby, and advocacy by providing specific training on relevant skill sets (...) participation to inter-professions and relevant policy processes, as well as for member consultations necessary for establishing common positions and joint lobby agenda.* (Grant Agreement, p.3) “
22. Component 3: Institutional development of FOs

Institutional development may be achieved through advisory services by agri-agencies that facilitate "*capacity development in good governance practices, leadership, planning, HR and financial management, logistics, inclusiveness, and communication; (...) strategic capacity development, vision and strategy building of leaders and of all members.* (Grant Agreement, p.4) “
23. In addition, the programme includes Component 4: Communication and visibility which ensures the adequate visibility and acknowledgement of the EU and IFAD as co-financiers.
24. The activities described in this report will be contributing towards results covered by the indicators in the FO4ACP logical framework.
25. 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 farmer and/or FO to FO peer advice, mentoring, learning exchanges and twinning arrangements.

2.3 FARMER'S ORGANIZATIONS AND AGRI-AGENCIES

The following table lists projects that are part of the African FO4ACP programme indicating internal reference (AIN number), implementing agri-agency and AgriCord member, the main Farmer Organization(s), the title of the project and current status (July 2022).

Table 1: Overview Projects

AIN	AA	Country	Partners	Title	Status
8259	Asprodeb	Senegal	CCPA; FNCAAS; RNCPS; FONGS; UNCAS; FPA; FEPROBA	Appui à la contractualisation dans les chaines de valeur arachide et riz	Ongoing
8262	Fert	Kenya	CGA; 5 county platforms	Cereal Value Chain Development Program	Ongoing
8265	FFD	Tanzania	TAHA	Value for Water in Morogoro	Ongoing
8269	Fert	Madagascar	Ceffel; 12 regional Fos	Ceffel : le développement des organisations par les filières	Ongoing
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	Ongoing
8271	FFD	Tanzania	NADO	Enhanced livelihoods and value chains for farmers' organizations in Tanzania - NADO	Re-activated
8273	Afdi	Burkina Faso	CPF; UMPLB	Renforcement de la capacité d'influence des OP sur les politiques et les marchés de la filière lait	Ongoing
8274	Asprodeb	Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea	FEPA-B; FPF; AOPP; CNDH	Appui à la formulation d'un programme régional d'autosuffisance en pomme de terre	Ongoing
8275	We Effect	Kenya	MDCU; 44 cooperatives; BAMSCOS; 20 cooperatives	Improved Livelihoods, Food and Nutrition Security and Safety for Farmers	Ongoing
8276	FFD	Kenya	FF-SPAK; 4 Fos	Sustainable and Profitable Smallholder Forestry in Kenya	Ongoing
8277	AHA	Kenya	KENAFF, 12 farmers associations	Supporting Value Chain Development through Strong County Associations in Kenya	Ongoing
8278	CSA	Burundi	CAPAD; 21 cooperatives	Améliorer le fonctionnement et les services de coopératives pour valoriser la production agricole familiale	Ongoing
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, certifiées et en quantité suffisante aux producteurs malgaches	Ongoing
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	Ongoing
8283	AHA	Tanzania	MVIVATA Arusha; MVIWAMA	Horticulture FO in Tanzania - Entrepreneurship and Leadership	Ongoing

8284	UPA DI	Benin	PNOPPA	Projet d'appui aux services économiques (PASE)	Ongoing
8285	Afdi	Benin	Fupro; FNPS; CCPSM; CCPS- Save	Une filière semencière viable et pérenne au Bénin !	Ongoing
8288	Trias	DRC	CONAPAC; COINDELO; COOPEBAS; COCAMA	Appui à la professionnalisation de la commercialisation du cacao et des produits vivriers à l'ouest de la RDC	Concluded
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.	Concluded
8290	UPA DI	Senegal	CNCR; 3 FOs	Approvisionnement en intrants et production dans la chaîne de valeur arachide	Concluded
8291	Trias	Uganda	TUNADO; HODFA	Enabling growth of commercially oriented farmers	Ongoing
8439	FFD	-	-	Climate Commission	Ongoing

2.4 FINANCING (BUDGET)

26. 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

3 INTERIM ACTIVITY REPORT FOR S1 2022

27. The first semester of 2022 was generally marked by the Mid-Term-Review conducted by IFAD. The AgriCord secretariat and the agri-agencies cooperated throughout the process. The Mid-Term-Review team spent one week at AgriCord secretariat in Brussels and during that week, several agri-agencies gave progress and results updates of projects in countries that were not visited during the review. AgriCord and agri-agencies and their FO partners in Senegal, Burkina Faso, Tanzania, and Kenya were visited by the review teams. The review recommendations are shared with all the implementing partners and a joint follow up plan is being agreed upon in the virtual session taking place in September 2022.

Implementation Set-Up

28. The agri-agencies are the operational arm of AgriCord and implement FO support programmes through a joint delivery mechanism. Each agri-agency has their specific approach and areas of expertise, but all strengthen the FOs through a holistic approach developing the integration of key value chains. Crucial to the value chain development is the 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.
29. The AgriCord approach, also applied in FO4ACP (Africa), can be defined by a combination of distinct elements: transfer of financial resources to the FO/cooperative, advisory services including mentoring provided or facilitated by the agri-agencies, and the exchange between farmers and FOs including North/South or South/South relationships. At the heart of the modus operandi are close partnerships that are built through strategic dialogue and an organisational self-assessment process supported by the agri-agencies. All agri-agencies participating in the implementation of FO4ACP (Africa) accompany the FOs through a mix of virtual means (long distance) and in-person meetings, missions or trainings when feasible and possible.
30. 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.

3.1 CHALLENGES AND ADAPTATION WORKPLAN

31. The adaptation of the project workplans was overall solid. No project is lagging significantly behind its ambitions or expectations. All necessary modifications to the plans are in line with the intervention logic and are conceptualized within the programme frame.

32. The following listing gives a summarized update per active project.
33. **8259 / RNCPS + / Asprodeb / Senegal:** is a project that strengthens the rice and peanut value chain in Senegal. Notable activities during the first semester of 2022 was needs assessment of 20.000 farmers and the evaluation of the warehouse receipt system during the last season.
34. **8262 / CGA / Fert / Kenya:** is a project that supports cereal growers and FOs in Kenya. The reach out continues as planned, as approximately half of the planned beneficiaries (5.500 / 12.000) were reached by the end of S1. Reportedly, the activities were influenced by political (general elections) and weather/climate-related circumstances.

35. **8265 / TAHA / FFD / Tanzania:** is a project that focuses on water-based services to FO-members. It is currently advancing with the planned irrigation scheme. Out of two proposed sites and farmer groups, one was selected to establish the irrigation scheme. Unforeseen costs for the boreholes excluded the possibility to implement on two sites.
36. **8269 / Ceffel / Fert / Madagascar:** is a project that focuses on demonstration plots, local varieties, sustainable practices, and relay farmers. Ceffel maintains a centre for educational purposes and is closely linked to Fifata, the national FO. The reach out continues as planned. About half of the year's target was reached in S1 (11.121 / 23.000).
37. **8270 / CNOP+ / Afdi / Mali:** is a project specifically focusing on the adoption of agroecological practices and local food production in Mali. The project continued in S1 with the extension of the relay farmer network and conducted a comparative study on the garden market in Bamako and Sikasso. The implementation continues as planned despite the politically uncertain situation in Mali.
38. **8271 / NADO / FFD / Tanzania:** is a project focusing on climate smart conservation agriculture. Adaptions to the initial workplan had to be made to allow for the participation of the FO in the World Potato Congress. The World Potato Congress provided an important opportunity for the FO to engage with different value chain actors, including private sector and advocate for the interest of smallholders in the value chain. More details in this in the chapter on Continental Potato Value Chain project. Almost 700 of the 1000 targeted beneficiaries for this year were already reached in S1.
39. **8273 / CPF & UMPLB / Afdi / Burkina Faso:** is a dairy value chain project which supports mini-dairies in its service provision and marketing capacities. The outreach during S1 already exceeded the planned number of beneficiaries for the whole year. A milestone are the data collection systems on sale related information which were functional by the end of S1 in nine (9) dairies.
40. **8274 / FEPA-B, FFPD, AOPP, CNDH / Asprodeb / WAfrica:** is the only project with a regional set-up including Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea. Potato value chain development is the focus and after studies and planning, the piloting phase is ongoing. Two-hundred fourteen (214) tons of seed potatoes wait to be multiplied next season.
41. **8275 / BAMSCOS & Meru Union / We Effect / Kenya:** is a project that strengthens farmers in the dairy value chain in the districts of Meru and Baringo. The planned activities progressed without major issues and outreach is on track during the first semester of 2022, however, the implementing partners and farmers share the same general concerns as all the actors of other projects in Kenya. Input prices are soaring, and crop failure is severely affecting the farmers. At the same time farmers can profit from increasing milk prices (14.7%) due to its reduced availability and growing demand.
42. **8276 / FF-SPAK / FFD / Kenya:** is a project between forestry agencies and farmer organizations in Finland and Kenya. The implementation of activities is progressing in a satisfying manner, but the partners expect reductions in production and revenue due to very unfavourable climatic and economic conditions during the first half of the year in Kenya. The tense situation for farmers accelerates the shift to sustainable forestry practices.
43. **8277 / KENAFF / AHA / Kenya:** is a project that aims to strengthen the numerous county associations of the *Kenya National Farmers' Federation*. Twelve (12) County FOs receive capacity trainings on technical services and lobbying and advocacy. During the first semester of 2022, there were no notable changes and the project progressed as planned.
44. **8278 / CAPAD / CSA / Burundi:** is a project that supports the National FO and twenty-one (21) member organizations. The development of the banana value chain continues to be of utmost importance. During S1, a monitoring tool by CSA was rolled out accompanied by capacity building workshops. The implementation progresses as planned.

45. **8279 / SOA / Afdi / Madagascar:** is a seed-focused project. Locally adapted and certified seeds are produced and utilized by SOA members. The activities and outreach progressed as planned with two more FOs undergoing the certification process. During S2 the quantity of seed production is expected to increase.
46. **8281 / Crempa / We Effect / Malawi:** is a project that strengthens the dairy value chain in Malawi. It was reported that severe issues with the weather were experienced during the first semester. Crempa has expressed serious concerns about looming feed scarcity in the dairy value chain and already rising prices. The planned activities of the project continue without disruptions so far and many activities under C2 and C3 are planned for the second half of the year. However, adaptations are likely to be made to the original plan due to the fluid and challenging situation regarding input supply and the wider economic outlook.
47. **8282 / UGAM / UPA DI / Benin:** is a project focusing on collective marketing capacities in Benin. Currently the activities aim to multiply the production of certified seeds, as the demand is high for the season 2023-24 and supply low.
48. **8283 / MVIWAArusha & MVIWAMA / AHA / Tanzania:** is a project that provides entrepreneurship trainings to FOs. The goal is to make farmers understand their farms as businesses and themselves as entrepreneurs. The implementation proceeded as planned. Almost half of the planned outreach for the year was achieved by the end of S1 and with one larger entrepreneurship competition for youth farmers coming up in S2.
49. **8284 / PNOPPA / UPA DI / Benin:** is a project that advances collective marketing and purchasing services of FOs in Benin. The first semester of 2021 proceeded as planned, currently building capacities of union leaders.
50. **8285 / FUPRO, FNPS, CCPSM / Afdi / Benin:** is a project working on the certified seeds. The targets for collective marketing of soy and maize for S1 were exceeded by far. Further, the elaboration of detailed business plans for two cooperatives were conducted which will aid in negotiations with credit providers in S2.
51. **8291 / Tunado & Hodfa / Trias / Uganda:** is a project that focuses on one hand on the rice and honey value chain, on the other the advocacy component aims to secure relations and opportunities in the emerging oil and gas sector. The FOs try to secure contracts for locally sourced food supply (rice and vegetables). Tunado and Hodfa align their strategies and action to the governments Parish Development Model (PDM) which aims to transform the Ugandan society's reliance on subsistence farming to a money and service-based economy. Tunado's honey and Hodfa's rice value chains experience steadily improving levels of productivity.

3.1.1 INPUT PRICES

52. Rising costs of necessary farming inputs was a frequently reported issue. Several factors converge to create unexpected levels of rising prices for farmers which are usually linked to generally rising prices across economic sectors hitting farmers hard both as producers and consumers.
53. **8262 / CGA / Fert / Kenya** reported extremely high costs for fuel and fertilizers and the farmers expect CGA to lobby for subsidies on this matter to cope with the price hikes. Similarly, **8276 / FF-SPAK / FFD / Kenya** reports that the rising input prices converge with rising costs of living for farmers leading to higher expenses and lower incomes, putting concerning stress on farmers and FOs. **8275 / BAMSCOS & Meru Union / We Effect / Kenya** confirm the rising cost per unit and reports a significant drop in milk production, adding that government subsidies only offered short-lived relief.

54. 8273 / **CPF & UMPLB / Afdi / Burkina Faso** - Prices for necessities and fuel have risen significantly since February. The price of livestock feed has more than doubled and the price of a bag of agro-industrial by-products (SPAI) has risen from 8,000 CFA francs to 16,000 CFA francs. This situation has had an impact on milk production, with a twofold effect on the supply of mini dairies: a decrease in the quantity of milk available and an increase in the price per litre. This has not impacted the project implementation as such but is of course impacting the economic situation of the FO as well as its farmer members.
55. 8281 / **Crempa / We Effect / Malawi** reported significant changes in the Malawian economy. Fuel prices are rising, and the currency experienced a severe devaluation of 25%. This means effectively for the project execution that adjustments must be made to the activities of the annual workplan to stay within the approved budget without compromising on quality.

3.1.2 CLIMATE AND WEATHER

56. Unfavourable weather conditions have been reported widely by the agri-agencies and our partners. Some FOs, specifically in Kenya, predict lower total production and profits than planned at the beginning of the year. Rain patterns become less predictable across countries and intervention areas challenging farmers' capabilities to plan agricultural production.
57. 8262 / **CGA / Fert / Kenya** reported delayed rain fall affecting regular processes such as pest management. The poor and spatial rainfall distribution prompted massive crop failure in some counties like Meru. 8276 / **FF-SPAK / FFD / Kenya** came to the same assessment for the forestry sector, predicting economic cutbacks in production and revenue for this year. 8275 / **BAMSCOS & Meru Union / We Effect / Kenya** confirms a significant reduction in production and profits as unfavourable weather, and rising input and commodity prices converge.
58. 8269 / **Ceffel / Fert / Madagascar** reported climatic irregularities in the intervention areas, one of them being a general lack of precipitation and water. 8279 / **SOA / Afdi / Madagascar** reported that a decrease in seed production was already observed in the last season of 2021: For the Apdip, the weather conditions were unfavourable with either a delay in rains or, on the contrary, an abundance of rains. A technical reinforcement of seed farmers will be implemented in conjunction with the Fofifa research centre to deal with these effects of climate change. For Soamitambatra and Cram, rice seed producers were faced with a partnership termination with the Défi programme (IFAD funding) following a reorientation of the programme. This situation had an impact on the number of PMS and therefore on the production volume of the season.
59. 8281 / **Crempa / We Effect / Malawi** experienced adverse weather conditions which ranged from delayed rains to tropical storms during the reporting period. The delayed rains affected the farming calendar as farmers who planted their seeds earlier faced poor germination rate for most of the seed for their crops such as maize, groundnuts and Soya beans, which in the long term contributed to lower yields. This will affect the project because as some of the raw materials to be used at the machinery for production of dairy concentrates will need to be bought and the demand for commodities such as maize is high. The high demand for maize has brought in competition for both human and livestock and the prices keep on escalating. This development will result in scarcity of feed for dairy animals.
60. 8291 / **Tunado & Hodfa / Trias / Uganda** reported, like most projects in Eastern Africa, problematic weather conditions. Some planned activities, like the planting of tree seedlings for the honey value chain could not be implemented because of the unpredictability of the weather. The likelihood for the seedlings to survive was low, hence the postponing of activities.

3.1.3 POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

61. 8282 / **UGAM / UPA DI / Benin** - The Beninese government imposed land tariff barriers on food products exported from Benin to neighbouring countries. This has affected the margins for buyers

- exporting Beninese food to neighbouring countries and this has also meant dwindling prices for the producers. UGAM was confronted with this situation in January 2022 when the time came to concretize the sale of the products harvested by the members of the organization participating in the Collective Marketing System (SCMM). This will have made it difficult for the CMS to be profitable for 2021-2022.
62. 8262 / **CGA / Fert / Kenya** reported that the Kenyan general election (August 2022) influenced the activities with CGA trying to remain non-partisan on the matter. The election period however remained peaceful.
 63. 8270 / **CNOP / Afdi / Mali** - The political and security context remains worrying in Mali. The North and Center of the country continue to suffer regular attacks. This means that for the FO partners, the technical extension missions to farmer groups are difficult to organize, particularly in the red zone in the circle of Yanfolila, where one of the partner FOs - CLCR - is based. Also, there was an interruption of air flights at the beginning of the year. Despite these security concerns, the government has stabilized, and it is possible once again for the FOs to approach contacts for their advocacy activities.
 64. 8291 / **Tunado & Hodfa / Trias / Uganda** - FOs are finding some opportunities from Uganda's oil and gas sector especially in Bunyoro region with the announcement of the Final Investment Decision (FID). In February 2022, big players including TotalEnergies EP Uganda, CNOOC Uganda Limited, the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), and the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) made a public announcement to invest close to US\$ 10 billion to develop Uganda's oil and gas resources. **HODFA** has keenly followed the developments and has been preparing its entry as a supplier for the enterprises in this developing sector. So far, the farmers have been prepared to produce quality food that meet the standards along with the establishment of a collection, cleaning packaging facility for the farmers located at HODFA premises. On a strategic level, HODFA, has linked up with the Association of Uganda Oil and Gas Service Providers to lead them to potential markets via the contractors who have contracts with the Oil and Gas companies in the catering and camp management sector. More so, HODFA has engaged in lobby and advocacy work together with the Association of Uganda Oil and Gas Service Providers to make sure the contractors make consideration for local content when sourcing products and services. HODFA has also reached out to the Uganda Petroleum Authority and the Bunyoro Parliamentary Forum to further the discussion and lobby for local content and express the readiness of the farmers to supply food stuffs especially rice and a range of vegetables produced by the farmers of HODFA.
 65. The Ugandan government has launched a strategy known as the Parish Development Model (PDM) which is an approach for organizing and delivering public and private sector interventions for income generation and jobs creation at the Parish level. The specific focus is on the transformation of subsistence households (both on farm and off-farm, in rural and urban settings) into the money economy, as well as eradication of poverty and vulnerability in Uganda. Although there are still more questions than answers to the strategy, **HODFA** and **TUNADO** have created awareness to their members about the PDM and have intensified farmer group strengthening activities as it is mainly on that level the farmers are targeted and which will provide the structure and framework to execute the PDM. It will be highly advantageous for organized farmers' groups when the government starts to implement the strategy with the first release of funds expected early in this fiscal year 2022-2023.

3.2 EXECUTION PER COMPONENT

3.2.1 COMPONENT 1: DELIVERY OF ECONOMIC SERVICES ALONG PRIORITY VALUE CHAINS

66. In S1 2022, 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.
67. **The West African regional Irish and sweet potato project** is 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. 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. The NFOs in each country were supported in formulating 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. The FOs have started seed production in collaboration with research, state structures and other partners. To pilot the production, 23 young farmers were selected, and in 2022 they have produced 214 tons of potato seeds, which are now being stored for the next seasons for the multiplication of the producers.
68. In **Benin, UGAM**, supported by **UPA DI**, continued to strengthen its services in soy, rice, maize and cassava value chains. In 2022, UGAM started a program to multiply certified seeds of corn, soybeans, and rice. The project allowed UGAM to source basic seeds to supply the 7 member producers selected to multiply the seeds during this first year. As the access to quality seeds is an issue for the producers, for the season 2023-2024, the produced seeds will then be integrated into the UGAM SCMM to supply quality seeds to the members.
69. In **Benin, UPADI** partners PNOPPA and its members had 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 at the national level. In 2022, the strengthening of these services continued by the capacity building of leaders on business negotiations and contracting techniques. The leaders of the union of Adja Quèrè received training on the establishing and reading the balance sheets and economic forecasting. This will allow the union to forecast the results of an agricultural campaign with greater accuracy.
70. 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 capitalisation document provided with the 2021 annual report. ("LA VENTE LOCALE DE SEMENCES CERTIFIEES POUR CONSTITUER UNE CHAINE DE VALEUR PERENNE AU BENIN"). In 2021, CCPSM, 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. The collective selling continued successfully during the first semester of 2022, exceeding the targets set. FO

commercialised 586 T of maize (target 300 T) and 424,4 T of soy (target 250 T). The sales success was following an intensive radio promotion campaign during which the publicity message for transmitted 1500 times.

71. To further grow the business and make it economically sustainable, the FOs were supported in the elaboration of business plans, which could be presented for demands of credit from the banks or micro-finance institutions. The business plans are now ready for 2 cooperatives, but the cooperatives have not yet entered in discussions with potential credit providers. These relations with credit providers will be further facilitated during the second half of 2022.
72. 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 number of beneficiaries is evolving positively, the 2022 target of 255 is already exceeded and the number of beneficiaries stands at 270 (67 F). In 2020 and 2021 the focus was on improving the quality of production by implementing good hygiene and sanitary practices. By the end of the 2022 first semester, all the nine (9) mini dairies had established a functioning system to update data collection books on processed products and sales. The strengthening of the economic activities of the Nagrin mini dairies continued by some small investments. Delivery motorbikes were purchased to ensure collection of raw milk and a cold room was installed to better preserve the dairy products for sale.
73. **Afdi** and **UMPL-B** carried out joint monitoring missions to all mini-dairies and observed considerable progress in the functioning of the mini-dairies. The lack of sufficient local market channels remain however an issue and focus should be now in increasing distribution channels and securing regular buyers.
74. **CAPAD** is a **Burundian** national FO and its FO4ACP project focuses on strengthening its 21 member cooperatives with a strong focus on economic services and access to finance. Going beyond the FO4ACP program but strongly based on the capacities acquired within FO4ACP with the support of CSA, CAPAD presented a successful proposal for the global GAFSP call in 2021.
75. During the first semester of 2022, CAPAD continued its work with the 21 cooperatives for the benefit of 15.570 farmers (6.447 M, 9.123 W, 1.472 Y). CAPAD has rolled out a cooperative monitoring tool developed by CSA, which allows its members to keep track of their key performance indicators and to base their strategic and activity planning on up to date. CAPAD held workshop to update the cooperative monitoring tool and the inventory in January 2022. The workshop brought together CAPAD managers assigned to contribute to the updating of these tools. This activity allowed the field facilitators to better accompany the member cooperatives and improve the data collection. The technical terms in the tools were translated into the local language to ensure that the facilitators have a common understanding of the indicators. After the workshop, data collection was carried out in the 21 cooperatives. Based on the collected data, cooperative specific capacity building needs were identified. Finally, a workshop to update and validate an organizational, institutional, and managerial capacity building plan was organized from March 14 to 17, 2022. Sixty-three (63) cooperative leaders participated to this validation workshop, among them 21 women leaders.
76. To improve the cooperatives access to finance, an accompaniment of the facilitators on the maintenance of management tools, fund mobilization techniques through the Mutuelles de Solidarités (MUSO) approach, leadership and governance, animation and holding of meetings in the cooperatives, tax declaration procedures, was carried out in all 21 cooperatives through coaching and training. Missing management tools were given by the facilitators to the cooperatives that needed them after the training sessions and support in maintaining and using these tools. The number of people who participated in these trainings was 9 per cooperative, i.e., 189 in 21 cooperatives.
77. CAPAD headquarters team and the field workers who provide local services supported the cooperatives in strengthening their marketing strategies. The marketing strategies for the different value chains

were adapted according to the different processing and conservation capacities of the cooperatives. For example, without adequate storing capacities, for products that cannot be preserved, such as potatoes, it is crucial to have the buyers confirmed before the harvest to avoid the problem of rotting. For the cooperatives that have storage sheds, the challenge is to optimize the use facility for getting the best price.

78. **Kenya** - The COVID19 pandemic and its impacts have pushed KENAFF over the past years 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.
79. 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 a variety of information – i.e. related to weather, market, COVID19 – to farmers. The system is supported by the FO4ACP project; idle advisory funds were utilized which covered SMS unit costs as well as maintenance costs of the system. The system has now 244.024 registered users (July 2022). That is an increase of 9% compared to January (more than 223,000 registered users which was itself an increase of 774% since January 2021)). **KENAFF** sends out 330,000 SMS per month on average. Monetization is planned to take place in two (2) years and additional upgrades or types of application for the platform are currently examined.
80. During S1 2022, three (3) county associations attended trainings (56 people /28M/10W/5Y) that aim to professionalize the FO staff in a variety of topics such as strategic communication or auditing. The secretaries and treasurers received trainings to improve the FOs' capacity for financial management (34 staff / 24M/10W/5Y). Continuous technical advice is provided by the County Associations in the context of meetings and training sessions on crucial topics such as crop insurances and village saving and loan associations (VSLA).
81. During the first semester of 2022, **CGA**, supported by **Fert in Kenya**, continued its activities from 2021 in 5 counties - Narok, Nakuru, Uasin Gishu, Meru and Laikipia. Considering the disruption by delayed and spatial rainfall and the run-up to the presidential election in August, activities under Component 1 progressed satisfyingly. A core element of the project continues to be the strengthening of advisory capacities on technical issues in the proximity of farmers. Almost half of planned training sessions on technical topics for the year 2022 (180/400) were conducted. Additionally, about 1000 farmers were reached via SMS and 24 WhatsApp groups are maintained to facilitate the informational exchange between farmers and provide advice. Farmer-advisors (107/150) were trained during S1 and 400 farmers received their advice this far. **CGA** continues to maintain 41 demonstration plots and four (4) trial plots specifically on agroecological practices. Access to inputs was facilitated for 1100 farmers (volume and value still under verification) and 67 (/100) soil tests were conducted for optimal and appropriate use of inputs. Peer-to-peer exchanges between Kenyan counties were successfully conducted with 55 leaders (/100).
82. **Meru Union** and **BAMSCOS**, supported by **We Effect**, continue to convince more farmers to engage in fodder production and conservation in the Kenyan districts of Meru and Baringo. The number of producers who participate in production and conservation has increased by 30%. **We Effect** and the FOs attribute the success to the demonstration farms and the intense extension work. The unfavourable weather conditions experienced earlier this year highlight the urgency of sufficient fodder production and conservation.
83. In the past years, there were already significant efficiency gains in cow milk production through the adoption of new breeds, practices and tools serviced by the Farmers' Organizations. Marketability was increased in the past through improved hygiene standards while post-collection losses were reduced to a minimum. **BAMSCOS** has the capacity to store, package, scan and control the milk for its

composition. It is marketed under the brand "HILO MILK". All these measures have already improved income generation for the FO-members.

- 84. Currently, financial trainings are conducted for and with FO-members and FO-management staff. They revolve around the topic of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) and financial FO-management. Currently ongoing trainings for on VSLA methodology have reached 1.181 members (goal: 1.500). Basic financial management practices and appropriate keeping of records are central to these events. At the same time, a Savings and Credit Cooperative (SACCO) was recently registered, and the union members are encouraged to join the initiative. The staff of fourteen (14) FOs was this far trained in financial management and leadership skills.
- 85. The planned activities on the adoption of SALM practices are ongoing as planned and completed overall to 70%. This block of activities includes the training of 1.780 farmers, establishing two (2) organic demo farms, and three (3) tree nurseries and the support for twelve (12) more tree nurseries. Twenty-five (25) extension officers were trained on agroecological techniques and animal husbandry.
- 86. The adoption of drought resilient crops was advanced. So far, seven (7) affiliates planted demo plots with these crop varieties. Further, relations with CIAT were established to ensure supply with appropriate varieties. Sensitization for customized livestock insurances and providers are currently ongoing and one value chain analysis will be conducted in S2 2022.

- 87. 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 usually favourable rainfall and has a high potential for agriculture. However, the first half of 2022 was marked by bad conditions which will lead to a reduced revenue this year. 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, in March and April 2022, two more nurseries were established. Eventually, the nurseries are expected to lead to a higher quality timber by producing 500,000 multipurpose seedlings. They are used as demonstration sites for certified nurseries which can be emulated by other nursery operators.



Joseph, an extension officer from Muranga County takes farmers through a demonstration of SALM during a training (Image: FFD / FF-SPAK)

A checklist developed by stakeholders in the Kenya forestry sector is being used to ensure that the nurseries meet the highest standards required. A handbook updated by **the Finnish Producer Association - MTK** provides the foundation for the trainings on nursery.

- 88. During S1 2022, thirty (30) Teacher-of-teachers (ToTs) received training on business management by **FF-SPAK** and were equipped with manuals. Another forty (40) received training by a consultant on bankable business plan development to improve and consolidate the current plans. Forty (40) VSLA ToTs were trained who now organize fifteen (15) VSLA groups. Bookkeeping workshops were conducted with forty (40) participants. The FF-SPAK staff in turn received a finance and internal

monitoring training by FFD based on the organizational development needs. Currently, FF-SPAK is assessing whether to pursue FSC forest certification.

89. Workshops on climate change resilience and adaptation were attended by forty (40) and thirty (30) participants which combined theoretical lessons with practical field work. These ToTs will go on and relay the lessons in their FOs and study circles. FFD contributed strongly to these capacity buildings as they are based on their systematic climate adaptation approach and *AgriCord Building Resilience Tool*.
90. Six (6) farmers represented Muranga and Kiambu county at the fair organized by the *Avocado Society of Kenya*.
91. 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.
92. 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 the benefits the members of the cooperative are getting – training and capacity building, better prices for products and access to superior inputs/information.
93. 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.
94. **Madagascar** – a key activity for **Ceffel** and **Fert** during the first semester of 2022 was the reinforcement of Ceffel's advisory capacities by identifying and training one hundred (100) additional relay farmers. During this year they will undergo training, which the relay farmers for vegetable seed production have already completed. In this context they will also receive a pedagogical kit with materials to conduct the trainings with the farmers of their FOs. Planned experiments and trials in active farming environments at Ceffel's centre continue. Ceffel currently maintains 250 demonstration plots and will reach about 7500 beneficiaries through its range of educational activities. The centre itself receives about 1000

visitors. ² In 2022, Ceffel also continued to monitor the implementation of the healthy potato seed strategy that was agreed upon with seed multipliers and a Potato Commission last year.

95. In **Madagascar**, SOA is working supported by Afdi to establish and strengthen the local seed production. Important milestones have been reached in the previous years of the implementation such as setting up a database for regional seed producers compiling information on location, producer, crop variety and marketing. A study on the rice seed chain in Haute Matsiatra has been finalized and distributed among FO-networks, ministries, financial and technical partners. In 2022, two additional



Extension Farmer Kit, Ceffel Madagascar (Image: Fert / Ceffel)

SOA member FOs, Fisoï and Soamitsinjo, which are convinced of the importance of the availability of quality seeds in farmers, committed to go through a certification process. 54 producers have been mobilized to develop a certified bean seed sector, with the technical support of Fofifa. Production activity will start in August with a production forecast of 15 tonnes. In partnership with the official control and certification service (SOC), the FOs have acquired a Seed Activity Permit (PAS), which should allow for a rise in the quantity of seeds to be produced in the second half of 2022. Two of the FOs, Apdip and Cram, are focusing in 2022 both to strengthening the technical skills to improve seed production and to improve the marketing channels based on well researched business plans. Apdip and Fofifa organised a joint workshop on the 3rd of February 2022 to identify technical solutions to improve the quality and quantity of seed production.

96. To increase farmers' awareness of using quality seeds, a film was developed in 2021 with the FOs producing rice and bean seeds. The film is entitled "The SOA Network and the Production of Quality Seeds". The film is made in French and Malagasy, distributed to producers and accessible via the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2GbdhZ-WJYw> To increase the outreach, the film was broadcasted on the national television channel in March 2022. SOA has also screened the film during the various workshops organized around the seed sector, at the University of Antananarivo and during the start-up workshops of seed production activities with two SOA member FOs. Information posters are being finalized to raise awareness during trade events and field activities on the importance of using quality seeds.

97. **Malawi** - The dairy value project with **CREMPA** in Malawi supported by **We Effect**, had a delay in its start launching the activities in 2021. 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.

² Verified figures for Ceffel's activities were not available at the time of reporting and are estimates for 2022

98. Also, in 2021 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 was conducted with 118 respondents and eighteen (18) focus group discussions and ten (10) key informant interviews and the logframe indicators were reviewed.
99. During the first semester of 2022, CREMPA continued its activities on awareness raising among the farmers, members, and stakeholders. Nine (9) milk bulking cooperatives (MBCs) were informed on services such as artificial insemination or the provision of affordable veterinary drugs, as well as CREMPA's Study Circles. Last year, the project awareness meetings already sparked the interest of *Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources* in the Circle Study Methodology and Farmer Extension tool for possible application in governmental institutions.
100. Currently ongoing is the installation of oil extractor and feed choppers at Mpasa Bulking Cooperative and the campaign on artificial insemination which so far reached 509 cattle-owning farmers. Successfully trained were seventy (70) Trainers-of-Trainers in the field of agribusiness management. These ToTs will improve specifically sound financial capacities, general management practices and creating a sense of seriousness on farming as business among the farmer base. Also, trainings on feed making were conducted. Study circles were equipped with 1500 copies of manuals on key practices.
101. In **Mali**, **CNOP** and its members aims to adapt to the changing climatic conditions and to raise sanitary standards with the support of **Afdi**. One example of the adaptive measures aimed for more resilient local food production is starting and increasing the production by the FOs of domestic and locally adapted seeds. In 2022, 6 relay farmers (4 men and 2 women, all 6 youth) continued their training at the AOPP in Mopti in the production and conservation of Bandiagara onion seeds (shallot variety), as well as production and marketing. During the first semester of 2022, demonstration shallot seed plots were established and the 6 relay farmers are responsible for the monitoring of the production.
102. The training in agroecological practices and good sanitary practices of 32 relay farmers took place from 12 to 20 March 2022 in Sélingué. The training sessions combined theory and practice. In some FOs the trained relay farmers started already the dissemination of the agroecological practices and organised demonstration/animation sessions for farmers. However, most of the training sessions will only be able to take place in the second half of the year, given the cropping calendar in which planting resumes in early October. This is the case for the UNCPM and the AOPP of Mopti, which will start their training sessions in the second semester. The themes addressed in these sessions are varied, based on the interest of farmers. 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 are sometimes addressed.
103. A comparative study was launched by UNCPM – the National Union of Cooperatives of Farmers and Market Gardeners - in 2021 to analyse structure, behaviours and performance of the garden market sectors in Bamako and Sikasso. The study is now finalised, and its results and findings are now being validated by the FO leaders. The results are expected in 2022. The UNCPM extensionist continues to strengthen the technical services provided at the cooperative to revitalize the market gardening sector. To continue the work on improving different aspects of quality, the UNCPM facilitator conducted exchanges in Bamako and a follow-up mission within the coordination of rural youth in Segou. Also, to improve the monitoring of activities by relay farmers one day training was organised at CIFAN. The UNCPM facilitator and the AEP officer at the CNOP conducted the training and the focus was on how to use the data collection tool.
104. **ICCPA, FNCAAS, RNCPS, FONGS, UNCAS, FPA, FEPROBA**, supported by **Asprodeb**, continued the activities on strengthening the rice and peanut value chain. In the first half of 2022, the activities

focused on the identification of input needs of the producers. At the local level, 20 000 producers' needs were collected and consolidated for collective input purchasing by the FOs. Asprodeb supported the FOs in organizing a joint virtual a workshop to evaluate the warehouse receipt system, which was used during the 2021-2022 season.

105. In 2021, the benefits and challenges of the contractual approach were analysed by 20 officials and technicians from the primary cooperatives, **CNCR**, **ASPRODEB** and **COPEOL** (industrial). The recommendations included: i) computerized management, monitoring and traceability of producers for greater loyalty ii) proximity management of credit and settlement of unpaid bills. Following this recommendation, a digitalized database was built during the first years of the project implementation. The data collectors who were trained in geo-referencing and data collection started their work in 2021 and continued the work in maintaining the database for monitoring the input supply, production and farm deliver activities at individual farm level updated. This database has been a major de-risking tool for obtaining working capital from La Banque Agricole for the agricultural season.
106. 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. 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.
107. 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. The detailed formulation process to start the implementation continued in 2022.
108. In the second quarter of 2021 **TAHA (Tanzania)** 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.
109. During the first semester of 2022, the project continued as planned. A mapping was produced to ensure the compatibility of the involved technological components. The actors currently await the procurement of the components. Currently ongoing is the development of a custom vendor software to communicate and trade water (MajiChap) and the formation of a group that will develop the Water Device Management System (WDMS). During the second half of the year, a self-service via mobile app and USSD service will be developed once the software is in place. An MoU of investment between farmers and TAHA is in progress on the planned solar system. During the second half of the year, several actions are planned once the software is completed, including manuals and trainings on the use of the system.
110. In March, Tiina Huvio from FFD and Katja Vuori from the AgriCord secretariat visited the site in preparation to the MTR-mission which visited in April.
111. **FFD** reactivated another project in **Tanzania** under the FO4ACP programme with the **Njombe Agricultural Development Organization (NADO)**. The project's focus lies on conservation agriculture, so the priorities during S1 2022 lied on capacity building activities and the building of awareness among local farmers on the availability of training opportunities.
112. Twenty-two (22) persons successfully participated to the first capacity training (consisting of 13 FO-staff, 6 lead-farmers, 1 board member, 2 local department of agriculture representatives). Expectations for the adaptation of climate resilient techniques are high. The training was inaugurated with local dignitaries and media presence (TV, radio and online TV). The training builds theoretical and practical

knowledge on topics like animal and mechanical power, soil testing, pest management, fertilizers and so on. A demonstration plot was established, and five farmers are already piloting the techniques on their own farms.

113. The goal for the awareness raising campaign was to reach 500 farmers with the concept and techniques of conservation agriculture, and to highlight its economic benefits. Five-hundred-seventy-two (572) farmers were reached in the context of various community meetings. The feedback was positive and 95% of the reached farmers indicated that they are willing to adopt such practices. The five (5) trained Teachers-of-teachers and early adopters will soon start to relay their knowledge.
114. NADO and FFD are also working on improved market access for the members. This is achieved through improved post-harvest handling. Three-hundred-twenty-five (325) farmers were trained to reduce post-harvest loss for maize, seed & ware potatoes, and avocados. Appropriate handling makes pesticide use redundant and increases consumer safety. For potatoes, farmers were trained in sorting, grading, and packaging which improves marketability.
115. In **Uganda, HODFA and TUNADO** supported by **Trias**, continued the strengthening of the rice and honey value chains with an impressive outreach of 95 469 beneficiaries of which 37 766 women and 44 806 youth. In the previous years, **HODFA** 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 also able to set more accurate and up to date production volume projections. **HODFA** uses also digital platforms to search for new buyers. **HODFA** has also reviewed its business model, especially regarding input financing and mechanization services, which led to clustering small farmer group associations based on performance data to improve the targeting of the services provided by **HODFA**. In the first half of 2022, **HODFA** has continued the work on System of Rice Intensification (SRI) promotion with good results. There has been an increase in productivity from 12 to 18 bags of rice per acre on average because of the SRI approach promoted among the farmers. SRI has also enhanced seed saving thus decreasing production costs. A farmer applying SRI can use between 18 & 22kgs of seed to plant an acre in comparison the 35-45 ratio taken when using manual planting.
116. **HODFA** has also continued to assess capacity gaps and develop capacity improvement plans with its members. Current focus has been on addressing the three cross-cutting capacity gaps: revising and updating the existing business plans to suit the current business aspirations; putting in place digital data management systems to manage suppliers' data and to aid in inventory management and implementing and documenting a Quality Management system. Currently, 3 business plans have been revised and updated and digitalising data management systems is ongoing and expected to be completed in the next half of the year 2022. Also, 5 new groups with an aggregate number of 100 farmers (53 F, 47M and 35Y) emerged from the mobilisation drive in Kyangwali refugee settlement. These will be supported in the next half of the year 2022 with relevant trainings in group management, farm production and marketing.
117. **HODFA** conducted 2 business meetings were conducted involving 96 farmers (42 F, 56M, 14 Y). The meetings discussed the product list covering food stuffs that are demanded by the catering and camp management contractors in the oil and gas industry. The meeting also discussed prices for farmers to determine whether it would be good business for them as well the quality standards required of the farmers to supply. **HODFA** facilitated 5 cooperatives (Karama, Buhanka Rice Coop, Kwataniza Womens, Mparo Development & Kikinda Coop) to have access to financing to solve their lack of storage. Currently, 3 storages are complete and 2 are undergoing construction
118. For the honey value chain, following **TUNADO's** project interventions in strengthening the WOB (World of Bees) as an off taker, the beekeeping industry has registered a significant improvement in market access for beekeeping products at competitive prices. An Apiculture Business Fund Manager was recruited along with 18 Apiary Masters to support not only technical trainings of beekeepers but

also to support in loan appraisal processes. Two loan products; one for the processors/packers and another for the youth (L4U) have been developed. A third loan product for the Bee Champions is in the process of development. Capacity of the Apiary Masters in the use of the sevi -fintec app has been built. Development of loan management policies is ongoing.

119. Because of the market pull approach spearheaded by **TUNADO**, the organization has registered an increase in number of formerly unemployed youth and women adopting beekeeping as a source of employment and livelihood. According to the survey concluded by **TUNADO** in 2021, beekeeping contributed 72% household income to 58% of the participants and between 36-50% to the rest of the participants. Also, the farmers and other beekeepers have adopted farmer managed natural regeneration of trees and restoration of lost vegetation with growing of high value multi-purpose trees as a substitute for charcoal burning. As a result, there is visible growth of vegetation in formally open surface areas.
120. **TUNADO** has taken a big leap in its capacity to provide technical extension services. Between January and June 2022; a total of 18 Apiary Masters (10 females and 8 males; all youth) have been recruited, their capacity built and deployed all around the intervention sites. This brings number of apiculture extension staff from 3 in 2019 to 36 presently. The expectation is that their deployment across the country will enable **TUNADO** to continue providing the much-needed extension services to beekeepers and they became a channel for information dissemination to and from beekeepers.
121. **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. In the first half of 2022, the main activity was the preparations for the FO participation in World Potato Congress held in Dublin in June. AgriCord coordinated the participation of a delegation of farmers from Uganda, Nigeria, Tanzania, Peru, and Ecuador with the technical support of agri-agencies from Belgium, Finland and Germany (see Annex I).
122. 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.
123. The year 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.

3.2.2 COMPONENT 2: ENABLING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

124. 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 based on consultations among their members.
125. 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.
126. 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).
127. Despite the progress made so far within FO4ACP projects under C2, some important remain. First, it is one thing to present a policy position, and quite another to see it reflected in actual policies. requires following 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.
128. In **Burkina Faso**, **UMPL-B** supported by **Afdi** , organised a multi-stakeholder workshop on 14 March 2022 with an objective to offer a better support policy to women processors of agricultural products. More resources should be allocated to capacity building of women processors, especially in the context of covid-19. UMPL-B presented an advocacy note to representatives of technical services and TFPs. The participants exchanged on opportunities to support semi-artisanal processing units of agricultural products. FOs requested authorities to make commitments for supporting processing units for access to institutional markets and equipment. As a result, some indicative commitments were made by the authorities and the FOs are following up on those.
129. **CPF** participated in the 10th edition of World Milk Day, on 7 July 2022 in Ouagadougou, in the presence of public decision-makers, researchers and actors of the local milk chain. The FOs contributed to the discussion on trade policies for the certification and labelling of milk and milk products in Burkina Faso. CPF had a strong delegation consisting of 2 leaders, 2 dairies (Sabcé and Ziniaré), 2 representative of breeders and 1 technician. FOs pushed the campaign "Mon lait local-Problématique de la qualité sanitaire des produits laitiers locales vis-à-vis produits importer: challenges and opportunities". FOs presented recommendations to the authorities: raise awareness of the benefits of local milk consumption and the quality of milk powder; improve the quality and production of local milk and make it more accessible to consumers; promote local milk through institutional purchases for the supply of school canteens; address the price of feed; regular vaccination campaigns; improve forage cultivation to increase production.

130. 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 and this successfully launched in 2021.
131. To continue the work on enabling environment, during the months of May and June 2022, the CAPAD headquarters team supported the cooperatives in their search for financing. Two visits were made to the COOPEC - Epargne et des Credits with the cooperatives of Muramvya and Kirundo to discuss with the agents of the MFI (Institute of Micro Finance) on the modalities of financing cooperatives in need of working capital according to their business plan and the analysis of the profitability of the activity. During this meeting, a presentation of the cooperatives supported in the action zone was made as well as their business plan presenting their economic activities. This activity was supported at the level of the cooperatives by the facilitators accompanying the cooperatives in assessing the different financing needs. This emerging data concerning the financing needs were the subject of discussion during meetings between CAPAD and FENACOBU (National Federation of COOPEC of Burundi). CAPAD will continue to facilitate access to credit for cooperatives with trade register and tax identification number, mainly for commercial credit for working capital.
132. A workshop on the formulation of the GAFSP project (Global Agriculture and Food Security Program - Fund administered by the World Bank) was organized in April 2022. This workshop was attended by 63 leaders (15 women) of MUSO cooperatives as well as leaders of CAPAD. The objective of this workshop was to collect baseline data from the different actors on the GAFSP project. As results: Ø Two visits to the COOPECs of MURAMVYA and KIRUNDO were carried out; Ø Coaching sessions on the analysis of the profitability of the activity were carried out; Ø 30 leaders of the cooperatives and CAPAD, including 15 women, took part in the data collection workshop for the formulation of the GAFSP project.
133. In **Kenya** – **CGA** has been leading negotiations with the *Cereal Millers Association*. This is an ongoing effort to represent its membership vis-à-vis the twenty largest millers in the country. The goal of these negotiations is to obtain above market prices for its growers. Last year's prices were for instance at EUR 29 instead of EUR 23 per bushel. This year, however, the market prices of wheat are high, the association is currently not pressured to achieve higher prices for its members.
134. **CGA** and its members contribute to the discussion around the **Warehouse Receipt System** which is a scheme set up by national actors to provide storage space to farmers who can then sell at a more convenient point in time, effectively reducing the marketing pressure. Numerous meetings and discussion circles were held including bi-weekly committee meetings on the monitoring of market trends and food security-related topics. **CGA** participated in this context in three bill reviews. Further, 268 (goal: 500) member farmers pre-contracted for the scheme.
135. Further, **CGA** and **KENAFF** cooperate on the development of a national farmers' lobby agenda for the new Kenyan government and for county-level authorities.
136. The **Kakamega County Association** of **KENAFF**, supported by **AHA**, successfully organized a governor's day in their county. The event was a joint activity with the **TMG**, a German Think-Tank. The platform allowed the farmers to present their policy positions to the county government. The event also functioned as platform for farmers, businesses, and service providers to exhibit their businesses and exchange on them. The event was a full success and will become an annual event. Even though not directly financed by the FO4ACP programme, this is an initiative made possible by the continuous support for **KENAFF** and its county-members.

137. **KENAFF's members** continue to engage stakeholders and strategic partners to create favourable and conducive business environments for its members. Specifically important value chains are being promoted such as the sweet potato value chain in Siaya CA; Irish potato, maize and poultry value chains in Uasin Gishu CA and Elgeyo Marekwet CA; the maize value chain through an exhibition at Meru CA; and apiculture at the national symposium.
138. Important bilateral relations are built with input providers and financial institutions: e.g., Kakamega CA explores a partnership on farmers insurance with Faulu Bank and Uasin Gishu CA procured maize seeds and fertilizer for its members from primary sources, effectively reducing costs.
139. **FF-SPAK** and **FFD** continue to build lobby platforms on the county-level in **Kenya**. They adopted the *Farmer Advocacy and Consultation Tool (FACT)* as main approach. Representatives were trained and encouraged to create strategic plans and proposal presentation guided by the tool (farmer consultation, participatory research, proposal writing, stakeholder analysis) to approach county-level authorities. The *Central Highland Tree Growers Association (CHTGA)* already provides a good platform for FF-SPAK's members to access the Kenyan Chamber of Commerce, County Agricultural and Environmental Committees and other lobby consortiums. Continuous support is given by trained FF-SPAK staff to ensure the implementation of the FACT action plan.
140. **Meru Union and Bamscos**, with support from **We Effect**, keep creating favourable and conducive environments to their members. Bamscos linked its members to major input suppliers after testing their dairy meal samples for toxins and protein levels. Dairy clerks at the FOs are trained to adhere to industry standards for hygiene and quality.
141. Other planned activities under C2 advance as planned. E.g. Policy consultations were conducted with the leaders of Meru Union and the formulation of policies was supported; FO chairpersons and managers received training on governance and visits to private actors are organized to scout possible opportunities to establish business relations.
142. In **Madagascar**, the year 2022 is a year of rebound for the seed sector in Madagascar. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Minae) is committed to revitalizing the seed sector and intends to promote the use of quality seed as a lever for agricultural development in Madagascar. To revise and update the national strategy document on seeds, an ad hoc committee has been established to animate the reflections and consultations for the revival of the sector. A national workshop was organized in early June 2022, bringing together the various actors in the sector including the public sector, professionals in the sector, technical and financial partners, private companies and especially Etablissements des Semenciers Paysans (ESP) from different regions of Madagascar. SOA and Afdi are involved in these national reflections to bring the voice of producers, advocacy actions within the framework of FO4ACP will continue in this context. SOA is consulting its members for the positions and recommendations to be presented in the ad hoc committee and a first workshop with the seed producers' groups FOs was organised in 2022. This workshop made it possible to identify the major problems and to build common proposals for improving the national strategy of the sector. Some proposals made, have already been considered, ie. ensuring a better place for FOs in the sector or the establishment of a mechanism to control seeds placed on the market. Other proposals still need to be defended, such as the role of the FOs in the field controls; traceability of analyses made and a development of a transparent quality system for the seed production.
143. In **Madagascar**, **Fert's** partner **Ceffel** with its founding and administering member **Fifata** continue their efforts to represent the interests of their farmers vis-à-vis decision makers. The operationalisation of their market strategy for garden seed production and field crops is ongoing – farmers are currently in the process of obtaining seed activity permits (Permis d'Activité Semencière, PAS) by the Official Seed Control Service (Service Officiel de Contrôle des Semences, SOC).

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144. Local decision makers are regularly contacted by the regional consultation cells of Fifata who work on the marketing and improvement of FO-services. These cells function as local representations of farmers when lobbying local level authorities.
145. In July a mission will have taken place of a French expert (FN3PT) to accompany the implementation of a Ceffel project on in-vitro cultures. The construction of a greenhouse to satisfy the members' needs for potato seeds is planned.
146. In **Malawi**, most of the planned activities under C2 by **CREMPA** and **We Effect** will take place during the second semester as planned. A great success was the National Milk Day Event on the 1st of June which CREMPA co-organized. High ranking stakeholders, including the minister for Agriculture, were present and the project obtained wide visibility with a pavilion, branded materials, and ample opportunities for exchanges with public and private actors. The Malawi Dairy Value Chain Project was presented to the minister during a meeting.
147. In **Mali**, in March 2022, **CNOP** organized a seed policy position validation workshop attended by its members.
148. During the **NADO** training session in **Tanzania** conducted under C1, several ongoing and past national policies were discussed to increase the understanding of the farmers on the content and relevance to climate smart agriculture. In this context, 200 policy guidebooks were distributed.
149. Very notable is **NADO's** participation with two staff (1W,1M) at the **World Potato Congress**. They reported that they were lastingly impressed with the role and importance of the potato on the global level. NADO plans to encourage potato product diversification to meet consumers demands, continue to promote the use of improved seed potato for farmers, more training to farmers on climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies in potato production, promoting storage facilities for both seed and ware potatoes, more involvement of women and youth in the potato value chain, awareness raising on diverse use and nutrition value of potato, more sensitization on the importance of good branding of potatoes so as to meet market quality demand and mechanization practice in potato production
150. Another output of **NADO's** project is the integration of women and youth in the organization. For more information on that matter, see 2.3.1.
151. In **Uganda**, in the earlier years of implementation, **HODFA's** board members have received training by Trias on lobby and advocacy (FACT tool). In 2022, a mid-year national apiculture multi stakeholder platform meeting, to which TUNADO participated was conducted without input from the regional MSPs. The meeting was organized to share with stakeholders TUNADOs new strategic plan 2022-2026, opportunities in the apiculture business fund, present/discuss the upcoming national honey week 2022 and share nature-based models for beekeeping. The meeting participants equally tasked management to take lead in advocating for more awareness by Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) on electronic fiscal receipting system, lobby for tax exemption on beekeeping equipment, develop strategies to increase hive colonization, advocate for the inclusion of beekeeping under the Parish Development Model (PDM).

3.2.3 COMPONENT 3: INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF FARMER’S ORGANIZATIONS

- 152. The most pressing challenges faced by the FOs/FLEs 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.
- 153. Agri-agencies support the institutional development of FOs in by i.e., 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.
- 154. An example of organisational assessment tools used by agri-agencies and their FO partners: **Organisational Rapid Assessment** 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:
 - a. Level of formalization
 - b. Quality of governance
 - c. Financial management
 - d. Operational management of activities
 - e. Scope of activities
 - f. Level of autonomy and
 - g. External relations

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

<u>Level 0</u> – Emerging structure, without any clearly defined objectives	but lacks M&E system, issues setting up partnerships
<u>Level 1</u> – Cooperative has clearly defined objectives but lacks relevant annual plan and management tools	<u>Level 3</u> – cooperative is active and has all required tools to manage its activities, has contractual relations with traders and finance institutions
<u>Level 2</u> – Cooperative has an action plan and program of activities and management tools	<u>Level 4</u> – cooperative has completed all levels of professionalization

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

- 155. LEATRA - The Leadership Trajectory, developed and used by Trias, goes beyond simply imparting democratic principles on how to manage member-based association correctly and democratically. 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 several 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.

156. In **Benin**, **PNOPPA** supported the upgrading of the strategic development plans for the unions of Djidja and Adja Quèrè as well as updating the Manual the procedures for the union of Djidja. This will allow the Union to standardize its internal management practices and ensure the regularity of its organizational and democratic functioning, thus strengthening its accountability to its members.
157. The evaluation of **CAPAD**'s strategic plan is being finalized in the course of 2022. This evaluation is being accompanied by external experts having years of experience working with FOs, agricultural cooperatives and in the agricultural production and processing sector. Also, the improvement of the cooperative monitoring (PUMA) tool is in the discussion and analysis stage with external experts. The needs of **CAPAD**, its members and cooperatives have evolved. The current reassessment process will allow to better target and adapt the support to the tool to better respond to the new needs of the users and to better adapt the Burundian IT context. The difficulties related to access to the internet network are still present and one of the main challenges is to solve.
158. In **Kenya**, **CGA** continues to support its 40 member groups to improve their membership fee collection and payment status monitoring systems. One thousand (1000) members are up to date with their membership payments.
159. **CGA**'s team received three weeks-worth of training on soil management, accompanied by an expert mission and follow-ups with advisors in the field. One tool for the collection and analysis of techno-economic information is in the piloting process. Across five counties, sixty (60) farmers participate in the ongoing process. Currently ongoing, also, is an impact study on the approach of linking farmers to inputs.
160. In **Kenya**, **FF-SPAK** already laid the groundworks for group certification schemes in 2021 with awareness raising workshops and familiarization with manuals and checklists. The preparation for the certification is ongoing. Two pilot nurseries are established which provide the base for trainings on the operation of nurseries. The expansion and certification of tree nurseries will enhance the quality of the available germplasm for farmers.
161. Continuous and needs-based support is provided by up to four extension officers of **FF-SPAK** and county-based experts. They are drawn from Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperatives department, Kenya Forest Service among other government agencies. Further, **FF-SPAK** continues to conduce trainings on leadership skills and governance (30 participants in S1).
162. The previously established and self-organized study groups continue to meet once or twice a month. On this occasion, usually an extension officer or specific resource person visits the circles for capacity building and dialogue. The circles and FO management prepare schedules and list needs with which **FF-SPAK** can assist or facilitate.
163. In **Kenya**, **KENAFF** with support of **AHA** continues to enable the institutional development of its county associations through a variety of activities. Many trainings and capacity building opportunities are provided to build the capacities among staff of the counties (financial, communicational, technical). Key institutional processes such as elections, statutory meetings, and membership recruitment are supported and monitored by **KENAFF** and **AHA**. Multi-annual Strategic Plans are worked out in participatory fashion to engage the membership. The regular engagement with key stakeholders consolidates the presence of the county associations and NFO in civil society.
164. The digitalization of FOs is currently advanced by **Meru Union and Bamsocos**. Management Information Systems (MIS) are currently set up and staff is being trained to make use of the systems. A major goal is to improve the flow of information and communication. Currently, 70% of **Bamsocos** affiliates have an accounting and management system in place. Trainings for FO-leaders are ongoing to strengthen their abilities. Strategic plans and policies of Union members and affiliates are regularly reviewed, and they participate in communication and social media initiatives.

165. In **Madagascar**, last year Fert supported **Ceffel's** process to elaborate a strategic plan 2021-2025. During the first semester of 2022, all planned activities for C₃ were implemented. Technical committees with elected members were established. Their role is to study the challenges and problems of the member farmers and find suitable actions to tackle them. They initiate proposals and recommendations to the General Assembly of Ceffel.
166. Currently ongoing is a financial analysis of Ceffel and its activities before entering the next phase of development. To increase the financial sustainability, a system of financial contributions / compensations was established in which direct beneficiaries contribute for the services received.
167. The new secretary of the board of directors is currently undergoing a seven-week course at the *Université Paysanne* (Formagri) where she gains a better understanding of agricultural policies to improve the representation and defence of the farmers' interests.
168. Ceffel make a big effort on the communicational reach of the FO. Participation in radio programmes with Fifata, the production of videos, success stories and a newsletter are noteworthy activities and products. The efforts also extend into national policy making, where the Fifata group seeks to establish a stronger presence.
169. In **Malawi**, **CREMPA** will conduct all its activities under C₃ only during the second half of the year, as planned in the AWP. They include governance trainings, business plan workshops and the development of cooperative strategic plans.
170. In **Tanzania**, **NADO's** and **FFD's** output under C₃ was to improve M&E tools for agroecology and conservation agriculture. A conservation agriculture guidebook was developed, and 254 copies will be distributed during the second semester of the year.
171. Further, 691 farmers registered for the conservation agriculture initiative with a high share of women (449) and a questionnaire was designed to track the adoption of practices.
172. Finally, an organizational account was created for OD-based data collection. The application is currently in the trial phase before they start to collect information from the farmers.
173. In **Uganda**, HODFA and TUNADO, supported by Trias, conducted a SPIDER workshop were conducted covering a representation from the board, management, and staff of HODFA and TUNADO. A full OCA (Organisational Capacity Assessment) was performed covering a review of the organisations via the organisational triangle tool, priority setting on the capacities to improve and activity planning. The remaining 2 SPIDER workshops are foreseen in the second half of 2022, and they will focus on progress review and follow up planning. As a result, both HODFA and TUNADO identified/updated the areas they want to improve, the desired results, the activities they will undertake to achieve these results, the timelines of the activities and the indicators selected to monitor the progress.

3.3 CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

174. 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 in 2021, 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.

3.3.1 GENDER

175. 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.
176. An example of an applied methodology in this programme is **Trias' Inclusion Route Roadmap**³. 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.
177. 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.
178. **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.
179. **UGAM** and **UCoFAT** took an important step forward in 2022 as regard the inclusion of youth during their Annual General Assembly during which the Youth College was launched. Approximately 50 participants in the meeting to present the results of UGAM's activities and 2021 financial report, 75 participants in the UGAM AGM and 25 participants in the launch of the Youth College. A three-day workshop on UCoFAT women's leadership, public speaking, organizational life and good governance practices for women. Gender aspect was worked on with men also and an awareness raising workshop on gender equality was organised.
180. In Burundi, CAPAD's gender policy stipulates for the presence of at least 60% of women in the cooperatives' governing bodies. Within FO4ACP project, this objective is being achieved as in the bodies of the 21 cooperatives supported, women are represented at 60%. The number of women in the cooperatives supported by this project represents more than 50%.

³ For more information on methodology: [Gender inclusion trajectory | Trias](#)

181. **TUNADO** in **Uganda**, supported by **Trias**, have been implementing one-year mentorship programmes that supports women (and youth) in their leadership competences. Raising numbers in leadership positions of farmer organizations is a lengthy process that must be nurtured, but trainings, workshops and mentorships are proving to be 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.
182. 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.
183. Some FOs have decided 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.
184. In **Kenya**, **FF-SPAK** conducted a *champions* gender training with forty (40) participants, applying a training manual developed by We Effect and FAO. These gender inclusion trainings target males. The philosophy of this approach is that gender inclusion and equality start in the family and transposes into FOs and civil society.
185. It should be noted that **FF-SPAK** enforces a policy of gender inclusion for its activities and interventions. Equitable participation of women and youth are guaranteed by through a 2/3rd rule which means no gender can exceed a share of 2/3 for any activity. The nurseries provide a space in which women and youth participation are encouraged, and where they can generate an income through the services they offer to the cooperative members.
186. In **Madagascar**, **Ceffel** enables women with children to join their educational activities. They are encouraged to bring their kids, catering and accommodations are provided. Further, the fruit and vegetable sector, on which Ceffel works, is an important income source for women.
187. In **Tanzania**, **FFD** and **NADO** worked to link women and youth to financial institutions, mainly to access loans. Overall, 195 women and 170 youth were linked and are in the process of obtaining loans. Further twelve (12) disabled FO-members received a loan to start poultry and piggery activities with a zero-interest loan.
188. Further, youth and women were trained on income-diversifying activities such as bee keeping, vegetable gardens, livestock, fruit- & tree nurseries. Several groups of young people (94Y) and women (79W) started their own projects for income diversification.
189. In Malawi, CREMPA conducted leadership trainings targeting women and youth reaching 321 persons. The trainings empower the participants to start businesses in their communities and speak out in public and in relation to the bulking cooperatives.
190. Overall, gender mainstreaming advances in all projects and countries. However, socio-cultural and economic boundaries remain in many local contexts and require a long-term, multi-faceted approach. 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.

3.3.2 YOUTH

191. 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.
192. 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 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.
193. 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.
194. 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.
195. Fert's partner **CGA** is currently undertaking a survey on the desires and needs of young farmers in Kenya. The goal of the activity is to identify specific actions that CGA will implement in the future. This will help the FOs on the longer term to appeal and engage young people.
196. **Meru Union** and **Bamscos** targets attempts to gain more young people for the dairy value chain, as they are a key for long term sustainability and the establishing of modern dairy techniques and practices. They trained 32 youths on modern dairy techniques to strengthen family farms.
197. In **Malawi**, **CREMPA** successfully mobilized 199 youths for their youth forum and established five (5) youth groups that will actively participate in the agri-businesses.
198. In Mali, the **CNOP** project's focus on the market gardening sectors involve many women and young people because of their relatively low land consumption and the possibility of off-season cultivation, at times when the agricultural labour force is not overly mobilized in the cereal plots. Young people are very numerous among the project's beneficiaries, and two regional young farmers' organizations are involved (the Regional Coordinating Bodies of Rural Youth Organizations of Koulikoro and Segou - CROJRK and CROJRS). Women, on the other hand, although heavily involved in market gardening, represent still a small proportion of relay farmers (35% of relay farmers trained in 2021), despite continuous encouragement. This is partially due to their difficulties in traveling and attending a relatively long training session at Cifan, and partially to the low literacy rate of women in Mali, which sometimes discourages them to take on responsibilities outside their family sphere.
199. **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.
200. Beyond earmarking activities specifically for youths, attention is paid to the integration of youths to trainings in general. **AHA's** partners in **Tanzania** have shown serious commitment 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**.

201. 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. Similarly, **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.
202. A creative example to motivate and boost youth participation was the award-initiative of **TUNADO** in 2021. 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.

3.3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

203. Farmers in Africa have seen several challenges in S1 2022 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.
204. Climate change adaptation and mitigation are not choice but a necessity in the daily lives 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)availability 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.
205. 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.
 - a. **CGA in Kenya** conducted such a study with the help of **Fert** in Meru and Laikipia to assess the degree of soil erosion.
 - b. **FFD** and **FF-SPAK** conducted a climate risk assessment in 2021 and developed an environmental and climate change action plan. As climate change receives a special attention in the Kenya country coordination meetings, in May 2022 meeting, FFD gave a presentation on AgriCord Building Resilience toolkit. The toolkit gives FOs a systematic and participatory methodology to assess climate risks and prepare adaptation strategies. FF SPAK and EAFF have participated in the training of trainers organised by FFD. In the coordination meeting, FF-SPAK also presented some of the results of their climate change risk assessment and gave insights to the activities and working approaches that decrease vulnerability of frame forest producers in the face of climate change, such as Sustainable agriculture and land management (SALM), Climate change adaptation training, Village savings and loaning association (vsla), diversification of enterprises.
206. 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.
207. 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 Meteorology** (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.

208. 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.
- a. **CGA** started interventions on agroecology with eight (8) producer groups in the **Kenyan** counties of Meru and Laikipia. Six demonstration plots and four trials focus on drought resilience working on practices such as mulching and transplanting. Kenya is lately experiencing delayed and spatial rainfalls affecting crop yields significantly.
 - b. **FFD and FF-SPAK** educate and train Kenyan farmers in the adoption of *climate-smart* technologies which include SALM practices, integrated pest management, water harvesting, make use of more crop varieties and the adoption of GAPs. In S1 2022, two (2) of these trainings were conducted involving not only farmers but extension officers from the ministry of agriculture, creating moments of exchange between officials and farmers on these matters in a practical setting. The previously conducted climate risk assessment ensured that the intervention and trainings focus on the real needs of farmers applying practical capacity building sessions on farm as opposed to class work. About 200 farmers were reached.
 - c. An exchange session was organized between eight (8) Kenyan and Finnish FO s in the context of the Kenya country coordination meeting. The AgriCord Building Resilience Toolkit was introduced, and climate adaptation was discussed. Further, FF-SPAK has been participating in the FSC Forest Management Interim Standards Development Group which will provide the FOs guidance to achieve ecologically sound practices in family forestry.
 - d. In **Burkina Faso**, the effects of climate change are also affecting pastoralists. To avoid overgrazing, fodder crops continue to be systematically promoted in 2022 activities of **UMPL-B**. Thanks to the services provided by the FO, the productivity per cow is improved by access to water and veterinary products and this makes it possible to limit the size of the herds to environmentally more sustainable levels.
 - e. In **Burkina Faso**, **UPPRS** continues to promote more sustainable agricultural practices, including compost production, and the maintenance of demo fields to test out new varieties and agroecological practices.
 - f. In 2022, CAPAD continues to provide and scale out the extension and training of agroecological practices allowing the diversification of agricultural production, the reduction of dependence on chemical fertilizers, the promotion of farmer seeds, the self-production of quality organic fertilizers and practices to reduce soil erosion.
 - g. **Afdi's** project with **CNOP** in **Mali** is focused on the promotion and scaling out of agroecological practices. Agroecology is the main theme of the project and in 2022, the FO technicians, relay farmers and farmer groups have participated in trainings and demonstrations on topics related to agroecology. In the project, the inclusion of youth and women links up with the agroecological approach as vegetable gardening with cost-efficient agroecological inputs offers income opportunities without much access to land and off season to women and youths.
 - h. **TUNADO** in **Uganda supported** by **Trias** continued to promote farmer managed natural regeneration practices also in 2022. This approach is achieving results as the farmers and other beekeepers are increasingly adopting farmer managed natural regeneration of trees and restoration of lost vegetation with growing of high value multi-purpose trees as a substitute for

charcoal burning. As a result, there is visible growth of vegetation in formally open surface areas. HODFA sustained the tree planting campaign and conducted field visits with environment partners / stakeholders including Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE), Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom, Bugoma forest-Kisindi reserve and ECO Trust. In 2022, TUNADO purchased and distributed multi-purpose high value tree crops like macadamia in the Albertine region of Bulisa and Hoima. The seedlings when mature will provide forage for bees and give the beekeepers an extra income from the sale of nuts.

209. Drought resilience is the main concern for **TAHA's** project in **Tanzania** in cooperation with **FFD**. The irrigation and water trading system will enable the farmers to adapt to the changing conditions.
210. At **AgriCord level**, the climate work is carried out within the framework of **AgriCord Climate Commission** and AgriCord's Program Commission thematic climate working group. These activities are co-coordinated by FFD together with AgriCord secretariat. The roll out of the Building Resilience toolkit continued started in 2020 and continued in 2021-2022. FOs have applied Building Resilience I tool to set the priority strategies and actions for enhancing their resilience in Madagascar, Kenya, Tanzania and Ivory Coast. Based on the experiences from implementing the tool with subnational and local level FOs in Madagascar, FERT has further developed the Building Resilience Tool I, so that it is more accessible for the FOs in the local context.
211. The training of trainers (ToT) methodology for applying the tool 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 online training format does not allow going into the same level of detail and understanding than a person-to-person workshops do. All in all, the demand for the ToT training has passed largely the expectations. A Master's thesis collecting more systematically the FO experiences from applying the Building Resilience Tool II is being finalized. The Master's thesis is being prepared in cooperation with FFD. Another tool for the Resilience Tools tool box is under development. The Resilience Toolkit development is a good example of the co-creation between agri-agencies and highlights the added value of joint knowledge building and management of the alliance.
212. Also, in 2022 there were important occasions for lobby for better access for farmers and FOs for different types of climate funds. The Climate Commission works together with **PAFO** and **RFOs** in strategizing how to get better access for FOs for climate financing both at national and at global levels and develop mechanisms for channelling such funds all the way to the farmer level. Several online meetings were conducted on this topic and Mamadou Cissokho as a resource person brought a strong contribution to these discussions by briefing the participants on IFAD, FAO, EU and AFD strategic priorities and financing modalities. An ad hoc committee with IFAD-PAFO was established to work on a concretising a farmer climate facility allowing the channelling climate funds to the farm level. The first meeting was held the 3rd of June. A joint PAFO-AgriCord-IFAD concept note for a submission to ASAP+ will be developed by mid-September.
213. An important lobby and advocacy opportunity was Stockholm +50 event taking place on the 1 – 3 of June and the SIDA day related to the event. Tiina Huvio, the director of FFD and AgriCord Board member, participated in the event and in the panel in SIDA day, bringing forward messages prepared in consultation with agri-agencies and RFOs.

3.4 PEER-TO-PEER

214. 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 strengthening of the FO extension services is built on training of farmer extensionist who can support their peers in technical aspects related to agricultural production.
215. Below some examples of the exchanges and learning visits that took place in 2022:
216. **In Benin – FUPRO and Afdi** had already organised two successful 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 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. In 2022 first semester, a South/North mission of the President of the CCPSM of N'Dali was organized in France, in the department of Landes, specialized in the corn seed production of corn seeds, to exchange with French seed producers. Moreover, he participated also in a training together with the French FO elected leaders on the financial management of a cooperative organized by the federation of agricultural cooperatives "La Coopération Agricole".
217. In Benin a sub-regional exchange visit between peasant leaders that allowed representatives of the PNOPPA, the FUPRO, the GEA, the RC-OPMM of Adja Ouèrè and the UCP of Djidja to go to Senegal to learn about the local realities in terms of the development of sectors, the strengthening of collective services and governance, all with the support of local peasant organizations members of the National Council for Consultation and Cooperation of Rural Senegal (CNCR), partner of the PNOPPA but also of UPA DI for many years. The visit aimed was to bring together the FOs so that they could exchange their respective experiences, achievements and results related to developing commercial services, group purchases and sales, particularly analysing how to assure the sustainability of such services and the financial autonomy of the FO in the longer term.
218. **In Kenya**, Mikko Syri from the Finnish NFO MTK, made a learning exchange visit to FF SPAK to explain the types of risks climate change is causing to forestry activities in Finland, and what types of adaptation options, such as selection of rights species, pest management and thinning regimes have been applied to minimize the impact of these risks. The visit included a three-day joint field mission with FF-SPAK. He also gave a presentation in the country coordination meeting, where KENAFF and some subnational FOs were present. His presentation generated lots of interest and discussion, as well as comparison what is similar and different in the climate change and tree growing context in Kenya and Finland.
219. **FF-SPAK** provides peer-based support throughout the year with and through the study circles. Three (3) extension officers provide technical troubleshooting, training, and support for farmers during these meetings. The officers are accompanied by cooperative leaders who oversee marketing and admin. These visits proved to be effective in recruiting new cooperative members and promote the study circles. During the first semester, thirty (30) of these meetings were conducted.
220. **In Kenya**, two in-person peer-to-peer exchanges were conducted by **CGA** member FOs. One visit was conducted with twenty-six (26) farmers to exchange on mulching and soil moisture at trial sites and FO-management. This exchange was organized for the counties of Meru and Laikipia. A second exchange of this kind was conducted between the counties of Narok, Nakuru and Uasin Gishu in which thirty-nine (39) farmers discussed farm mechanization and conservation agriculture. An exchange to Madagascar was conducted in July and will be reported on in the annual report.
221. Seventy-nine (79) farmer groups of **KENAFF's** county associations follow a farmer-to-farmer extension approach. They relay and exchange regularly on *good agricultural practices* for key value chains.

222. Meru Union and Bamscos in Kenya enabled the managers and board members of three FOs to go on a peer-to-peer exchange. An impressive total of 1.718 farmers visited demonstration sites of Union members to exchange and learn about modernized agricultural practices.
223. In **Malawi**, **CREMPA** organized FO-exchanges between Group Savings and Loan Groups (GSLGs). The farmers had the opportunity to exchange on the lessons they learnt.
224. In **Tanzania**, Pirkko Suhonen advised and visited the water project by **TAHA** and **FFD**. They exchanged on the necessary documentation and Global GAP certification to which the project might contribute through the creation of clean water availability at a reasonable cost.
225. **NADO** conducted one farmer-to-farmer exchange during the first semester. Trainer-of-Trainers visited experienced farmers who employ methods of conservation agriculture and could contribute to the trainers' knowledge.

3.5 VISIBILITY

226. AgriCord has promoted FO4ACP program and highlighted the program's results through IFAD hosted Dgroups platform and AgriCord's Crossroads newsletter disseminated electronically to all agri-agencies, Board members and technical and financial partners. FO4ACP projects and activities have been shared through AgriCord's, agri-agencies and FOs social media accounts in Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. In 2022, for example, Ceffel/Madagascar, Bamscos/Kenya, TAHA/Tanzania got a spotlight in social media; AgriCord Board, which has four FO leader members, is also regularly updated on FO4ACP program, as well as twice a year in AgriCord General Assembly, in which also some technical and financial partners are invited.
227. Afdi gave visibility for the FO4ACP project in Benin in an article in the semi-annual newsletter Paysans du monde d'Afdi NA n°12 of June 2022: "Seed production is gradually finding its local market".
228. In Burundi, on the 10th of June 2022, the EU organised an event focusing on the development cooperation in the country. The participants to the event included all EU member state representatives present in the country, different development cooperation agencies as well as different operational and technical partners. CAPAD presented the FO4ACP project, its activities and results achieved during the event.
229. The case study of FF-SPAK, FFD's partner in Kenya, was presented in Sweden in Stockholm+50 associated event (1 June), to demonstrate the importance of solid partnerships in strengthening a member-based FO. Special references were made to FF-SPAK's Village Saving and Loan Associations, and grown capacity in climate action, diversification of farm ecosystems.



230. The Meru Union in Kenya successfully hosted a farmers' field day that was attended by 22.000 farmers and 115 stakeholders and suppliers. During the even the 55 best cows were exhibited and the top producers presented.
231. In Madagascar, SOA has disseminated the film, produced in 2021, on the development of local seed production under FO4ACP program during the seed production start-up workshops with the two FOs, Fiso and Soamitsinjo, and with partners at the University of Antananariv. The film was also broadcasted in the Malagasy national channel TVM on March 20, 2022 and it is also available on the Afdi website <https://www.afdi-opa.org/la-promotion-de-la-production-de-semences-de-qualite-avec-les-op-membres-de-reseau-soa/> and on the Facebook page of the SOA Network and Afdi <https://www.facebook.com/afdi.reseau/posts/4951185894939697>. Dissemination of technical and economic references of seed production under FO4ACP has also been shared with technical and financial partners such as Fofifa, Regional Directorate of Agriculture, SOC, CIRAD, AFD.
232. The project by CREMPA and We Effect on the dairy value chain in Malawi was widely visible during the World Milk Day celebrations in June. The programme and donors were visibly displayed through shirts and stands.



Milk Day in Malawi
(Images: We Effect /
CREMPA)



3.6 SYNERGIES AND COMPLEMENTARITY

233. Synergies and complementarities on the country level are evolving in the country and regional coordination. Also, FO4ACP projects are synergizing with AFD financed SEPOP projects in Madagascar, Mali, Benin, Burkina Faso, Kenya, and Senegal. Agroecology is being promoted in many of the FO4ACP projects as a production model increasing the resilience of the food systems. AgriCord led the co-construction of a 10 million EUR global FOledResearch and Innovation program (FO RI), which was launched in the first semester of 2022. FO RI provides an opportunity to further strengthen FO capacities in action research and in supporting producers in agroecological production, thus building on, complementing, and scaling out the experiences and results gained within FO4ACP program in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Mali, Senegal, Madagascar and Tanzania.
234. In Madagascar, the Food and Nutrition Security in the Bongolava, Analamanga and Itasy Region (SANBONAI) project, funded by the European Union and implemented by the Afdi, SOA and Anae consortium (National Association of Environmental Actions), started at the end of 2021. This project also supports the FOs local seed production. The activities are planned to be complementary to the FO4ACP activities and help to consolidate and scale out the results emerging from the FO4ACP implementation. SOA and Afdi participated in a meeting for sharing experiences between seed establishments, organized by the AFAFI SUD programme of the European Union on 22 March in Antananarivo.
235. 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. Also at AgriCord level, the cooperation with Forest and Farm Facility is close and AgriCord is part of the facilities management team and FFD's director Tiina Huvio chairs the FFF steering committee.
236. This partnership with FAO, IUCN, IIED and AgriCord gives opportunities for joint advocacy message building for and FO4ACP project results and learnings have been highlighted in the context of FFF meetings. There is also lot of coordination in the preparation for the FO participation in the international meetings, as well as producing joint policy briefs and publications, which are being disseminated among the FO4ACP implementing partners. In 2022, Afdi's FO partner SOA has worked successfully in youth installation in Madagascar and their work got highlighted in FAO publication "Boosting Koronivia – Creating resilient livelihoods for youth in small-scale food production", FAO, 2022. For 2022, the main areas of cooperation and synergies is the FO participation to COP27 and an international forestry conference in Vietnam in September.

3.7 CONTINENTAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL COORDINATION

237. In the first semester of 2022, AgriCord was occupied with coordinating the preparations for the mid-term review and closing of **SAFE 2020**, so there were less activities around the continental coordination with **PAFO**. A continental coordination meeting will take place on the second half of 2022. PAFO and AgriCord are also closely cooperating in relation to climate concept note for which more details in the chapter on Climate. AgriCord will also participate in the Youth conference of PAFO in Kigali in October 2022. PAFO delegation participated in AgriCord's General Assembly in Berlin, Regional Coordination and national coordination
238. AgriCord secretariat and agri-agencies worked in close cooperation with **ROPPA, EAFF and SACAU** and their national FO members for the mid-term review country visits and regional updates.
239. Outside the FO4ACP program, AHA has been supporting SACAU, ROPPA and EAFF in building capacities related to trade policies. Afdi is working closely with ROPPA in various topics, including EU and African Union policies.
240. In **Central Africa**, the regional and national coordination mechanisms have given an impetus for a closer cooperation between **PROPAC** and Trias.
241. In Benin, exchanges between Afdi and UPA-DI took place twice in the first months of 2022. They focused on the FO4ACP programs of the two agri-agencies as well as on reflections on how to best accompany the structuring of PNOPPA's youth college based on the experiences from other countries in the region and from countries such as Madagascar where Afdi has been successfully supporting SOA in its youth activities.
242. In **Burkina Faso** a second coordination meeting was organised on 01/02/22 at the invitation of the CPF, in the presence of the FOs, Afdi, Trias and Fert. EU and IFAD were invited but excused themselves. Beyond sharing progress on the various actions, presentation of the results of a study on the taxation of agricultural cooperatives was discussed.
243. A country coordination meeting took place between the **Kenyan** implementors of the programme on the 27th of May 2022. The country coordination is working well. BAMSCOS, KENAFF, FF-SPAK, FFD, MTK (mandating Finnish NFO of FFD and twinning partner of FF SPAK, CGA, Fert and Meru Dairy Union participated in this fourth coordination meeting. In addition to the project updates shared, the participants discussed the mid-term review process and first feedback received. Through this coordination mechanism synergies have been developed in two value chains and in the thematic of climate change. (More details on the climate change synergies in the chapter covering the transversal themes.) In the forestry sector bi-lateral discussions and exchanges of information are on-going between the FOs and agri-agencies implementing FO4ACP. Also, collaboration with the Forest and Farm Facility / FAO (FFF) continues and joint efforts have been made for example in the participation to Farm Expo. The agri-agencies have also organised joint meeting with the EU delegation to brief the delegation about the FO4ACP results among other topics.
244. FF-SPAK regularly consults with the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and Gatsby Africa on the topic of certified germplasm and aligning interests. FFD and FF-SPAK encourage KFS to advance the currently stagnant government processes in nursery certification.
245. More and more synergies are also emerging, going beyond the FO4ACP program implementation, between EAFF and AgriCord in the dairy value chain. EAFF has visited Mount Kenya Milk, which is a partner FO of We Effect. EAFF found Mount Kenya Milk's approach to their member cooperative development interesting and is planning to organise more exchange visits for its members in Uganda and Tanzania involved in dairy, so that they can learn from the successful business models in Kenya.

246. In Mali, a national consultation meeting was held on January 19, 2022, at the initiative of the CNOP and brought together the agri-agencies (UPA DI, Asprodeb and Afdi), IFAD, the European Union, and the farmers' organizations.
247. In Tanzania, IFAD's MTR mission for FO4ACP visited Arusha and debriefing meetings were organized among the implementing agencies and FOs afterwards in April 2022 (Trias, AHA and FFD, MVIWA Arusha and MVIWA Manara).
248. Mamadou Cissokho, as a resource person for the program coordination and lobby and advocacy for support increasing donor financing targeting FOS, carried out several missions in May – July 2022. The programme with all stakeholders was the following: Exchange with the AgriCord Secretariat in Brussels; Meeting between the teams of the Directorate of Partnership and Cooperation of the European Union in Brussels and the AgriCord Secretariat and; meetings with IFAD and FAO officials in Rome; visit to the African Union with the PAFO delegation; visit to AFD Paris and AFDI France. The discussions focused on two topics in which AgriCord and PAFO are co-constructing joint initiatives – one on climate / ASAP+ and one on the financing of investments and blending for FO needs.
249. At **FAO**, Mamadou Cissokho met with the Head of the FAO/Civil Society Partnership, Mrs Marcela VILLARREAL to discuss the Decade of Family Farming, the FAO Regional Conferences, and a project to set up an FAO global forum. On the Decade of Family Farming, Cissokho pointed out that the establishment of national committees and the approval of national plans risks creating problems in ownership. Care should be taken not to detach the committee and the national plan of Family Farming from the national peasant movement that goes beyond the decade. In relation to the World Conference, finding a formula between the global rural social movement at FAO and the World Farmers' Forum at IFAD would be beneficial. With Mrs. Nadine VALAT Head of the Green Climate Funds team, the difficulties, and limitations of small producers' access to financing from the Climate and Environment Green Funds were addressed.

3.8 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

3.8.1 STRATEGIC ACTIONS

250. The Alliance remains committed to strengthening its M&E system and activities.
251. AgriCord's M&E, overall knowledge management, learning and capitalization comprise three pillars. They encompass 1) project-level performance, 2) organizational performance and 3) learning, capitalization, and broader impacts, including FO development.
252. To further support Pillar 1 reporting, the narrative reporting template was adjusted and simplified in alignment with the narrative section of the annual work plan and budget (AWPB). This allows for a simple cross-check between planned activities and realized ones. While reforms in Pillar 1 have been finalized during the last quarter of 2021, much work remains to be done to complete strategic reforms in Pillar 2 and 3. The Secretariat will continue these efforts, aiming to finalize them by the end of 2022.
253. In the context of Pillar 2, this includes the drafting of a Theory of Change and logical framework with performance indicators. In addition, an M&E Policy with guiding principles will be created. So far, a draft version of the Theory of Change has been created and presented to the Programme Management Unit in May 2022. The M&E focal person will present this version to the broader team in the early fall of 2022. The remaining documents will be completed after the Theory of Change has been adopted.
254. For Pillar 3 on learning and broader impacts, please consult the next section on knowledge management and capitalization.

3.8.2 ONGOING M&E PROCESSES AND EVENTS

255. A first internal thematic workshop facilitated by the AgriCord secretariat took place mid-June. This learning moment around access to finance and business planning served as a pilot for more workshops in the future. The AgriCord alliance can profit from the variety of professional AA-profiles, methodologies, geographical reach and cultural diversity. Participating in the workshop were hispano- and francophone implementors from the FO4ACP, FO4LA and AFD-SEPOP programme. A quick survey with the participants indicated support for similar events in the future. Currently in planning is a workshop with the same thematic for anglophone implementors, especially from East Africa and Asia.
256. Knowledge management provides an opportunity for the alliance to continue its development.
257. The Secretariat has taken measures to address shortfalls in the development of knowledge management and broader learning processes. Initially, the development of the M&E system, including the transition into a more collaborative digital platform, took priority, as per the recommendations of IFAD's aide memoire on the subject. Given the completion of essential Pillar 1 reforms to support project reporting, AgriCord has been able to commit itself to develop a more coordinated and systematic approach in generating and sharing knowledge. This coincided well with the mid-term milestone of the program implementation, as now best practices have started to emerge from the ongoing projects.
258. During the first half of 2022, AgriCord's M&E and knowledge management expert has successfully drafted a Knowledge Management and Learning Strategy with a matching 1-year Action Plan. The Strategy gives an overview on AgriCord's vision, guiding principles, components and matching activities in the area of knowledge management and learning. The Action Plan provides more details on the timing and expected results of the activities themselves.
259. As part of its commitment to broader organizational learning, one learning moment has been organized by the Secretariat, during which agri-agencies with their FO partners discussed the issue of access to finance and business planning. This included partners from both the FO4ACP Caribbean and Africa Programmes.
260. Among specific products, AgriCord started a quarterly series of digests, called Crossroads. Each issue focuses on topics of interest for the agri-agencies and their partner FOs. The audience has consisted mainly of agri-agency staff through direct mail but has also included the public through dissemination on the AgriCord site and through social media. 2 issues (4 separate items) in English and French have been published so far in April and July 2022. 2 more issues will follow in the fall and winter of 2022.
261. With regards to supporting web systems and platforms, 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 currently being finalized in August 2022. In addition, the Secretariat has taken stock of the gaps and shortfalls of its current OneDrive/SharePoint environment and created a timeline with milestones to clean up and reorganize this environment. Lastly, the Secretariat has also been more actively involved in Dgroups. 4 separate posts were made so far in 2022, promoting Crossroads specifically. At least 4 more will follow on the same topic.
262. Finally, among continuous processes, AgriCord also supports additional activities in the area of M&E. This included in particular the facilitation of the Mid-Term Review of FO4ACP Africa and Caribbean in March 2022.
263. Though much work is to be done, AgriCord envisages to further cultivate a culture of joint learning and sharing knowledge among agri-agencies and FOs and technical and financial partners.

3.9 KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

264. Knowledge management provides an opportunity for the alliance to continue its development.
265. The Secretariat has taken measures to address shortfalls in the development of knowledge management and broader learning processes. Initially, 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. Given the completion of essential Pillar 1 reforms to support project reporting, AgriCord has been able to commit itself to develop a more coordinated and systematic approach in generating and sharing knowledge. This coincided well with the mid-term milestone of the program implementation, as now best practices have started to emerge from the ongoing projects.
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270. Finally, AgriCord also supported extraneous activities in the area of knowledge management. This included in particular the facilitation of an information dissemination event on the OACPS-EU Framework Programme on Agriculture Value Chains on June 1st.
271. Though much work is to be done, AgriCord envisages to further cultivate a culture of joint learning and sharing knowledge among agri-agencies and FOs and technical and financial partners.
272. An overview of knowledge products for 2022 will be provided in the Annual Report. Just as an example: in Uganda, HODFA produced two types of knowledge products in 2022. This comprises a nature-based bee keeping video documentary and a series information leaflets on HODFA's input shop. The leaflet covered the different herbicides and fertilisers stocked in the input shop and a description of their use and application.
273. Finally, AgriCord also supported additional activities in the area of knowledge management. This included in particular the facilitation of an information dissemination event on the OACPS-EU Framework Programme on Agriculture Value Chains on June 1st. In addition, the Secretariat also

facilitated the creation and collection of a number of knowledge products in the framework of the Mid-Term Review (see above).

3.10 BUDGET AND STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE

²⁷⁴. The 2022 expenditure amount is EUR 904.569,41 , representing 39% of the annual budget. As of 30 June 2022, the cumulative expenditure amounts to EUR 5,599,808.86, the programme implementation rate is 73%. The breakdown of expenditure by component is as follows: 75% for component 1 "C1 - Supporting economic oriented activities", 53% for component 2 "C2 - Enhancing policy dialogue", 77% for component 3 "C3 - Institutional Development of FO's" and 68% for component 4 "C4 - Project Visibility and Communication (AgriCord)".



Grant nr :
IFAD - AgriCord Grant Agreement 2000003055
Implementation period:
22/10/2019 - 30/11/2023
Reporting period:
From 01/01/2022 to 30/06/2022
Currency: EUR

Description	Actual - 01/01/2022 - 30/06/2022			Year to date: 2022			Cumulative to date: 22/10/19 - 30/06/2022		
	Total Actual Expenditure	Budget	Balance	Actual Expenditure	Budget	Balance	Actual Expenditure	Budget	Balance
Sources of Funds									
IFAD	1.461.969,60	2.324.248	862.278,40	1.461.969,60	2.324.248	862.278,40	5.489.609,60	7.680.000	2.190.390,40
Counterpart fund									
Other donor									
Total Sources of Funds	1.461.969,60	2.324.248	862.278,40	1.461.969,60	2.324.248	862.278,40	5.489.609,60	7.680.000	2.190.390,40
Use of Funds (IFAD)									
C1 - Supporting economic oriented activities	635.031,55	1.330.019,00	694.987,45	635.031,55	1.330.019	694.987,45	3.749.828,76	4.992.000,00	1.242.171,24
C1.1 FO Local Costs	438.233,63								
C1.2 Agri-Agency Costs	7.930,58								
C1.3 Peer to peer and exchanges	122.071,73								
C1.4 Alliance	66.795,62								
C2 - Enhancing policy dialogue	76.364,21	377.520,00	301.155,79	76.364,21	377.520	301.155,79	408.304,26	768.000,00	359.695,74
C2.1 FO Local Costs	67.183,71								
C2.2 Agri-Agency Costs	195,57								
C2.3 Peer to peer and exchanges	5.595,19								
C2.4 Alliance	3.389,74								
C3 - Institutional Development of FO's	161.791,65	524.574,00	362.782,35	161.791,65	524.574	362.782,35	1.181.189,28	1.536.000,00	354.810,72
C3.1 FO Local Costs	120.907,83								
C3.2 Agri-Agency Costs									
C3.3 Peer to peer and exchanges	40.883,82								
C3.4 Alliance									
C4 - Project Visibility and Communication (AgriCard)	31.382,00	92.135,00	60.753,00	31.382,00	92.135	60.753,00	260.486,57	384.000,00	123.513,43
Subtotal	904.569,41	2.324.248	1.419.678,59	904.569,41	2.324.248	1.419.678,59	5.599.808,86	7.680.000	2.080.191,14
Non-IFAD									
Total Use of Funds	904.569,41	2.324.248	1.419.678,59	904.569,41	2.324.248	1.419.678,59	5.599.808,86	7.680.000	2.080.191,14
AVAILABLE BALANCE							110.199,26		27%

We hereby certify that the above amounts have been expended for Eligible Expenditures for the proper execution of the Project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement dated 22/10/2019

Agricord's Finance Director : Kris Goossenaerts
Date: 01/09/2022

Version 1 (24/08/2022), for submission to IFAD

The here presented information might be subject to corrections.

This document was produced by the Program Management Unit of the AgriCord Secretariat:

Katja Vuori, Program Advisor
Daniel Szczepanski, Knowledge and Results Manager
Lukas Hadasch, Junior Program Manager

Katja.Vuori@AgriCord.org
Daniel.Szczepanski@AgriCord.org
Lukas.Hadasch@AgriCord.org

AgriCord
Rue de Trèves 61
BE-1040 Brussels

Most inputs were provided by the AgriCord's implementing member agencies in the FO4ACP Africa program.

Agriculteurs Français et Développement International, France

Andreas Hermes Akademie, Germany

Association Sénégalaise pour la Promotion du Développement à la Base, Senegal

Collectif Stratégies Alimentaires, Belgium

Fert, France

Finnish Agri-Agency for Food and Forest Development, Finland

Trias, Belgium

UPA Développement International, Canada

We Effect, Sweden