

nutrition

food sovereignty

seed freedom

land rights

health



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

& the State of the Alliance 2014 - 2016

AF SA

ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA

amplifying AGROECOLOGY

AFSA, March 2017

About the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa: AFSA brings small-scale food producers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, farmers' networks, faith groups, consumer associations, youth associations, civil societies and activists from across the continent of Africa to create a united and louder voice for food sovereignty.

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about AFSA

AFSA is a broad alliance of different civil society actors who are part of the struggle for food sovereignty and agroecology in Africa. These include: African farmers' organizations, African NGO networks, specialist African NGOs, consumer movements in Africa, international organizations which support the stance of AFSA, and individuals. Its members represent smallholder farmers, pastoralists, hunter/gatherers, indigenous peoples; faith based institutions, and environmentalists from across Africa. It is a network of networks and currently with 30 active members.

AFSA's Vision

- *Africa developing just and equitable ways of life for her people in harmony with nature.
- *Africa continually harnessing and enhancing her traditional knowledge systems.
- *African peoples controlling their territories, livelihoods and governance systems and related decision-making processes.
- * African peoples holding their governments and corporate powers to account for their legacy to the future generations.

AFSA's Mission

The core purpose of AFSA is to influence policies and to promote African solutions for food sovereignty. AFSA will serve as a continental platform for consolidation of issues pertaining to food sovereignty and together marshal a single and louder voice on issues and tabling clear workable solutions.

Our Reach

AFSA has 30 members. The Alliance potentially represents and reaches about 200 million African smallholder farmers, fisherfolks, pastoralists, indigenous people, women, youth, faith-based groups, and consumers across 52 African countries.

Members accepted in 2016 - International Development Exchange (IDEX), Association Ouest Africaine pour le Développement de la Pêche Artisanale (ADEPA), Comité Ouest Africain de Semences Paysannes (COASP), Fédération Agroécologique du Bénin (FAEB), Farm-Saved Seeds Network (FASSNET).

Find out more about AFSA at www.afsafrica.org

foreword from the chairperson



AFSA is now aged about a decade, having been conceived back in 2008 by a group of African CSO leaders, passionate about the need for Africa to build the capacity to influence policies and find African solutions to our African problems, particularly in terms of food sovereignty. It was launched in 2011 and became fully functional in 2014. As first Chair of AFSA, I have had the privilege of superintending the first steps of the Alliance. At the end of my term what do I see?

I see a vibrant African network, arguably the largest network, being a network of networks in Africa. I see three strong working groups emerge that are providing leadership in making a case for an African voice on matters of seed as our heritage, African traditional ecological farming methods and Africans taking control of their land and soil resources. A fourth working group – the communication working group is making sure the work of AFSA is visible to the rest of the world.

I see an emerging new image of Africa creating its own pathway on its food systems that is increasingly being recognized by important global bodies including the FAO, African Union, the UN and others. This was climaxed by the award of the prestigious 2016 Food Sovereignty Prize to AFSA, awarded by the U.S. Food Sovereignty Alliance in September 2016. AFSA has showcased African farming systems, seed systems and land and soil management systems that are contributing to feeding Africa and have the potential to substantially feed the world.

Best of all I see an emerging young and vibrant leadership for AFSA led by an African woman who will take AFSA beyond the embryonic emerging stage that we have just gone through to growth and maturity stage that will see Africa and African food systems as the new hope for salvaging the global challenges of climate change, depleting natural resources and crumbling socio-cultural systems.

In all this we thank God and the good ancestors of Africa who have shown us the way so far and I pray they will continue to lead AFSA through the new dynamic Board of Directors led by Madam Mariann Bassey as Chair and the visionary coordinator, Million Belay. I take this opportunity to thank the entire membership of AFSA for the cooperation to make my tenure of office a successful one.

Thank you.

Mr. Bernard Guri
Outgoing Chairperson of AFSA
Executive Director of CIKOD

message from the coordinator



This year's report coincides with the end of one strategy period and the start of another. Although a book could be written about what has transpired and what we have learnt so far, for me the following stand out.

1. The movement is growing. We now have 30 members, including the biggest African networks involved in food and human rights issues related to agriculture and land. And the demand for membership is growing; three more networks already applied to join this year. With the right strategy to inform and mobilize the base we are heading to our purpose of creating a single voice for food sovereignty in Africa. We have reworked our focus to integrate the production and consumption of food, bringing both food producers and consumers into our struggle, and joining hands with those in Africa and beyond who work on sustainable food systems.

2. We have joined the global movement against industrial high-input agriculture through our work on agroecology. AFSA is taking the lead

in being a voice of the voiceless – African food producers and consumers.

3. Although there is much to improve, we have challenged the insidious power trying to appropriate our seeds, our land, and ultimately our life. This force is bent on locking our agriculture into their industrial food system for their profit. It will be so hard to move out of this system once we are forced there. The recent push for our countries to adopt GMOs is an example. We have resisted, and we will keep on resisting, and will get better at it.

4. We have produced evidence-based publications. AFSA is striving to become an advocacy voice based on hard data and research. We also need to respond to a stream of publications funded by the industry and designed to shape the narrative towards industrial agriculture. AFSA will counter this through our - and our partners' - research and publications.

If we have learnt anything from our previous strategic years, it is that the narrative of industrial agriculture is very simple, is supported by powerful actors, and is heavily funded. Research, bureaucracy and our governments are working in tandem to lock African agriculture into a path that will be difficult to get off. I think the only way is to strengthen our work on agroecology and keep on fighting the force that is trying to appropriate and lock in our African food systems.

I thank our members for their extraordinary work, and our partners for their encouragement and support.

Million Belay, PhD
AFSA Coordinator

introduction

We are opening a new chapter!

In 2017 AFSA will be starting the implementation of its new 3 year strategic plan. The plan has maintained the thematic areas of focus on land, agroecology and seed sovereignty.

AFSA's overall focus in its first strategic period was to strengthen the secretariat and the leadership, to create platforms for seed, agroecology and land rights. In the past three years it has made several strides towards achieving these goals.

When AFSA began implementing its 2014-2016 strategic plan, the defining issues at that time were the new regional seed trade harmonization and PVP laws that were being rapidly adopted or in the process of being adopted at regional and national levels. These have a significant impact on smallholder farmers as they exclude farmers' varieties and focus on seed that meets the Distinct, Uniform and Stable (DUS) criteria. The other defining issue was the increasingly pronounced land grabs in different parts of Africa but without a joint voice coming out of Africa to condemn this vice. Coupled with this is the increasing appropriation of communal lands by the state and other actors. The other critical issue was the growing voice for industrial agriculture mainly promoting monoculture and at the same time attacking time tested farmer practices as old age, backward and as the reason for the growing food insecurity in Africa. This raised the need to showcase and promote agroecology as a viable practice, movement and science in promoting food sovereignty and livelihoods.

As AFSA designs its 2017-2019 Strategic Plan, these issues are still much relevant and some of the after effects already being felt. At the heart of this context is the predominant narrative focusing on only increasing productivity through promoting technological solutions to farming practice, based on use of external inputs and knowledge. The bulk of financial resources and political will remain attached to this industrial way of farming as the way forward for Africa. The public relations machine of this industrial-political movement is very powerful and increasingly includes the language that until now has been more closely associated to alternatives to industrial agriculture. In the new strategic plan, therefore, AFSA still takes these issues into consideration and builds around them to further strengthen our work.

Therefore, this report summarizes the milestones in 2016; highlights the state of the Alliance since its establishment and its key contributions to becoming a leading force in voicing food sovereignty issues. It also outlines the basic elements of the new strategic plan.

We are proud to have made significant contributions toward protecting the rights and livelihoods of African small-scale farmers, pastoralists, fisher folks and indigenous people and safeguarding the environment.

milestones in 2016

In 2016 AFSA remained vibrant in the policy arena. Interventions have remained strong on issues of seed sovereignty and agroecology. Several strategy, review and networking meetings have been held. A number of advocacy interventions have been made in several fora.

The First African Food Systems Conference



Changing Food Systems in Africa Conference . November 24-26, 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

AFSA hosted a three-day conference in Addis Ababa in November 2016 to discuss the “Changing Food Systems in Africa: Agroecology, Food Sovereignty and their Roles in Nutrition and Health”. The delegates represented civil society organizations, farmers, fisher folk, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, consumers, youth networks, women’s networks, food processors, academics and researchers. The conference was organized jointly by AFSA, Mekelle University, the Ecological Organic Agricultural Initiative (EOAI), IFOAM – Organics International, and the African Organic Network (AfrOnet). The event focused on five thematic areas of land rights, access to knowledge and investment capital; agriculture, nutrition and health; seed systems and food sovereignty; African agriculture challenges and food systems and policies. It aimed at challenging the dominant industrial food system narrative and developing a persuasive alternative. The Addis Ababa Declaration and the Way Forward to amplifying agroecology has come out of this conference.

Food Sovereignty Award

In October 2016, The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa was announced winner of the 2016 Food Sovereignty Prize awarded by the U.S Food Sovereignty Alliance (USFSA). AFSA was selected for its success in promoting food sovereignty, agroecology and social justice to ensure that all people have access to fresh, nutritious food produced in harmony with the planet. The event, which was capped by a press conference, was preceded by demonstrations against corporate control of agriculture. A press release, photos and media articles/coverage for the event can be found at www.afsafrica.org



AFSA Chair Bernard Guri (left) received award for AFSA by the U.S Food Sovereignty Alliance

The Agroecology Learning Exchange

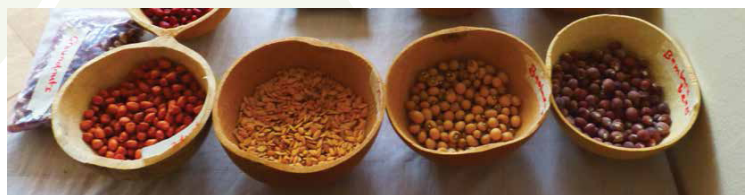
The AgroEcology Fund and the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa hosted an agroecology learning exchange among farmers and farmer advocates in Masaka, Uganda from 10th to the 13th of May 2016. The participants gathered from all over the world to share experiences and



Agroecology Learning Exchange Participants

proposed agroecological solutions to the challenges of food and agriculture. The gathering proposed alternatives to the increasingly corporate controlled food systems and made proposals on how farmers and advocates can amplify agroecology.

Participants also organized a press conference and shared a strong statement which among other things rejected the opening up of Uganda to commercialization of GMOs and urged policy makers to support the small farmers that are greatly contributing to food and agriculture through agroecological practices.



Agroecology Forums

AFSA held three Agroecology Forums in Uganda, Kenya and Togo, hosted by ESAFF-Uganda, PELUM-Kenya and JVE-International respectively.

Forums in Uganda and Kenya

The Forums in Uganda and Kenya brought together farmer leaders from different parts of the two countries to deliberate on what agroecology means to them and how they can further amplify and advance agroecology. They cited some of the threats and challenges facing agroecology which include: introduction of inorganic agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides and seeds by development partners and some companies; restrictions on saving farmers' own seeds by the Seeds and Plants Varieties Act; introduction of GMOs which will affect local seed varieties; subsidies for inorganic farm inputs; pressure and funding to shift from small scale farming to



Primary school pupils listening to exhibitor at forum in Kenya

large scale farming which affect small scale farmers who have been true to agroecology; Pressure on small scale farmers by government and researchers to adopt new technologies that might work contrary to agroecology.

African Youth Forum on Agroecology

The African Youth Forum on Agroecology was organized under the theme “Unlocking the future of Africa of any food dependency and resource grabbing: the emergency Marshall Plan for Agroecology.”

It brought together youth, students, farmers, civil society organizations, government officials, local authorities, representatives of religious organizations and technical and financial partners from six African countries namely Togo, Benin, Niger, Ghana, Nigeria, and Ethiopia to celebrate with one voice agroecological values to ensure food sovereignty in Africa.

The meeting catalyzed discussion on traditional agricultural practices, agroecology, seeds, food sovereignty and their impact on culture and biodiversity.



Youth panel discussion on agroecology in Togo



Following the meeting, a statement was prepared by the participants on agroecological practices, land rights and seed saving.

Other outcomes from the forums included the creation of a national platform to advocate for Agroecology in Uganda, spearheaded by ESAFF-Uganda - a small scale farmers' organization - covering up to 30 districts in Uganda, and youth groups trained on agroecology. The forums also awarded young champions of agroecology.

Engagement in ARIPO Negotiations

AFSA members and other African civil societies have raised numerous concerns with regards to the Arusha Protocol on New Varieties of Plants which was adopted in 2015. The ARIPO protocol aims at harmonizing PVP laws in the region. The legal framework is based on a restrictive regime (UPOV 91) which focuses solely on promoting and protecting industrial seed breeders that develop genetically uniform seeds/plant varieties most suited to mechanized large-scale agriculture.

AFSA had several interventions on this process especially through participating in ARIPO meetings where submissions were made by AFSA members, and through developing and releasing press statements.

It is worth noting that whereas in a few incidences AFSA members were able to

participate in meetings organized by ARIPO, the process was largely flawed and characterized by lack of transparency and the exclusion of key stakeholders, particularly the voice of civil society.

At the start of 2016 AFSA sent an open letter to the UPOV Council in response to ARIPO's statement that claimed that civil society organizations were able to participate in the whole process of adopting the Arusha PVP Protocol.

In 2016 AFSA members including ACB, Commons for Eco Justice and PELUM Zimbabwe were - after considerable lobbying - accepted to participate in the ARIPO governments meeting which was discussing the draft regulations. In the meeting, a presentation was made on the key civil society concerns about the regulations that were extending more powers to the ARIPO office at the expense of national sovereignty. Some of

the issues raised by civil society were taken into consideration by government representatives although in the next meeting civil society were denied an opportunity to participate despite several requests to the ARIPO secretariat.

Seed Strategy Meeting

Early in 2016 the Seed Working Group met for a review and strategy meeting in Zanzibar. The meeting also tapped into the expertise of seed activists from India and Europe. From the meeting the group developed objectives and activities to inform the new strategic plan for the next three years.

Part of the strategy agreed included bringing on board more members from West Africa working on seed. Some of those identified applied and were accepted as members in the 2016 Annual General Assembly. This will bring on board seed expertise from West Africa and also further strengthen AFSA's engagements on seed policy processes in the West African region.

From experiences shared in this meeting the seed group agreed to a two pronged approach aiming to Enhance Farmer-Managed Seed Systems, while challenging the corporate takeover of seed laws and the protection of industrial seeds.



Communication Strategy Meeting

A three-day meeting was held in Ethiopia from 30 November 2016 to 02 December 2016. The meeting was attended by 10 members of the Communication Working Group who met to pave the development path for the CWG from 2017 to 2019.

Much of the work was aimed at developing building blocks that would allow the group to develop a comprehensive Communication Strategy. But most importantly, there was general consensus of the need to develop a clear Action Plan to guide the communication and fundraising efforts of the group.

A communication strategy document has been produced in alignment with the three-year strategic plan of the Alliance.

Revision of the Constitution

At the 2016 Annual General Meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia members of the Alliance thoroughly revised the Constitution.

The Constitution has now more clarity on the structures, working mechanisms and relations within the General Assembly, the Board of Directors, the Secretariat and the Working Groups. Election, finance,

The participatory approach in which the revision was undertaken has strengthened the sense of ownership and belongingness to the AFSA family.

2014-2016

state of the alliance

The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa has closed its first three-year strategic plan (2014-16) and moved on to the next (2017-2019). So many interventions and activities have been carried out in the last three strategic years (2014-2016). This section of the report highlights our key achievements made over the same duration.

Political Platform for Advocacy

AFSA has provided a political platform for member organizations from different countries to convey a continental voice on food sovereignty issues. Members have been able to use the platform of a continental voice to engage in regional, continental and in some cases national level advocacy agendas. A broader alliance of organisations is in many cases taken more seriously and listened to by policy makers and technical bodies than individual organisations.



Some of the examples where these engagements have happened are; the COMESA seed trade harmonisation law and the ARIPO and SADC PVP protocols at the regional level and at national level AFSA has provided a voice and larger relevance to national campaigns such as the Malawi GM



Cowpea campaign where AFSA put out a statement in support of the campaign and the Uganda GM Banana Campaign. Other examples at the continental level include engagements in the FAO sub regional Agro ecology Conference and the West African Convergence on Water and Land Governance. An example at the global level is the GM Free Europe conference in Berlin 2015. All these engagements under the platform of AFSA have amplified the various advocacy issues targeted due to the recognition of the broad advocacy platform for Food Sovereignty. These have been amplified at continental and global levels. A broader platform has also ensured that individual organisations are not targeted and blacklisted by governments and other political bodies.

Institution Building

One of the objectives of AFSA in starting was to put in place a lean but effective secretariat which has now worked to strengthen and facilitate strategic interactions among members and has created advocacy and capacity building opportunities for the membership in the various aspects of food sovereignty. AFSA's growing credibility and recognition at the regional, continental and global level is strengthening its ability to influence agricultural policies in favor of marginalized small-scale food producers. Through consistent policy advocacy engagements, AFSA has grown into a respected and recognized platform on food sovereignty in Africa and beyond.



Members at the 2014 AGM in Togo - Communication Working Group was formed and existing ones have been restructured.

Policy Influence

As an advocacy platform AFSA has also been able to influence policy design and direction for example through direct contributions to policy documents and also through development of position papers, press releases and statements. Some of the policy documents where AFSA has made a direct contribution include; Technical Guide on Tenure Rights to Commons (TG Commons) commissioned by FAO to support

the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT). This Guide aims to provide strategies and promising practices to recognize, protect, allocate, transfer and administer tenure rights to commons such as land, fisheries and forests especially for vulnerable and marginalized groups including women and youth.

AFSA also influenced other policy processes such as the regulations to the ARIPO Arusha Protocol on PVP. Although these regulations have not yet been finalized, AFSA developed and presented to negotiators a position statement on the regulations. On this a number of negotiators acknowledged the importance of some of the issues raised by AFSA such as the need for the regulations to recognize and respect national sovereignty in acceptance of breeder rights at the national level. This was one of the contentious issues on which the regulations were preferred for further discussion and redrafting.

Other examples include the FAO position on Agroecology in Sub Saharan Africa where AFSA presented a strong statement on Agroecology as the bold future for Africa and also played a key role in the drafting of the FAO declaration for the Sub Saharan Africa Conference on Agro ecology held in Dakar Senegal in 2015. Currently the FAO has uploaded one of AFSA's publications on Agroecology on their website at <http://www.fao.org/agroecology/database/detail/en/c/472163/> From the consistent engagements, AFSA has also been able to gain recognition and to be allocated space to participate in some meetings.

Capacity Building

During this period AFSA has also been able to enhance members' advocacy capacity on food sovereignty. This has been through several avenues such as providing training opportunities for members, developing and sharing relevant information materials and creating networking opportunities with other likeminded advocacy organisations within and beyond Africa.

Widening Information Base

The screenshot shows the AFSA website interface. At the top, there are four navigation icons: a leaf for 'AGRO-ECOLOGY', a seed for 'SEED SOVEREIGNTY', a hand holding a tool for 'LAND GRABBING', and a group of people for 'CAMPAIGN'. Below these are two columns of content. The 'LATEST UPDATES' column lists several articles with dates and titles, such as 'Moving forward Strategically towards Sustainable, Just and Nutritious Food Systems in Africa' (March 06, 2017) and 'AFSA Membership Rises to 301' (December 13, 2016). The 'PRESS RELEASE' column features a 'subscribe to our news letter' form with an email input field and a 'Subscribe' button. The text of the press releases is partially visible, mentioning 'AGROECOLOGY: the bold future of farming in Africa' and 'AFSA Wins 2016 Food Sovereignty Prize'.

AFSA has also been able to contribute to widening the information base on food sovereignty especially through studies undertaken. AFSA for example in the 3 year period collected over 50 case studies on agroecology from different parts of Africa and a global platform for the recognition of these practices created not as isolated small scale practices but as part of a broader science and movement. The case studies which can be found at <http://afsafrika.org/case-studies/> show the benefits of agroecology in terms of improved food security, nutrition and incomes, reductions in GHG emissions, promoting democracy, health and justice, while respecting cultural values and indigenous knowledge, hence countering the widely held notion that ecological approaches are marginal, low productivity, and backward. In the three years of the project, AFSA website has received over 100,000 visitors which could also be interpreted to mean that a number of people are using the information provided on AFSA website.

The Communication Working Group (CWG) has met in November 2016 to revise and align the communication strategy of the Alliance. The group has produced the new strategy for the next two years.

Election of New Board Members

The 2016 AFSA Annual General Meeting elected its first female Chairperson. Mariann Bassey Orovwuje of Friends of the Earth Africa has been elected as Chairperson of the Alliance.

Mrs. Mariann promised to lead AFSA's continuous progress over the years to come as the leading and prominent alliance in realizing a food-sovereign Africa. Mrs. Mariann was an active member of the previous board and served exceptionally during her first cycle.

The newly elected board includes Mr. Faustin Vuningoma from PELUM Regional as General Secretary, Mrs. Ali Aii Shatu from IPACC as Treasurer, and Mrs. Elizabeth Mpofu from La Via Campesina, Mr. John Paul Sikeli from COPAGEN, Mrs. Josephine Atangana from PROPAC and Dr. Chris Macoloo from World Neighbors as Board Members. See board members on page 19.

Building the Food Sovereignty Movement

AFSA has also contributed to food sovereignty becoming a critical agenda at national level. In 2014 for example AFSA organized a highly successful tour with Dr. Vandana Shiva in three African countries: Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Ghana. The AFSA secretariat coordinated a series of high profile advocacy events which were organized by member networks in each country. The tour aimed to raise awareness on food sovereignty and about the negative implications of the 'Green Revolution' agenda. One of the key outcomes of the tour for AFSA as an institution is that it contributed to creating awareness of thousands of people about the growing movement for food sovereignty across Africa and also strengthened the 'No to GMO' position within the



2013 - Members in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

As mentioned in the milestones section of this report AFSA has also hosted a major three-day conference in Addis Ababa in November 2016 to discuss “Changing Food Systems in Africa: Agroecology, Food Sovereignty and their Roles in Nutrition and Health”. The conference, which was organized jointly with Mekelle University, the Ecological Organic Agricultural Initiative (EOAI), IFOAM – Organics International, and the African Organic Network (AfrOnet), ultimately contributed to further strengthening the food sovereignty movement within Africa and beyond.



2015 - Members in Accra, Ghana

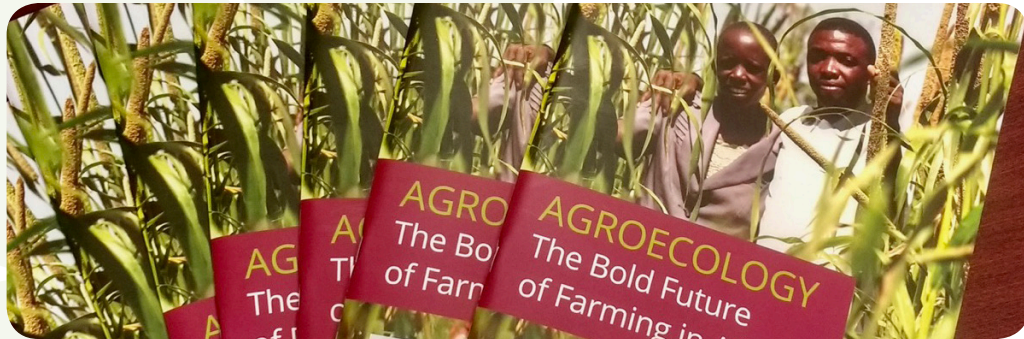
2016 studies and publications

In 2016 AFSA has undertaken several studies.

Agroecology - the Bold Future of Farming in Africa

In the last two year period more than 50 case studies on agroecology practices from different countries have been generated. They show the benefits of agroecology in terms of improved food security, nutrition and incomes, reductions in GHG emissions, promoting democracy, health and justice, while respecting cultural values and indigenous knowledge.

The book is available on Amazon for small contribution and for free on AFSA website.



In 2016, AFSA compiled and launched a publication “Agroecology - the bold future of farming in Africa.” The publication is a compilation of 15 key agroecology case studies collected by AFSA over the last two years. The book was launched during the Food Systems meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Work on this publication has been spearheaded led by the Tanzania Organic Movement.

Study on Adaptation and Application of the FAO Framework to Assess Agroecology Performance of Farming Systems

The study was carried out in the context of Zimbabwe and aimed at operationalizing and analyzing the adapted framework to compare and contrast the performance of different farming systems in Zimbabwe (conventional and agroecology) and to provide recommendations on policy and practice that should be adopted at local, national, regional and global levels by different players including farmers, policy makers, government ministries, departments and agencies, and highlight specific issues for follow up by AFSA.

A similar study is also being completed in Ethiopia focusing on cotton production. The full report on this is yet to be finalized. The study will use the FAO Agroecological assessment framework that mainly focused on plant protection aspects.

Study on Policies on Pastoralism and Food Sovereignty in the EAC and IGAD Region

AFSA commissioned a study on Pastoral Policies in IGAD and EAC region. The report is based on a review of policy instruments developed within the frameworks of the AU, IGAD and EAC that have a bearing on pastoralism to establish their implications for the practice of pastoralism, and food sovereignty.

way forward (2017-2019)

With the broader context in mind and building on the outcomes of a series of review meetings, AFSA's focus for the next three years (2017-2019) will be:

Galvanizing the food sovereignty movement and building momentum to influence the transition to agroecology across Africa.

During the period of this strategic plan AFSA will pursue the following priorities:

Enhancing Farmer-Managed Seed Systems

In this strategic period, the goal of AFSA work on Seed is to build a continental platform that supports Farmer-Managed Seed Systems, that influences seed policy and legislation to support FMSS, that contributes to food sovereignty in Africa, that recognizes women's central role in seed production, and that changes the narrative to one that recognizes Farmer-Managed Seed Systems as the essential and fundamental base of Africa's food system.

FMSS bring together seed knowledge of each village community, conserve seed diversity, and promote seed saving, transmitting the knowledge of seeds from generation to generation, thus protecting agricultural biodiversity. They are based on the African cultural value of involving the entire community from children and youth to women and men. The innovation in Farmer-Managed Seed Systems is rooted at its base in an evolutionary improvement of production through enhancing local seeds' productivity. AFSA's two-pronged approach will aim at enhancing Farmer-Managed Seed Systems,

while challenging the corporate takeover of seed laws and the protection of industrial seeds.

Amplifying Agroecology

AFSA will promote and undertake more research and documentation on agroecology, aimed at strengthening the evidence base in the context of climate change, nutrition and health, gender and African food systems. AFSA will also develop learning alliances with other research actors to strengthen the evidence base, for example universities, FAO, IPES Food.

AFSA will also aim at strengthening the capacity of members to develop and implement advocacy strategies at national and regional level. This will enable members to engage more effectively in the policy processes, and to monitor and evaluate their advocacy performance.

AFSA will strive to establish and strengthen its presence at the African Union (AU) and at the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) where policies pertaining to agroecology are determined, and will endeavor to galvanize those actors on the continent that are pro-agroecology. AFSA will promote agroecology as a powerful tool in achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals, and explore and develop emerging models such as the Bio-cultural Community Protocols.

Building on the successful 2016 conference collaboration with the Ecological Organic Agricultural Initiative (EOAI), IFOAM – Organics International, and the African Organic Network (AfrOnet), AFSA will support the development and dissemination of a joint position statement on Agroecology for Nutrition and Health, and

continue to build an advocacy alliance with these actors so as to further influence decision makers at AU, RECs and national levels. AFSA will target evidence based advocacy messages at nutrition and health policy actors across Africa, including national government policy makers, members of parliament, in-country donor agencies, embassies, civil society actors, along with RECs and AU actors. AFSA will also support members' involvement in advocacy opportunities at events organized by others, for example FAO, UNFCCC, UNEP, World Bank, WHO and international NGOs.

Land Tenure Governance in Africa

The land debate comes at a time when the neoliberal development paradigm is at a peak. The emphasis on free trade, the supremacy of private enterprise and the minimalist role of the state has translated into a development crisis for many poor countries especially in Africa, which is losing control of its own resources not just to the local private sector but to foreign private sector and governments leading to increased global inequalities and poverty.

In the last decade the land issue in Africa has increasingly become a point of contention affecting access, control and ownership of land and other natural resources. Land has specifically taken center stage as several players foreign and local, public and private are taking control of vast stretches of fertile land in Africa. Foreign and local private investors create agreements with states taking possession and control of large areas of land that are needed for current and future food production for host countries. There is a global resurgence of business opportunities in the agricultural sector further paving the way for large-scale land acquisition.

In this strategic period AFSA will focus on "Providing rural communities a voice on land rights in Africa". Work will center on creating opportunities to make demands of communities on land heard at different fora and strengthen capacities of members to engage in advocacy for land rights at national, regional and global levels.

The Land Working Group aims to amplify community voices and build resilience against land grabbing; enhance members' capacity to effectively engage in the global land debate; work with, strengthen and expand the networks working on the issues of land rights in Africa and elsewhere.

Strengthening AFSA Communications

There is an urgent need to strengthen the Communication among working groups, member networks and supporters of food sovereignty. Another important lesson is the recognition of the need to produce a greater number of communication materials to put the food sovereignty message across.

In this strategic period, the overall objective of the Communications Working Group is to support the AFSA Secretariat, the AFSA Board and the thematic working groups in promoting the visibility of AFSA's work and influencing policy outcomes on seed and food sovereignty, land, and the transition to agroecology.

The Communication Working Group aims to energize more and more people across Africa at all levels to become part of a continental food sovereignty movement by improving two-way communication within and beyond AFSA and increasing the visibility of the Alliance.

our theory of change

AFSA's Theory of Change recognizes that engagement with the formal policymaking processes is an essential but insufficient condition for change. AFSA has identified the following components of a package of action that needs to happen to achieve our goals.

Evidence Collection

AFSA develops a clear and well-backed-up-with-evidence narrative on seed, land and agroecology. This will justify the call for a transition to agroecology

Raising Consumer & Public Awareness

AFSA reaches out to African consumers to become much more active in the food sovereignty movement advocating for Farmer Managed Seed Systems, farmers and citizen rights to land and for the transition to agroecology

Policy Advocacy

AFSA influences critical decision-makers among Africa's elite to endorse and promote agroecology. AFSA demonstrates the benefits of agroecology to decision makers by exposure to farmers experience and views. AFSA gains access to an increasing number of critical decision-makers amongst Africa's elite.

Building the Movement

AFSA brings more continental cohesion to the food sovereignty movement and is felt at grassroots level across the continent. The genuine farmers' voice for Food Sovereignty in Africa grows and becomes more cohesive across the continent. AFSA will keep learning: to be more strategic, taking up opportunities, and improving capacity to run an effective continental network.



If AFSA can

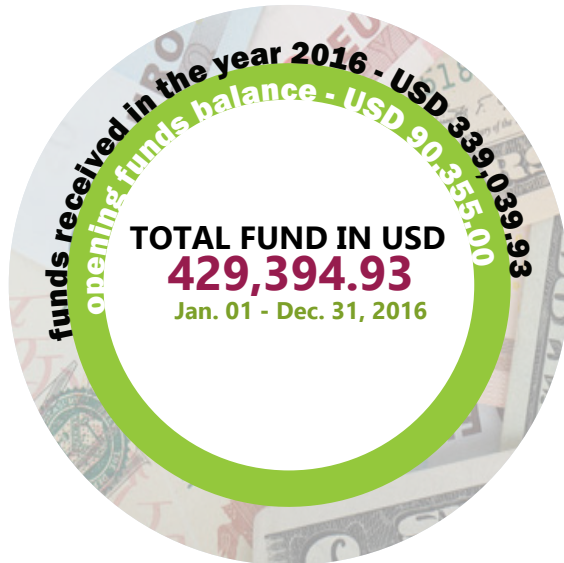
- gather a variety of evidence on the transition to Agroecology and disseminate this effectively
- strengthen the consumer movement in Africa around issues of food sovereignty
- help strengthen the genuine farmers' voice for Agroecology at national and regional levels;
- bring stronger cohesion and collaboration amongst civil society players and
- engage policy makers across the continent in an effective way

Then AFSA will

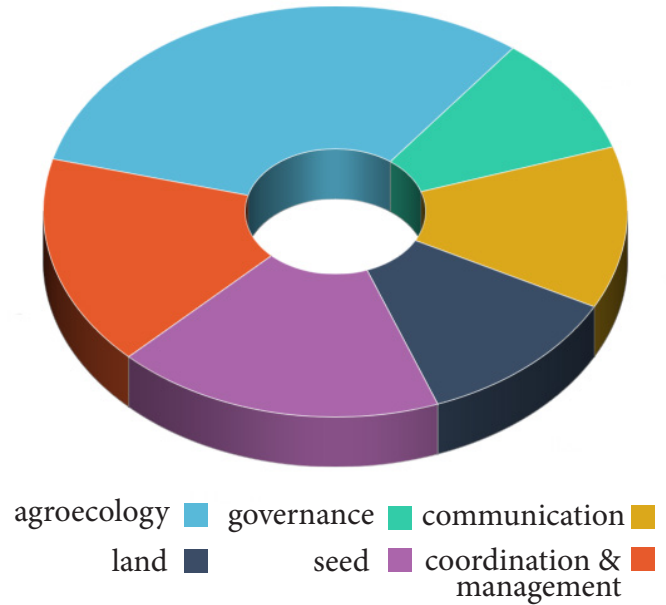
- influence policy towards a transition to Agroecology and food sovereignty
- contribute significantly to the Food Sovereignty citizen movement across Africa

financial **REPORT** for the year ended Dec 31, 2016

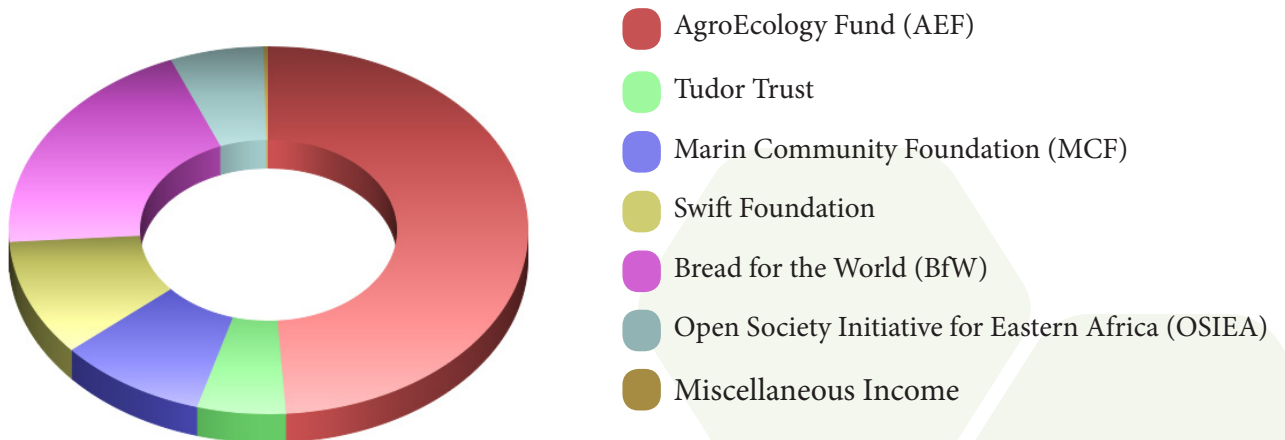
summary



expenditure



INCOME Sources



our board of directors

Incumbent Board of Directors



Left to right - Dr. Chris Macoloo, Member (World Neighbors), Madam Elizabeth Mpofu, Member (La Via Campesina - Africa), Sikeli Jean Paul, Member (COPAGEN), Mrs. Ali Aii Shatu, Treasurer (IPACC), Mariann Bassey Orowuje, Chairperson (FoEA), Mr. Faustin Yuningoma, General Secretary (PELUM Association), Josephine Atangana, Member (PROPAC) Three of the current board of directors have been reelected.

Outgoing Board Members



Bernard Guri, Chairperson



Hakim Baliraine, Treasurer



Elfrieda Pschorn, Member



Alangeh Romanus, Member (deceased)

Based on the Constitution of the Alliance elections of board members will be done every three years.

At every election the Returning Officer will be nominated and agreed upon by participating members at the General Assembly.

Elections will be run by secret ballot.

Only core members will be allowed to stand for election and to vote.

our members

AFSA has three categories of membership:

The Core Members of the Alliance are regional farmers' organizations, regional indigenous peoples organizations, and regional NGO networks.

The Associate Members include specialist NGOs and national networks that are not able to be core members of AFSA through a regional network.

The Friends of AFSA category includes organizations based outside Africa who support what AFSA stands for and are keen to work with AFSA.



*Association Ouest Africaine pour le Développement de la Pêche Artisanale (ADEPA)**



*Comité Ouest Africain de Semences Paysannes (COASP)**



*Fédération Agroécologique du Bénin (FAEB)**



*Farm-Saved Seeds Network (FASSNET)**



IDEX International Development Exchange



*Réseau Africain pour le Droit à l'Alimentation (RAPDA -Togo)**



*Union Africaine des Consommateurs (UAC)**



*John Wilson**

* Not official logo. * Individual membership is given for outstanding contributions to the Alliance.

acknowledgement

The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) will look towards strengthening existing and building new partnerships in the coming years.

Special thanks to AFSA members who have taken leadership of the working groups including; African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) for the Seed sovereignty working, COMPAS for Land working group, Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) for the Agroecology working group. The Communication Working Group is currently growing under the leadership of the AFSA communications officer.

our partners

AFSA is thankful for the following organizations and acknowledges their generous contributions in 2016 and throughout the first three year strategic plan implementation.



Addis Ababa Declaration

on Agroecology, Ecological Organic Agriculture and Food Sovereignty: The Way Forward for Nutrition and Health in Africa

November, 2016

Background

We, representatives of civil society organizations, farmers, fisherfolk, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, consumers, youth networks, women's networks, food processors, practitioners, government, academics and researchers, recognizing that food systems in Africa have dramatically changed over the last century, gathered in Addis Ababa in November 2016 to deliberate the theme, "Changing Food Systems in Africa: Agroecology and Food Sovereignty and their Role in Nutrition and Health".

We call for collaborative and strategic action to create more momentum for change, and to emphasize the need for a multi-sectoral and holistic approach to nutrition and health.

We applaud the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), Mekelle University in Ethiopia, the Ecological Organic Agricultural Initiative (EOAI), IFOAM – Organics International, and the African Organic Network (AfrOnet) for jointly organizing the 3-day conference. This enabled us to fundamentally challenge the assumptions that have driven food, agriculture and trade policy for so long.

The dominant narrative around food systems in Africa

The way we think about food systems is largely shaped by a dominant narrative that underpins the following myths:

"We can only feed the growing world population by increasing agricultural productivity based largely on the use of industrial inputs. Only biotech science and the global food corporations can find effective solutions to feed the world. Innovation and useful knowledge come only from science and technology, driven by experts and protected by patents."

The main problem with this narrative is that planning, action and assessment are based on short-term economic indicators. Social, ecological, cultural and spiritual indicators and rights are ignored. This bias leads to a food system that is only successful and efficient within the logic of short-term economics, but disastrous in the long-term to stable food production for nutrition and health.

Degraded and infertile soils deficient in essential nutrients are increasing, undermining current and future capability of food production. Major decision-making processes continue to discriminate against small-scale farmers and women. Farmers' seed systems are the basis of diverse, healthy food and farmer resilience in the face of climate change, yet seed laws and intellectual property rights legislation continue to weaken these systems, undermining social justice and good governance. Many

people in Africa are still hungry and there are huge nutritional problems ranging from growth stunting to obesity, precursors to many chronic diseases.

Only when we change the beliefs and values of the current narrative can we place women producers in the centre, and shift our food systems towards effective production, nutrition and health.

Decisive and urgent action is now needed to change the dominant narrative surrounding food systems in Africa. The severe threat posed to people's food sovereignty and health is increasingly a barrier to sustainable development.

A new narrative of agroecology/ecological organic agriculture

We, AFSA, EOAI, AfrOnet, IFOAM Organics International and the combined conference participants reject the ill-conceptualized myths and 'Feed the World' narrative, and urge the African continent leadership, development partners, donors and other actors to adopt and support a more compelling, appropriate and inclusive narrative for sustainable and equitable food systems in Africa.

The new narrative recognizes that the current global food system, extended to Africa, is not sustainable and that agroecology/ecological organic production systems are the true future of our continent's food systems. These systems are very knowledge intensive and take advantage of both traditional knowledge and modern science through collaboration between farmers and researchers based on mutual respect. They can deliver not only on economic objectives, but also on environmental, social, cultural, nutritional and health objectives. The new narrative acknowledges that small-scale farmers already produce 70% of the world's food, and that following agroecological and organic principles and practices, African small-scale farmers can produce adequate food to feed the continent sustainably, provided they have secure access to land, water, seeds/breeds and other natural resources.

The call for collaborative strategic action

We call upon policymakers and decision makers to support food and agricultural systems and practices that are healthy, equitable, efficient, resilient, and culturally diverse, using renewable energy resources.

We urge policymakers to emphasize and strongly support women's role in the production of nutritious food, recognizing the importance of engaging the women, youth and communities as active partners in sustainable food systems.

We call upon governments to acknowledge and support farmer managed seed systems as the basis of diverse and nutritious diets, and to encourage joint farmer-scientist research.

We urge decision makers to take a multi-sectoral approach in the development of policies that relate to food, nutrition and health. A holistic understanding of the links between land security, food production, nutrition and health leads to appropriate choices and decisions.

We call upon policymakers to endorse the right of people, communities and countries to define their own food systems, which are ecologically, socially, economically and culturally appropriate to their unique contexts, and to empower producers and consumers to make better decisions and choices.

Moving forward boldly, we must influence policies, strategies and actions towards nutritious food systems in Africa that contribute to the vibrant health of its people. To this end, conference participants have produced a separate strategic framework document laying out the pathways for effective implementation of this Declaration.

We hereby call upon national governments and the international community to provide the political leadership and full support to establish policies, programmes and plans charting the journey to truly sustainable food systems in Africa based on agroecological principles, values and practices for the health and well-being of current and future generations.

our principles

- 1. Championing small-scale African Family farming/production systems based on agroecological and indigenous approaches that sustain food sovereignty and the livelihoods of communities.*
- 2. Resisting industrialization and commoditization of African agriculture and food systems, massive land grabs, destruction of biodiversity and ecosystems, displacement of indigenous people especially pastoral communities and hunter gatherers, and the destruction of their livelihoods and cultures.*
- 3. Emphasizing African driven solutions to African problems, and a belief in the richness of our diversity.*
- 4. Being a strong voice to shape policy on the continent in the area of community rights, family farming, promotion of traditional knowledge, the environment and natural resource management.*
- 5. Having an emphasis on women and youth as key players in food sovereignty.*
- 6. Contributing to land ownership and control in the hands of communities.*
- 7. Rejecting the genetic engineering and privatization of living organisms.*
- 8. Ensuring a clear understanding and continual analysis of the political dimension of agroecology and food sovereignty and communicating this clearly and having this inform the development of AFSA's strategies.*
- 9. Working in synergy with all actors who empower what we as AFSA are doing.*
- 10. Bringing farmers and other grassroots voices forward to speak about agroecology, food sovereignty and the work of AFSA.*
- 11. Ensuring cross learning and collaboration between members of AFSA.*

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2016 ANNUAL REPORT

& the State of the Alliance 2014 - 2016



ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA

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