

# AFSA pushes for community land rights at CLPA 2019

The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) joined other civil society organisations to emphasise the importance of the Community Land Use and Management Systems (CLUMS) at the just ended Conference on Land Policy in Africa, held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire between November 25th and 29th.

At a side event, AFSA showcased four of its case studies on CLUMS. These case studies, from four African countries of: Cameroon, Botswana, Uganda and Zimbabwe, demonstrated how African communities have found solutions against land grabbing and how they have organized themselves to carry out activities aimed at restoring the productive nature of the soils for different types of activities.

From Cameroon, the studies demonstrated how small community initiatives have reconciled farmers and pastoralists living in the same area, in Botswana the study showed how indigenous peoples have advocated for the recognition of their rights to a listed site. In Uganda, we read how local communities have struggled at different levels to secure their land and in Zimbabwe, the study shows how communities have worked together to restore land fertility, biodiversity and develop cattle breeding in an environment degraded by forms of farming inherited from colonisation.

Led by Rev. Dr. Tolbert Thomas Jallah, the Executive Director/CEO of Faith & Justice Network Liberia, and co-facilitated by Famara Diedhiou, Programme Officer from the AFSA Secretariat, they explained that the case studies exposed how the communities did not know a lot about the international conventions and legislations (even those that favour them) and also highlighted the failure by the states to implement some international conventions.

Two strong recommendations



**Famara, left, and Rev Jallah during the Clums presentation below are some of the people who attended the side event.** UNECA photo



emerged in the case studies: (a) establishing fair and sincere dialogue frameworks at all levels to address land issues; and (b) strengthening tra-

ditional leadership for ecological land governance.



# AFSA pushes for land rights at Abidjan meet



The traditional leaders at the opening ceremony of the Land Policy Conference. UNECA Photos

## From page 1

The presentation by AFSA was highly appreciated because it combined policy and case studies (more on the case studies on <https://afsafrica.org/case-studies-land/>) as evidence of what was happening.

The Roi Kongo, the chairperson of the Traditional Leaders Association in his remarks thanked the organization for this kind of work and asked for inclusion saying that “AFSA cannot do this without us, it should walk with us.” He also commented that, “Land is not for individual ownership, it’s for the community.”

Some participants expressed fear of collapse of communal ownership which they said is the best for food production but is now threatened by land privatisation.

They called upon AFSA to



AFSA team, left to right: Famara Dhiedhiou, Josephine Atangana, Rev Tolbert Jallah and Amadou Kanoute

scale up land case studies and to intervene at national level. Roi Kongo insisted that, “Land is not for individual ownership, it’s for the community.”

The conference was convened by the African Land Policy Centre, a joint initiative of the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Com-

mission for Africa, and the African Development Bank..

Dubbed CLPA-2019, the conference, a policy and learning event whose goal was to deepen capacity for land policy in Africa through improved access to knowledge and information on land policy development and implementation, was held under the theme: Winning the fight against Corruption in the Land Sector: Sustainable Pathway for Africa’s.

In attendance were other members of AFSA: Pan-African Institute for Citizenship, Consumers and Development (CICODEV Africa) represented by Amadou Kanouté & Mamadou Mballo, Plateforme Regionale des Organisations Paysannes d’Afrique Centrale (PROPAC) represented by Joséphine Atangana and; many global and regional organisations.