



ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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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. Its members represent smallholder farmers, pastoralists, hunter/gatherers, indigenous peoples; faith based institutions, and environmentalists from across Africa. It is a network of networks, currently with 40 members operating in 50 countries of Africa.

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

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 agroecology and together marshal a single and louder voice on issues and tabling clear workable solutions.

Our Reach

AFSA now has 40 members. The Alliance reaches over 200 million African smallholder farmers, fisherfolk, pastoralists, indigenous people, women, youth, faith-based groups, and consumers across 50 African countries.

Find out more about AFSA at www.afsafrica.org

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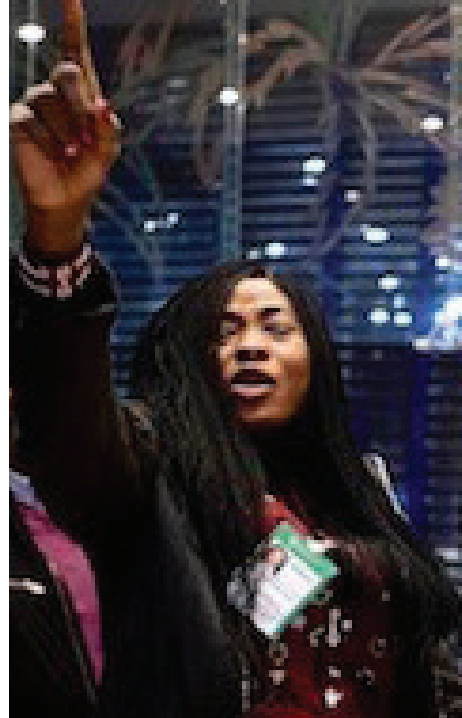
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Follow us on Facebook: [AFSA](https://www.facebook.com/Afsafrica)

Chairperson's Message

Dear Comrades,

Within the three years that my tenure spanned, I had several opportunities to represent the Network in many external forums. As much as was possible, I prioritised solidarity meetings, movement building, and activities that bring visibility to AFSA. Participating in protests like joining with comrades to demonstrate and put out our messages during the Africa Climate Week in Accra were very energizing.



Dealing with the external spaces was easy for me because AFSA goals, objectives, vision and our strategic action plan provided very clear planks to address issues that came up. We projected our food sovereignty and climate justice perspective at all times – even when it was not convenient for our audiences. These spaces have included conferences, meetings with policy makers at all levels, and building bridges with other organisations and movements.

We salute the resilience of the peoples of the world in the face of assaults and atrocities. The ongoing convulsions and crises in the world continue to manifest in social, economic and political spheres. Through climate, conflicts, migration, land grabs, job losses, corporate control of our seeds, crops and livestock, food distribution and consumption, Africa and indeed the world yearns for rebirth, for transformation.

One sobering lesson from the ongoing events in Africa and the world at large is that while theorising and planning are essential and provide solid platforms for interventions, it is acting in solidarity that will effect the changes we dream of. As we watched events unfold on the streets of Gambia, Togo, Kenya, South Africa, Liberia, Zimbabwe and others, we saw clearly that People Power remains Potent. We salute the bravery of our brothers and sisters who continue to stand firm in the face of oppression.

I express our sincere thanks to our funders, allies and partners. Without their generosity, solidarity and backing, the task of moving our work and AFSA forward would have been impossible.

As I look back at these three years as Chair, I also look at the years ahead. You all can be sure of my commitment to continue in the trenches fashioned by our campaigns and programmes, especially as we fight to stop the vice-grip of corporations on our lives and regain our collective sovereignty. We have had enough of their terror.

When we Fight... We Win!
People Power!

Mariann Bassey Orovwuje

Chair AFSA

Coordinator's Message



Dear all,

The year 2019 was a milestone for AFSA. This was the year that AFSA finished its three-year strategy and developed a new strategy for the coming five years. We had a number of virtual and face to face strategizing meetings. We have a new board and the members that left their position were excellent and left their positive mark on the movement. We participated and actively contributed to so many critical processes in the world, including to the UN FAO. We have 40 members and are the biggest social movement in Africa. We published a range of documents on land, seed and pastoralism, and were active on social media.

As you can see, a lot has happened in 2019 but these are my five takeaways.

1. **Climate Change Campaign:** In November 2018, at a meeting held in Senegal, AFSA members decided to campaign on promoting agroecology as an adaptation strategy for the climate crisis that Africa is facing. The campaign was launched in Ghana at the African Climate Week in March 2019. Twelve countries are participating in this campaign and the majority have started organizing themselves for a concerted advocacy on policies related to agriculture and the climate crisis.
2. **African Food Policy:** Policy development in Africa has never been a ground up process. To reverse this and mobilize the African citizen to be part of policy development, on an issue that is close to the stomach, AFSA has launched a process of development of a Food Policy for Africa. A consultation will be held in as many African countries as possible and at the AU level to analyse the current food system and policies and envision a better policy.
3. **The Narrative Group:** To respond to the outcome of the food system conference in 2016, which identified key narratives of the industrial food system that are shaping policies in Africa, AFSA established a narrative group. The purpose of the group is to debunk the narrative of industrial agriculture and respond to attacks on agroecology and food sovereignty as they arise.
4. **Healthy Soil Healthy Food:** Training on producing natural fertilizers has now taken place across the continent and farmers are implementing it. To take this project to a higher level, a team has been developing a bigger agenda which includes identification of training centres, organizing extension services, facilitating research, exploring business opportunities, using the result for advocacy and coordinating the activity.
5. **Communications:** One of our funders, the 11th Hour Project, commissioned the Rally communications firm to support AFSA's campaign work. Rally did a thorough assessment of the media environment in the context of agroecology and AFSA's presence in these spaces. The outcome was a strategy that we have integrated into ours and have started implementing.

I hope you read the report and reflect on our successes and challenges.

Thank you all for supporting AFSA in so many ways and for making it possible for us to operate as we do.

Million Belay

AFSA General Coordinator

1. Introduction

This was the last year for the implementation of AFSA's 3-year strategic plan and, as we are all aware, AFSA has from last year included as part of its strategy a climate change and agroecology working group and a citizen's working group. The activities highlighted below reflect the four working groups, Land and Agroecology, Citizens for Sustainable Food Systems and Agroecology, Resilient Seed systems and Agroecology, and Climate Change and Agroecology.

Here are the highlights of the year's activities:

2. Achievements through the year

2.1 Climate Change and Agroecology Working Group

2.1.1 LAUNCH OF THE AGROECOLOGY FOR CLIMATE ACTION CAMPAIGN

AFSA launched the Agroecology for Climate Action Campaign at the Africa Climate Week in Accra, Ghana (18th-22nd March), calling upon all stakeholders to push for agroecology as a viable adaptation and mitigation solution to climate change.

The campaign aims to place agroecology as a key policy response to the climate change that is negatively impacting the economic, social and ecological life of Africa and Africans. The campaign will reach millions of African citizens over the course of two years. Citizens will be mobilized and policy makers targeted in 12 African countries: Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.



AFSA Chairperson Mariann Bassey-Orovwuje emphasised the severity of the challenge: *"Africa suffers the injustice of being the continent hardest hit by climate change while contributing the least to its cause. Climate change is already a living reality for many millions of African farmers, pastoralists and fishers, as droughts, rangeland degradation and ocean temperature rises threaten livelihoods and weaken food security. Women, children and young people are often the first to suffer the impact."*

The ACW had over 400 participants from various African countries. In this AFSA supported up to 50 young people mainly from West African countries travelling by road and a few members of the Climate Change working group to participate in the launch activities. During the ACW, AFSA partnered with others including Peasants Association of Ghana (PFAG) and Action Aid International Ghana to undertake several activities including the campaign launch, side event on climate change and agroecology and a demonstration within the city at the meeting point. AFSA member participants included the Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Development (CIKOD), Young Volunteers for the Environment (JVE), and Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA).

2.1.2 CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY MEETING, SENEGAL

As part of grounding the campaign, AFSA organised a campaign strategy meeting in Thiès, Senegal. The meeting brought together actors from the targeted campaign countries. The countries agreed on a joint strategy to advocate for the integration of agroecology in climate change policies at the national and regional level. The meeting agreed to target policy advocacy at the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in each country, and the African Union climate policy at the regional level. At country level, this will be done through the formation of national networks and using media. Regionally it involves mobilizing civil society as well as using media to bring pressure on governments.

2.1.3 NATIONAL CLIMATE STRATEGY MEETINGS

As a follow up to the meeting in Thiès, Senegal, country partners that were part of the meeting organised meetings to draw up concrete actions at the national level. Country level meetings were organised in Ethiopia, Togo, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa and Zambia. From these meetings members have formed national campaign platforms which are ultimately to inform the national level campaign strategy and actively implement the agreed upon activities. These will feed into higher level climate actions at regional and global levels.



2.1.4 PARTICIPATION IN THE UN CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT

AFSA members and secretariat participated in the UN Climate Action Summit in New York. During the week members participated in several events as key speakers and panellists. Members presented AFSA's position pushing for agroecology as a viable solution to the climate crisis and distributed information materials, strengthening AFSA's visibility on the world stage.

2.1.5 PASTORALISM DIALOGUE

AFSA held a three-day policy dialogue on pastoralism in February in Arusha, Tanzania. The stakeholders who participated in the dialogue included members of the Eastern and Southern Africa Pastoralist Network (ESAPN) from six nations, and representatives from regional government bodies including IGAD and the regional UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The meeting also received updates from the African Union (AU) and the East African Community (EAC) on the pastoralist related initiatives they are undertaking. A number of strategies were agreed on including efforts to strengthen the ESAPN organisational structure and identifying regional and international policy platforms for pastoralist issues to be addressed. The meeting also provided an opportunity for AFSA to feed into a revised draft transhumance protocol which was presented by an IGAD representative. One of the critical actions agreed upon in the meeting is the documentation of various aspects of pastoralism to dispel the negative narrative around pastoralism. ESAPN will take lead in developing and implementing the advocacy strategy developed from the emerging issues.

2.1.6 PARTICIPATION IN THE IGAD-TRANSHUMANCE PROTOCOL NEGOTIATIONS

AFSA staff and members from ESAPN participated as observers in the recent round of negotiations for the IGAD Transhumance Protocol. This was in follow up to the positions earlier presented to IGAD.

2.1.7 DOCUMENTARY ON PASTORALISM AND CLIMATE CHANGE

AFSA produced two short documentary films on pastoralism and climate change. The films showcase the challenges of pastoralism in relation to land tenure and climate change and the coping mechanisms that have been adopted by the various pastoral groups. They also show the contribution of the pastoralist way of life to environmental conservation. The films are available here:

<https://vimeo.com/368994589/c17f2157cb>

<https://vimeo.com/368567328/932172d6cc>



2.1.8 REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGROECOLOGY FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

AFSA held a major regional conference on Agroecology for Climate Resilience in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in November. The event brought together officials, leading experts and practitioners drawn from the African Union, regional economic communities, NGOs, CSOs, small scale food producers, small businesses, academia, and UN bodies including FAO. The purpose was to advance the case for agroecology as the most relevant approach for climate resilience and reducing risks to farmers in climate change policy at national and regional level. Specific objectives were:

- To inform policy on the significance of agroecology for food sovereignty and climate resilience and through joint formulation of specific recommendations to overcome major barriers to scaling of agroecology.
- To strengthen collaboration among key actors in Africa and national actors in Ethiopia for future joint policy action in support of the recommendations generated by this conference.

One of the main outcomes from the conference was the awareness and capacity created around the role agroecology can play in adaptation and mitigation of climate change. As part of the conference a number of research papers from different countries were shared with practical examples of how agroecology can and has worked to reduce the impacts of climate change within different country settings. From an online survey taken after the meeting, participants expressed having gained capacity on a number of issues in relation to agroecological practices and climate change. One of those cited by participants was for example the use of biochar to enhance soil health without promoting deforestation; others were in relation to phases recommended for success of scaling agroecology and the contributions of pastoral communities to promoting climate resilience in Africa.

The event received wide media coverage; here are some examples:

<https://bit.ly/2X8fZzr>, <https://bit.ly/2Q8ymCR>

<https://www.thenewsguru.com/news/nigeria-news/article/afsa-food-systems-climate-resilience-and-african-food-policy/>

<https://www.thenewsguru.com/news/article/africa-best-food-dr-million-belay/>

2.2. Resilient Seed Systems and Agroecology Working Group

2.2.1 SEED STRATEGY MEETING

A West Africa Seed Sovereignty Strategy Workshop was organised in June in Senegal for francophone West African seed actors from seven nations. The meeting built participants' capacity, shared national information, and made plans for collaborative actions by francophone seed actors. It identified priority seed issues for francophone West Africa, updated on existing initiatives, and developed opportunities for joint action. Four thematic work groups were set up to take forward the agreed actions.

2.2.2 ANIMATED SEED FILM

AFSA produced an animated short film on seed sovereignty. Titled 'Seed is Life' the 4-minute animated film was produced in English and French and sets out AFSA's position on farmer managed seed systems (FMSS) and the threats they face from the industrial seed and farming lobby. It was shown at AFSA's West Africa Seed Sovereignty Workshop in Senegal in June 2019. The film is available on AFSA's YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/ZC5WXcaJ6Lg>

2.2.3 SEED CASE STUDIES

From 21 expressions of interest, AFSA selected and published seven African seed case studies from Uganda, Niger, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Cameroon and Burundi. The stories from the ground show how African farmers are taking back control of their seeds, reintroducing high performing and resilient indigenous varieties, and coming together to save, share, exchange and sell their own diverse and nutritious seeds. The project saw a collaboration with Swissaid who are also working to promote farmers' seeds. The case studies are available on the AFSA website here: <https://afsafrica.org/case-studies-seed/>



2.2.4 FARMER MANAGED SEED SYSTEMS STRATEGY MEETING

AFSA in collaboration with GRAIN, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, African Centre for Biodiversity, and the Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity hosted a meeting in November in Lusaka, Zambia. Forty four men and women from 10 African countries (Zambia, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Southern Africa, Senegal, Eswatini and Uganda) participated in the meeting, which was aimed at developing a common strategy for changing the prevailing narrative to one that recognizes Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) as the fundamental basis of Africa's food system. A comprehensive strategy was developed and is available here: <https://afsafrica.org/every-seed-has-a-story/>



2.2.5 DELEGATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY CFS46 IN ROME

AFSA organised a delegation of six people to attend the UN Committee on World Food Security CFS46 in Rome in October. The six met up with other AFSA members and partners and held a side event on World Food Day entitled Agroecological Innovations for Climate Resilient Agriculture and Food Systems in Africa. The event was very successful and attracted a capacity audience of around 100 people. Seven speakers including AFSA members, researchers, academics and FAO staff showcased the role of agroecology on the African continent in addressing multiple goals of climate resilience and justice, increased food and nutrition

security, mitigation of malnutrition and the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), better rural livelihoods, and environmental sustainability. The delegation also helped organise a CSO meeting with African government delegates to the CFS.

2.2.6 OPEN LETTER ON GMOs

AFSA developed and sent an open letter of appreciation and support to the President of the Republic of Uganda for his strong stand against the current GMO bill. The letter also urged other African leaders to take the same stance against GMOs in Africa.

2.3 Land and Agroecology Working Group

2.3.1 LAND GOVERNANCE PARTNERSHIP WITH CAWR

AFSA teamed up with the Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience at Coventry University (UK) to host an East African regional workshop in March on land governance in the framework of a project called 'How to Govern Natural Resources for Food Sovereignty?' The objective of the participatory action research was to explore the legal innovations that are best suited to protect natural resources that are collectively used and managed and thereby contribute to equitable and resilient food systems. How can the new rights to land, seeds and natural resources recognized in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants, recently adopted at the UN General Assembly, contribute to fighting land grabbing and to the transition to sustainable, equitable, resilient food systems?



2.3.2 LAND RIGHTS STRATEGY

Also in March the AFSA Land Working Group met to review and develop their land rights strategy in an advocacy capacity building workshop that aimed to strengthen land rights defenders' networks and improve participants' capacities to better engage on land governance advocacy. The three-day workshop took place in Entebbe, Uganda in March. The workshop brought together 25 participants, mainly AFSA members active in land rights advocacy, including academics, human rights lawyers, women's rights groups, NGOs, pastoralists, and fisherfolk. The objectives were to improve participants' understanding of the 2017 land policy study report (analysis of policies, legal frameworks and mechanisms regulating land and land use) and selection of key advocacy issues; to equip participants with a range of land advocacy tactics and strategies; and to review the Land Governance Assessment Toolkit (LGAT) currently being tested in Benin. At the end of the meeting the land working group reviewed i) its goal giving it a better focus on member networks and ii) its working strategy coming up with sub-themes as a way of strengthening the work of the group. These have improved the interactions of the working group in general.



2.3.3 POLICY PAPER ON COMMUNITY LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

The Land Group developed a policy paper on Community Land Use Management Systems. A consultant was hired with the input of the working group and it is expected that this paper will contribute to driving AFSA discussions on land issues. The policy paper made use of the land case studies previously developed and derived recommendations for different actors including policy makers and civil society actors.

2.3.4 AGROECOLOGY BIO-INPUTS TRAINING OF TRAINERS



In August AFSA organized a 5-day practical Training of Trainers event on bio-inputs, in collaboration with ENSA, Senegal. This brought together 32 agroecological farmer trainers from AFSA member organizations and partners in West Africa. Agroecology trainer Juanfran Lopez led a practical training course on the production and use of bio-fertilisers and bio-pesticides using locally available, low cost materials. The trainer taught the how and why of regenerating biological and mineral fertility of agricultural soils, and how this enables the viable production of healthy food that is affordable to consumers and profitable for farmers.

The course was held at Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Agriculture (ENSA) in Thiès, Senegal, an agricultural training centre linked to the University of Thiès. The course was designed for agroecology trainers, dynamic energetic individuals who can learn these innovative techniques, and share them with farming communities. It was specifically aimed at creating a cohort of high level African trainers. Participants were selected from AFSA members and partners seriously engaged in farmer training. Female trainers are under-represented in this field and were therefore especially welcome. From this training it was also agreed that a training manual on bio-inputs is produced; ENSA and FAO Senegal are interested in co-producing the manual with AFSA.

2.3.5 AFRICA LAND POLICY CONFERENCE

AFSA participated in the Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA) in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire in November. As for the previous conferences, this 3rd edition of the CLPA was organised by the African Land Policy Centre which is a joint initiative of the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and the African Development Bank. AFSA delivered a side event based on land case studies on community land use and management systems (CLUMS).

In addition to other attendees, Oxfam international team, Kilimanjaro women's group and the entire delegation of the African Traditional Leaders' Association attended AFSA's side event. People appreciated the presentation because it combines policy study and case studies (practices). Roi Kongo, the traditional leaders' chairperson, said: "AFSA can't do this without us; AFSA needs to walk with us."



2.4 Citizens for sustainable food systems



2.4.1 ADVOCACY STRATEGY MEETING

This year the recently formed Citizens working group got an opportunity to meet as a group for the first time and review and develop their advocacy strategy. In the meeting, the group refocused the areas of intervention, identified immediate and long-term actions, and agreed upon an implementation strategy. One of the critical strategies was the formation of various thematic work streams with the leadership of specific members of the group. The working group agreed to focus its work toward 'Influencing policies and institutions to have increased citizen access to agroecologically produced food in Africa for better health and quality of life.'

2.4.2 AFRICAN FOOD POLICY

The Citizens group is taking leadership in the development of an African Food Policy and one of the critical activities in this process was the one-day meeting organised in November in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Africa has many food-related policies however they are disjointed and scattered. The development of this policy will also help bring together food, environment and health into one coherent policy, and position AFSA as a leader in the transformation of food systems in Africa.

2.4.3 DEVELOPMENT OF A BAREFOOT GUIDE ON NUTRITION

The Citizens group considered and adopted the development of a Barefoot Guide to Nutrition based on agroecological values as one of the key activities it will undertake. The guide will be an addition to a series of others focusing on surfacing real and practical experiences from which theoretical insights are drawn. The guide will be holistic in the way it looks at social and cultural issues surrounding nutrition as well as the more technical. Another unique dimension to the guide will be how it shows the links between soil and our stomachs.

2.4.4 DEVELOPING A ROAD MAP TOWARDS A FOOD POLICY FOR AFRICA

In November, AFSA hosted a one-day workshop in Addis Ababa to draw a road map to guide us towards the establishment of a food policy for Africa. The workshop was built around four main objectives:

- To lay conceptual grounds
- To gain clarity on why a comprehensive policy on food systems is needed for Africa
- To develop a detailed road map for Regional Policy Dialogue
- To develop a detailed road map for National Policy Dialogue

The workshop brought together AFSA member delegates from around Africa, AFSA's technical and financial partners, representatives from the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES Food) and FAO, USA and European CSOs, and media participants. The main outcomes were the identification of stakeholders to participate in national and regional dialogues, the identification of challenges, the choice of countries, and agreement on the goal of the exercise. Nineteen countries were identified to run the process at national level because of their potential to gain quick results. A range of stakeholders was also identified to make the process inclusive and owned by governments. The 19 countries selected are: Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Togo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Cameroon, Chad, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

2.5 Support to National Processes

2.5.1 SENEGAL

AFSA secretariat staff supported the development of a major policy document prepared by a task force set up by a consortium of CSOs aiming to contribute to the Government of Senegal's position on the transition to agroecology. AFSA's input included several pages of text drawn from AFSA publications, and the inclusion of summaries of nine AFSA case studies as evidence.

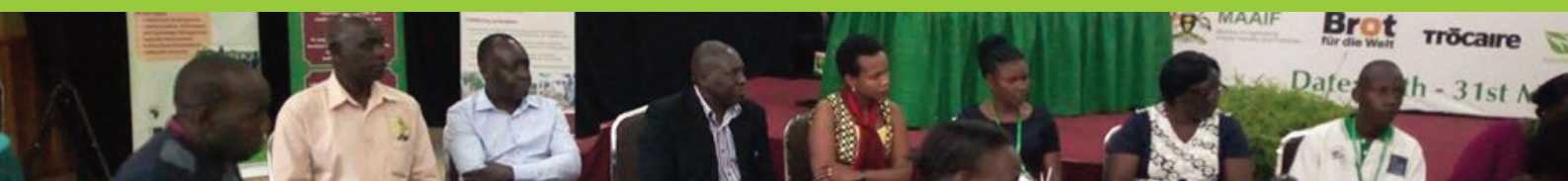
AFSA staff are part of the scientific committee interacting with government officials for the preparation of the 2020 National Days for Agroecology. Support is being given to national actors to organise a campaign led by CICODEV on the popularization of States' extraterritorial obligations in Senegal recognized in the main human rights treaties and declarations and confirmed by several United Nations treaty bodies.

2.5.2 SOUTH AFRICA

AFSA supported the African Centre for Biodiversity in developing and running a joint online campaign to get glyphosate herbicide banned from African soils.

2.5.3 UGANDA

In May AFSA attended the 1st National Agroecology Actors Symposium organized by AFSA member PELUM Uganda in Kampala. Over 300 agroecology actors comprising small scale family farmers, farmers' organizations, civil society organizations, private sector actors, youth organizations, women organizations, academia, legislators, public servants, international organizations and media personalities from all regions of Uganda convened to participate in the Symposium under the theme 'Advancing multi stakeholder responsiveness towards scaling-up of agroecology in Uganda'. Bern Guri of AFSA member organization CIKOD made a keynote presentation on agroecology and food sovereignty. AFSA has also actively supported the Ugandan national groups in the GMO campaign especially in developing and drafting position papers and press releases and drawing up strategy for further engagement. AFSA is a member of the key GMO strategy group in Uganda.



2.5.4 ETHIOPIA

AFSA provided support to Ethiopian national climate actors and the national agroecology networks. Civil society organisations in Ethiopia were also supported in the process of developing their strategic direction for the campaign on Agroecology and Climate Change.

2.5.5 KENYA

AFSA supported climate and agriculture actors in Kenya in the development of a strategic direction for their campaign on Agroecology and Climate Change.

3. Institutional Growth

3.1 West Africa Office

AFSA has now opened up its own office in Thiès, Senegal to better support AFSA's many West African networks. Previously AFSA programme staff was hosted by one of the members in Senegal. The office also provides a meeting point for the members.

3.2 Formation of AFSA Narrative Group

AFSA members have started a Narrative Working Group where members have volunteered their participation. The group has three main purposes: It will act as a rapid response group to provide rebuttals to false narratives and attacks on agroecology: Proactive messaging - sharing of agroecological counter narratives and messages: Capacity building - for members and constituent networks to strengthen their capacity to engage with this narrative work.

3.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

As AFSA grows in funding and membership it has more than ever realised the need to streamline the monitoring of its activities. AFSA has in this year therefore dedicated a program officer in charge of Monitoring and Evaluation for the network.

3.4 Finance

AFSA has also strengthened its finance office by bringing on board a Finance and Administration Assistant to support the Finance and Administration officer. She is also a Certified Public Accountant.

3.5 Communications

AFSA in 2019 undertook a number of steps to strengthen communications. One step is working with a communications consultancy firm with the support of The 11th Hour Project to support the development of a communications strategy around the Agroecology for Climate Action campaign. The other step has been to bring on board a communications officer with experience in media and communications work.



AFSA also organised one meeting for media persons including reporters, producers and editors. The purpose of this was to further strengthen AFSA relations with the media and introduce the subject of agroecology to the various media outlets from across the continent. One of the key outputs was the formation of a media network for journalists “Reporting on Agroecology”. Various commitments and actions were undertaken and agreed upon by the network.

AFSA's social media platforms continued to grow, ending the year with 3,000 Twitter followers and 35,000 impressions per month. Our Facebook outreach increased to 1,900 followers. The AFSA googlegroup swelled to 600 subscribers, while the Mailchimp newsletter subscription list passed the 1,000 mark.

3.6 Website

AFSA launched a new website which is much more visual, with more content and functionality than the previous one. It has been widely appreciated. See it here: <https://afsafrica.org>

4. Showcasing AFSA Members' Achievements

HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF AFSA MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019.

4.1 African Biodiversity Network (ABN)

In 2019, ABN partners worked with their communities to strengthen collective action on community revival of indigenous seeds system and agro ecological supportive farming practices including the Training of Trainers capacity enhancement on Plant Genetics and Reduction of Post-Harvest Losses. During the year, four of the ABN partners developed seed catalogues on the categories of the seeds their communities are keeping at the household and community seed banks level. ABN's partners organized or/and participated in several Seed and Food Fairs across the region. The fairs served as platforms for exchange and learning, and for sharing on indigenous seeds and related knowledge practices. The Seed and Food Fairs were all huge successes which helped to highlight the central role of indigenous, locally-adapted seed and traditional knowledge, especially women's knowledge, particularly in achieving seed security and food sovereignty.

In a bid to strengthen the capacity of its partners to host others for learning within the network, the ABN conducted a regional conference hosted by the JVE (Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement) in Togo. In December, ABN held regional community training dialogues in Rwanda. This regional event brought the ABN partners from South Africa, Togo, Kenya, Tanzania and the host Rwanda. The community dialogues weave in harmonious relationship with people, their land and territory and their natural world. Once these relationships are well maintained, there is strong community and ecosystems balance and resilience.

ABN supported training of partners on community dialogues to build community analytical skills to be able to lobby and advocate for the recognition of traditional ecological governance systems. In this regard, some ABN partners like AFRICE, GRABE Benin, and EarthLore are taking lead in consolidating customary laws and clan constitutions for legal recognition.

ABN made a publication that amplifies its philosophy and approach. The Youth Culture and Biodiversity (YCB) guide entitled “A path to youth leadership: Connecting youth with culture, nature and self” was launched. It came out of a collaboration between many elders and youth who helped make the program a powerful tool for youth leadership.

4.2 Biodiversity and Biosafety Association Of Kenya (BIBA Kenya)

The Biodiversity and Biosafety Association of Kenya (BIBA Kenya) in collaboration with partners Route to Food Initiative (RTFI), Resources Oriented Development Initiatives and the Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) submitted a petition to the Parliamentary Committee on Health calling for the withdrawal of toxic pesticide ingredients with proven chronic health and negative environmental effects – many of which are no longer registered for use in Europe – withdrawn from the Kenyan market. The petition also called for stricter food safety monitoring systems in Kenya. The petition was informed by a research and white paper report published by the Route to Food Initiative (RTFI) titled *Pesticides in Kenya: Why our health, environment and food security are at stake*.



The Parliamentary Health Committee held a retreat where the petitioners presented and heard the views of food safety experts, scientists and relevant regulatory authorities, including the Pest Control Products Board (PCPB) and the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS). The PCPB was instructed to prepare a report that i) outlines which products can be immediately suspended from the market (prioritising those that are already disallowed in the EU) and ii) presents a longer-term strategy for the review of the safety of all products registered in Kenya.

As a result of our prayers in the petition, the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS) introduced new rules that seek to ensure that fresh produce is tested for pesticide residues and other contaminants, supermarkets were urged to comply with the requirement on quality, failure to which they will see their licences revoked.

4.3 Pan-African Institute for Citizenship, Consumers and Development (CICODEV Africa)

CICODEV has been involved with agroecology stakeholders in Senegal in a Dynamic for an Agroecological Transition (DyTAES) since 2019. This Dynamic was born out of the desire of all civil society actors and research institutes to contribute their experience and commitment to the same vision and goal for an agroecological transition in the country.



It is in this sense that the DyTAES, composed of farmers, breeders, fishermen, forest users, citizen-consumers, community organizations, local authorities, non-governmental organizations, researchers and companies has co-produced a document contributing to national policies with strong recommendations for an agroecological transition in the territories of Senegal. The objective is to establish a strategy to support the State for the success of this transition while improving the awareness of all stakeholders on these agroecological issues.

This process mobilized more than a thousand people, during almost five months of consultations carried out in the six eco-geographical zones of the country, with grassroots actors, as well as in the Senegalese capital with producers, processors, distributors and consumers. The latter organized by CICODEV in Bayakh (45km from Dakar) allowed us to visit agroecological fields but also to question consumers on the link between agroecology and health while proposing recommendations to the four identified problems: safety of agroecological products, geographical and financial accessibility, ignorance and lack of information on alternative food models, which will enable citizens-consumers to reverse their consumption model in favour of agroecological products for nutritional and health reasons. CICODEV has also produced a guidance and information note on agroecology that provides information on the links between consumer rights and duties and agroecology.

4.4 Fédération Agroécologique du Bénin (FAEB)

FAEB promotes agroecology in Benin by supporting its members through training, exchange of experiences and ideas. During 2019, apart from the reflection and exchange meetings which are held every two months on a rotating basis on the farms of the members, FAEB contributed to the implementation of two important activities at the national level: advocacy against Benin's accession to UPOV 1991 and the organization of a natural inputs fair.

Advocacy against Benin's accession to UPOV 1991 took the form of work on a proposal for a law on farmers' seed rights. A working group was set up. A first draft of the law has been prepared. Two working sessions have already taken place for proofreading the text. FAEB also organized a natural input fair, enabling FAEB members to come and exhibit the natural fertilizers they manufacture and to exchange with each other on manufacturing processes and instructions for use. Several farmers' organizations, mostly made up of women, are working to recover endangered seeds. Thus several varieties of maize, beans, lentils, etc. that have disappeared from circulation are being recovered for the happiness of producers and consumers.

4.5 Fahamu Africa

Youth –The Future of Agroecology: For Fahamu, the 16 Days of Global Action on Agroecology was the greatest achievement as it provided a platform to have a candid discussion on the footprints of our food, meaning where the food comes from, who produces it, how it is produced and how it is distributed. The campaign coincided with Rural Women's Day. The forums were held with students from University of Nairobi and Catholic University of Eastern Africa and a rural women network namely Woni wa Uamani Women group comprising of 300 members.

The engagement further provided an opportunity for students and smallholder farmers to interact, learn, re-learn and unlearn, and understand the struggles of Kenya's rural communities while at the same time interrogating the roles the student community plays in the food chain. The forums discussed what is agroecology, elements of agroecology and role of agroecology in addressing the climate challenge. An interactive session was also held to enable understanding of what comes to young people's minds when they hear the word agriculture and this helped dispel negative perspectives on agriculture and farming in general. For Fahamu, the platform served as a wake up call to young people towards understanding they have a responsibility to contribute to food justice and climate justice in the continent and beyond.



4.6 Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA)

On International Water Day, a discussion debate was organized with the Christ-King community of the Baptist Convention Church of Kangnicopé in Lomé / Togo. This celebration was attended by religious, traditional and administrative authorities around the theme: "Leave no one behind".

International Mother Earth Day was celebrated with the community of the Ebenezer Temple of Hozin / Protestant Methodist Church of Benin, on the theme of Mother Earth, Education and Climate Change.



Togolese members of FECCIWA celebrated World Environment Day at the Salem Methodist Church of Hanoukopé in Lomé. The event mobilized members of the Church and of local religious, administrative and traditional authorities around the theme of air pollution, and was animated by songs, a competition of poetry composed by the children of the Sunday school, and by the chat-debates and video projection on the theme.

4.7 Groundswell West Africa Network

In 2019, our network has produced a series of six case studies (each about 30 pages) about the role of agroecology to foster resilience to climate change, improved nutrition and food security. These case studies are grounded in our partners' own long term program work in communities. Groundswell network also produced a series of five Policy Notes. These provide a critical review of existing policies related to agriculture in the Sahel and outline the lessons learned from practical experience based on the grassroots work in four countries to promote agroecology. Our network realized that most high level policy makers, and decision makers do not tend to read long reports or policy notes. For this reason, we developed a set of policy briefs of just two pages each. The structure of most of these briefs include Key Messages - a text box very briefly describing lessons from the case study, a discussion of policy issues, and recommendations. All these documents are available on our website in English and French at <https://www.groundswellinternational.org/publications/>

Groundswell's network member in Ghana, CIKOD and our ally PFAG (Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana) undertook a review of the Ghanaian government's agricultural budget, in particular the funds spent to subsidize chemical fertilizers (which in some years absorbed 47% of the budget). CIKOD and PFAG organized multi-stakeholder workshops at the national level bringing together civil society organisations, farmers' organisations and national NGOs, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and agronomists to discuss these findings. Participants developed recommendations to the government on how to redirect Ghana's public resources from fertilizer use to better support agroecology, small-scale agriculture and sustainable land use. This has contributed to a significant policy shift in the government's use of resources. The Ghanaian government reoriented part of its subsidy programme to support the production of compost from municipal waste and the distribution of compost (in bags) to small farmers.

In Ghana and Burkina Faso, members of the Groundswell West Africa network have undertaken a national mapping of initiatives and organisations committed to or supportive of the agroecological approach. One of the outcomes of the Ghana mapping exercise was the formal establishment of a national alliance for agro-ecology. Members of this alliance have since participated in several important advocacy events. Members of the Groundswell West Africa network have worked directly, with a level of success, with the local authorities (municipal councils) of seven communes (2 in Senegal, 3 in Mali, and 2 in Burkina Faso) to review and modify their five-year development plans and budgets to better support agro-ecology. The experience of our Groundswell West Africa network is that strengthening the awareness and capacity of local governance structures is critical for effective promotion of agroecology.

4.8 Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF)

A draft of an Amendment Bill on the National Biosafety Management Agency Act was used to engage with policy makers. The current Act which was established in 2015 and amended in 2019 to include definitions on new and emerging technologies has several loopholes and flaws. Our Amendment Bill proposes to address those loopholes which include lack of emphasis on the precautionary principle; lack of strict provision on liability and redress, and access to information/public participation; and the conflict of interest embedded in the composition of the board of the National Biosafety Management Agency which has the National Biotech Development Agency sitting on it and yet no farmer representatives.



Agroecology promoted (with dedicated sessions/presentations) at our biosafety conference, and engagements with students of Agriculture, farmers, CSOs, media, legal practitioners respectively. Stakeholders engaged in a workshop which focused developing strategy on inclusion of Agroecology in Nigeria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

<https://homef.org/2019/12/25/reporting-and-defending-our-biosafety/>

<https://homef.org/2019/07/30/civil-society-organizations-in-edo-state-call-for-a-ban-on-gmos/>

Market-shelf survey was carried out across nine cities in the country which revealed the presence of several imported food products labelled as containing genetically modified ingredients or as produced with genetic engineering. <https://homef.org/2020/01/28/whats-on-our-plates-2019/>

African Technology Assessment Platform (AfriTAP). In collaboration with ETC Group, set up through our School of Ecology platform and which brings together civil society groups working to track, understand and assess the implications of emerging technologies. Among other functions, the AfriTAP would Monitor, horizon-scan and assess current and emerging frontier technologies and their impact in regards to biodiversity, conservation, food sovereignty, community engagement, climate change and other sectors; Provide alerts and enable information sharing as a clearinghouse for information on new emerging technologies; and Protect, preserve and promote indigenous and peasant knowledge, customs and technologies - including creating indigenous knowledge hubs. <https://homef.org/2019/10/10/abuja-declaration-on-emerging-technologies-and-their-implications-for-africa/>

Policy brief on the Threat to Fisheries in the Gulf of Guinea. <https://homef.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Threat-to-Fisheries-Policy-Brief.pdf>

4.9 Réseau Africain Pour le Droit à l’Alimentation (RAPDA Togo)

During the year 2019, RAPDA-Togo/ANoRtF had the usual activities of citizens’ sensitization and education on the right to food in Togo. RAPDA-Togo participated in the workshop organized by the FAO on Forest Farm and Facility, contributed to the advocacy action in the process of the national land law ‘Code Foncier et Domanial au Togo’. With the German Foundation Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, RAPDA-Togo provided a consultant for training and advocacy activities on women’s access to land in “One World Without Hunger”. For the Right to Food Academy 2019, RAPDA-Togo provided a trainer to the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches of West Africa (FECCIWA) and took part in the activities of the civil society platform “Coordination pour le Suivi Evaluation par la Société Civile (COSESC)”. These activities are to provide social accountability through the monitoring and the evaluation of two projects of the Ministry of Agriculture funded by the World Bank. RAPDA-Togo conducted a survey on the current situation of the Right to Food in Africa on behalf of the Spanish Organisation MANOS UNIDAS.

4.10 Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity (TABIO)

TABIO developed a strategic plan for the period 2020 to 2024. The goal for this strategic plan is that TABIO will endeavour to bring together, and ensure that its members and stakeholders with a common goal and provide them the opportunity to speak with a unified voice in agro-biodiversity conservation for food sovereignty and livelihoods improvement. There are four strategies which are: (i) Programme and services on agro biodiversity conservation, (ii) Partnerships and working relations enhancement, (iii) Financing capacity strengthening of TABIO and (iv) Institutional capacity strengthening.

TABIO conducted training to build capacity of 20 farmers on biofertilizers making in Zanzibar. The gained knowledge will enable them prepare enough biofertilizers within a short period for application in their farms. Biofertilizer contains microorganisms which promote the adequate supply of nutrients to the host plants and ensure their proper development of growth and regulation in their physiology. TABIO conducted training on seed selection and storage for 20 smallholder farmers belonging to Amkeni and Sogea groups in Ileje District. Training covered on-farm seed selection and storage prior to sowing. A study on the status of local seeds in Ileje District was carried out.

4.11 World Neighbors (WN)

World Neighbors (WN) is an international development organization currently working in 13 countries worldwide and specializes in strengthening the technical and organizational capacities of marginalized communities. In Africa, WN works in five countries, namely Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mali, Tanzania and Uganda. It inspires people and strengthens communities to find lasting solutions to the challenges of poverty, hunger and disease. WN's three core thematic areas of intervention are sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods, community-based natural resources management, and community and reproductive health while gender equity and climate change adaptation and mitigation are transversal themes. WN works with networks of community based organizations and non-governmental organizations within each country where it operates.

The following are the highlights of WN's achievements in 2019:

- **Promoting the use of bio-fertilizers by smallholder farmers:** Two leaders (a man and a woman) from an umbrella network organization of base groups that partners with WN in Mayuge District of Uganda attended a training on bio-fertilizers co-organized by AFSA in Uganda. After acquiring skills at that training in methods of formulating bio-fertilizers using locally available materials the leaders have been training farmer groups in the region on bio-fertilizer preparation. It is World Neighbors' philosophy to encourage smallholder farmers to use organic manures and fertilizers, hence the training was in consonance with WN's approach to agricultural development that aims to empower smallholders to be in charge of the whole agricultural value chain and to practice regenerative agriculture that mimics ecosystem processes.
- **Reversing exploitation of women in the fishing industry:** In Kenya, WN has been stimulating communities in Kisumu County to innovate in integrated land use and farm management. The program area is on the shores of Lake Victoria, and therefore fishing is an important economic activity. In the artisanal fishing practice, there is a strict gender division of labor supported by a rigid cultural practice that prohibits women from going into the lake to fish. Women specialize primarily in the processing and sale of fish while it is the responsibility of the men to go fishing. This arrangement has resulted in an unfortunate phenomenon known as 'jaboya' in the local language. This is the fish-for-sex/sex-for-fish situation where women are forced into sexual relationships with fishermen in order to access fish to sell. This is escalating the HIV infection rates in the fish landing beaches. WN is addressing this situation by promoting small scale aquaculture or fish farming. Groups or even households construct a water pan to harvest rain water to use for irrigating horticultural crops. In the water pan they also introduce fingerlings that they feed and grow into mature fish. In this project, women are being empowered to do fishing without going against the cultural practice and to 'save themselves' from the oppressive jaboya phenomenon. Many groups and households are adopting this method as a way of encouraging food and nutrition security and food sovereignty in the long run in addition to empowering women socially and economically.
- **Improving soil health and vegetation cover in the Sahel:** In Burkina Faso and Mali, farmers who practice agriculture in the Sahelian region have been trained by WN in a technique known as assisted natural regeneration which helps to reclaim degraded lands and increase the acreage of land available to farmers to produce their own food. This helps families avoid depending on food aid and starvation in times of scarcity. No chemical fertilizers are used in the process and therefore the health of the soil improves naturally over time.

4.12 Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity (ZAAB)

2019 has been a momentous year for ZAAB. We have grown, we have learnt and we have also deeply felt the significant and increasing challenges our country faces. Climate change, the broken and malicious industrial food system, and political-economic greed, are becoming an everyday lived reality for many. ZAAB members have worked tirelessly across the country to support and make heard the voices of those who feel the consequences of this coalescing collapse the most - the poor, women, children, our elders, our forests, soil and rivers. As a collective, ZAAB has worked to build bridges with leadership across sectors, to foster collaboration and connect the policy-dots of the systemic crisis we face. We continue the work to expose the roots of our problems and sow the seeds of hope and sovereignty.

In 2019, ZAAB adopted a three-year strategy to:

- Make the best use of our profile and access to influential partnerships to advocate at the highest levels for policies that uphold food sovereignty and serve the best interests of the people;
- Raise awareness of the need for action among consumers and farmers through consistent messaging and mass campaigns;
- Grow the capacity of its secretariat and members to bring about measurable change at all levels and to be able to adapt to a fast-changing environment.

The 'NO to GMOs' campaign worked to expose the vested interests and foreign influence pushing Zambia to change its biosafety policies, and the undemocratic processes that are side-lining the public from decisions and information they have a right to. We support the human right to adequate food and nutrition, and ensure national safeguards to agro-biodiversity.

In partnership with ACB, CTD, KATC, RWA and ESAFF, ZAAB supported farmers across Zambia to demand for government support to Transition to Agroecology (see more at https://youtu.be/9P1Glp_wG1c).

ZAAB supported ongoing national policy deliberations with multi-stakeholders for the legal recognition of Farmers' Rights and recognition of Farmer Seed Systems (see more at <https://zambianagroecology.org>), and co-hosted AFSA's East and Southern African members meeting to develop a Strategy for FMSS in Africa. ZAAB shared seeds and knowledge with the support of SKI - through farmer field schools, Seed and Food fairs, community mapping skills, policy debates, and the strength of our community of practice (see more at <https://www.seedandknowledge.org/partners/zambia/>). Also through ZAAB, Zambia joined the continental call for Agroecology for Climate Action (see more at <https://afsafrica.org/climate-campaign/>)



5. Challenges

Working through the working groups is still challenging especially in terms of communication. Communication is slow and taking up actions as agreed in the working groups takes time and in some cases with little response. AFSA needs to rethink how it works or implements activities, and review and design a strategy that will ensure maximum participation and improved communication.

Members identifying themselves as AFSA: As a network we recognize the need for members to align themselves to the network. This is improving but still needs to be emphasized to most of the members. This is critical for AFSA's visibility and for growing the network.

Fund raising: A review of the achievements for the current strategic planning cycle shows that while there was notable progress in implementing the strategic plan, some of the activities and outputs have lagged (started implementation in 2019). This is attributed to the limited resources available to implement the strategic plan, giving rise to several unfunded priorities. However, many of these remain relevant and have received funding to be implemented in the new strategic plan.

Access to national and regional government: While AFSA has made headway in developing relationships with critical institutions such as the African Land Policy Centre and the Africa SDG Centre, there is still limited access to critical policy spaces at regional level especially the regional economic communities. Policy advocacy being a pillar in AFSA's theory of change, there is need to get access to and engage these critical policy spaces. While the focus of AFSA policy is at regional and continental level, the design of its initiatives to include a country level component is critical in building member support and offers the opportunity to engage with country level actors to promote the transition to agroecology.

6. Way Forward

As we move forward AFSA has four major priorities around which it is developing and seeking funding for critical projects:

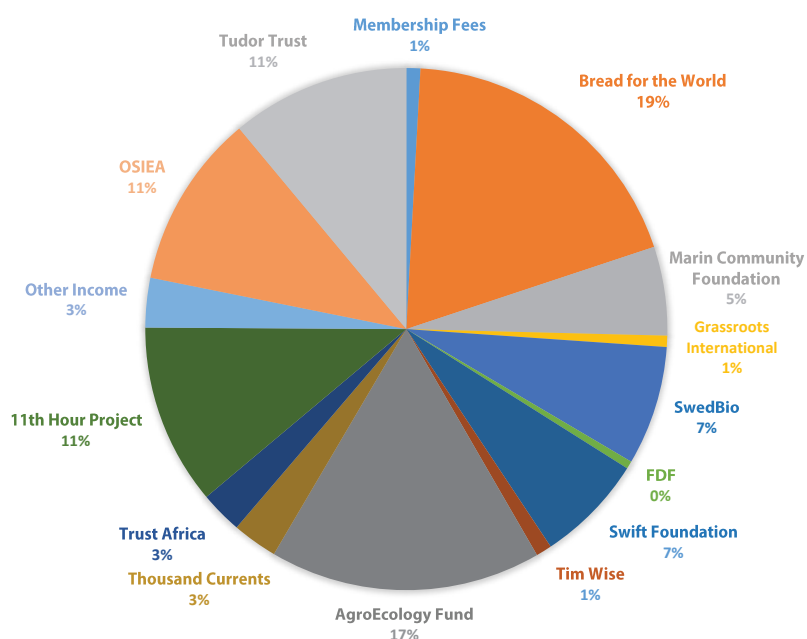
- **Agroecology for Climate Action Campaign**
- **African Food Policy**
- **Healthy Soils for Healthy Food**
- **Mapping of Agroecological Markets**

These will be further elaborated in the new five-year strategy.

7. Financial Report 2019

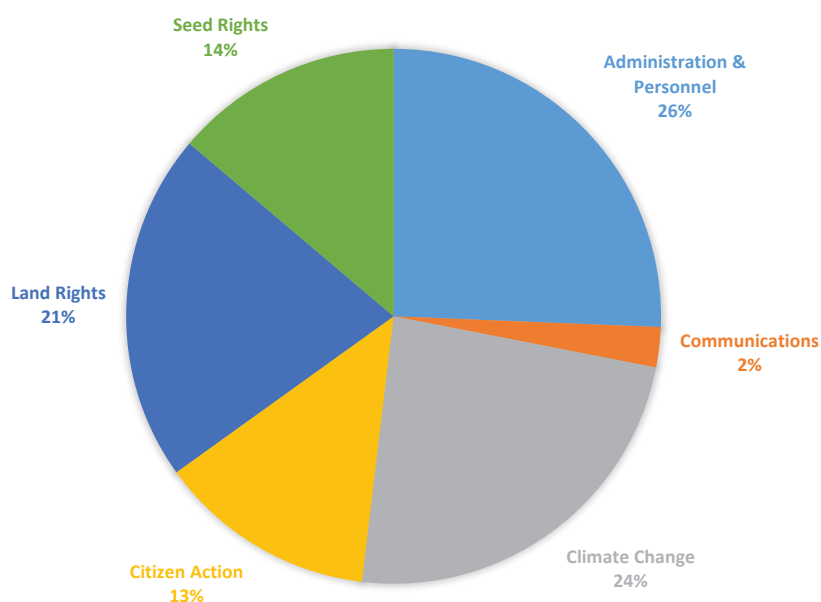
Income (USD)

Membership Fees	6,179.31
Grants	685,607.41
Other Income	21,884.88
Total Income	713,671.60



Expenditure (USD)

Total Expenditure	653,980.72
Surplus	59,690.88



8. Our Board of Directors

AFSA expresses its gratitude for the dedication of the three outgoing board members who completed their terms of office in 2019.



Mariann Bassey Orovwuje
FOE Africa
Chairperson



Faustin Vuningoma
Rwanda Climate Alliance
General Secretary



Elizabeth Mpofu
La Via Campesina SEA
Board Member

A new Board was elected at the General Assembly in Addis Ababa in November 2019.



Ali Ali Shatou
IPACC
Treasurer



Dr. Chris Macoloo,
World Neighbors
Chairperson



Josephine Atangana,
PROPAC
Board Secretary



Fassil Gebeyehu PhD
ABN
Board Member



Mariama Sonko
We are the Solution
Board Member



Fidele Houssou
FECCIWA
Board Member



Jean Paul Sikeli
COPAGEN
Board Member

9. Our Members

AFSA has three types of membership: core members, associate members and friends of AFSA.

Two new members were accepted at the AGM in November.



We are delighted to welcome two new members who joined AFSA this year:
Regional Schools and Colleges Permaculture Programme (ReSCOPE)
and Southern African Faith Communities Environment Institute (SAFCEI)



10. Our Partners

We are deeply grateful to our partners for their generous support this year.



2019 ANNUAL REPORT



ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA

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