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About AFSA

AFSA is a broad alliance of 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 34 members operating in 50 countries of Africa.

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 future generations.



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.

Reach

The Alliance reaches over 200 million African smallholder farmers, fishers, pastoralists, indigenous people, women, youth, faith-based groups, and consumers across 50 African countries.

Chairperson's Message



With the entire world brought to a standstill and global food value chain disrupted, attention focused on smallholder farmers to feed the population.

Dear AFSA Members, Partners and Funders,

In the past year, the world experienced an unprecedented phenomenon that touched the lives of everybody and jolted the planet. The sudden outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic threw all global systems into disarray. It was akin to going to bed in a familiar world and waking up in a completely incomprehensible one. The year presented challenges, opportunities and lessons.

Since the current AFSA Board was elected in November 2019, it has not met face to face. The virtual meetings have exposed the digital divide in Africa where the internet connection for some members has been challenging. We plan that when the pandemic is eventually brought under control, the Board shall meet and team build for improved service to AFSA.

AFSAcontinued to function in the uncertainglobal environment. It successfully connected and facilitated members to undertake individual and joint activities. This is a clear sign that we have a robust Secretariat with an equally committed Board playing its oversight role diligently. The support from members cannot be gainsaid as it is part of the reason why the organization continues to make tremendous strides.

The successes and challenges of the past year are presented in this report. I will, however, highlight just a few. Firstly, 'the 3rd Food Systems Conference' held virtually in October 2020 was a massive success. It explored the issues of marketing agroecological products and follow up activities in selected

They did this successfully and with dignity, proving the critics of agroecology and food sovereignty movements to be out of touch with reality.

countries are already underway. Secondly, the Working Groups were restructured and revitalised and are achieving wonders. Assigning a member of the Secretariat to a specific Working Group has resulted in effective and efficient communication between the groups and the Secretariat. Thirdly, the publication of the mini *Bare Foot Guide* for surviving Covid-19 was a milestone. It makes a strong pitch for consuming healthy foods as the 'medicine' for managing coronavirus infections and strengthening the body's immunity. The publication is well-illustrated and simplified, making it easy to use with grass root communities.

A key lesson from the pandemic is that it reinforced the importance of food sovereignty and of promoting a food system that is relevant to Africa. With the entire world brought to a standstill and global food value chain disrupted, attention focused on smallholder farmers to feed the population. They did this successfully and with dignity, proving the critics of agroecology and food sovereignty movements to be out of touch with reality.

On behalf of AFSA membership, I express gratitude and appreciation to our funders and appeal to them for continued support. The support of our allies and partners is equally enriching because unity is strength. Finally, I humbly request members to continue sharing their organizations' annual achievements to be included in the Annual Reports for cross learning purposes.

I urge members to utilize the lessons of 2020 to hoist AFSA, the continental voice, to greater heights during the year 2021 and beyond.

Together, we shall soar above the setbacks of Covid-19!

Chris Macoloo, Ph.D. (Cantab.), FCCS AFSA Board Chair

Coordinator's Message



The year 2020 was phenomenal for so many reasons, of which the COVID-19 pandemic was the main one. In addition to it being a health challenge, most of our strategies and plans were disrupted. We were planning several face-to-face meetings and celebrations, but we could not implement them. But it also gave us an unprecedented opportunity to explore how we can work virtually. We know virtual engagement with our members and partners cannot substitute the real and deeper engagement that face-to-face meetings offer. Besides, it is much more challenging in our continent, where the digital divide is vast, but we could still achieve much more than we thought. Virtual meetings have also provided an opportunity to meet regularly and with much broader participation than it would have been possible. Here are some of the highlights of our last year.

- 1. **Food Policy:** AFSA has started implementing members' decision in 2019 to organise food policy dialogues at the regional and national levels. We have created a strong working relationship with the AU and other regional actors for the same purpose. We have also started working with over 20 countries, and some of them have already started their country food dialogue. We hope that we will have a chance to create a democratic process by which the citizen of Africa recommends a food policy for the first time in the policy formulation process in the continent. The country actors do also have the possibility of developing their food policy.
- 2. **Food System Conference:** We had our 3rd Food Systems Conference in October. Over 1000 people

from 64 countries had registered, and we had close to 300 participants every day for three days. The conference was on agroecological marketing. The primary outcome of the meeting is a decision to work on territorial marketing as the best way to transform African agriculture into sustainable healthy diets.

- 3. We have started a community of practice on our project called **healthy** soil and healthy food. Fifteen centres from 12 countries in Africa are participating. Last year we had a range of meetings and 12 webinars. The webinars brought key speakers and practices from all over the world and created the opportunity to exchange ideas and techniques. We can now work with 12 countries, and the primary purpose is to improve food sovereignty on the ground and strengthen our narrative for agroecology.
- 4. The climate emergency and agroecology: We are working with 12 countries and at the regional level to explore climate policy spaces and integrate agroecology in these spaces. In 2020 we did a detailed analysis of the climate policies of 12 countries and the policies at the AU level. The purpose of this campaign is to galvanise the movements in the 12 countries, integrate agroecology into policies, and educate the public on the value of agroecology for both adaption and mitigation.
- 5. **Communications:** The AFSA communication has improved tremendously as compared to the previous years. We were able to produce a range of documents and had several social media engagements. This has allowed us to reach a wider audience and enabled us to improve our profile.

I have outlined the tip of the iceberg, and I hope you read our report and learn about our other activities. I use this opportunity to thank our funding partners and supporters, and I urge them to continue working with us for a better future in Africa.

Million Belay, PhD General Coordinator, AFSA

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Achievements through the Year

Climate Change & Agroecology Working Group



With the current COVID 19 situation the secretariat undertook a review of the activities planned for 2020. Most of those affected were regional and global engagements such as the Africa Climate Week, the Conference of Parties (COP) meetings and planned regional advocacy events.

More focus was put towards policy research at both regional and national levels and

strengthening the national advocacy platforms formed to promote the 'Agroecology for Climate Action' agenda.

Activities and achievements for the year

Capacities of climate and agriculture actors were enhanced on climate policy and agroecology.

National-level capacity building workshops were organized in five countries, including Togo, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Kenya. These targeted civil society leadership, youth, and government representatives, including technocrats and policymakers.

Radio and television shows were organized as part of awareness creation to build the capacities of actors on agroecology and climate change.

Policy research to support advocacy actions

At national level, policy research studies were commissioned and done in 12 campaign countries. The research was to explore and understand the climate policy terrain at the national level, including existing climate and agriculture policies, the gaps therein in relation to agroecology, and possible entry points for civil society engagement. Research studies were conducted in Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Senegal, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Uganda, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria and Rwanda. From most of the country studies, it is evident that several legal and policy frameworks on agriculture and climate change are in place or in the process of being developed; however, the aspect of clearly linking agroecology to climate action is still limited. For each country, several recommendations were made to strengthen the national level engagement for the campaign. Some countries have already drawn road maps and started implementing these actions, such as developing advocacy briefs to inform the campaign moving forward.

Policy research on the regional policy environment for climate change and agriculture in Africa was also conducted to identify opportunities and challenges for the 'Agroecology for Climate Action' campaign. One of the key findings from the regional desk research is that improving agriculture productivity to improve food security and enhancing rural development while adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change are priority concerns of AU, RECs and Member States. These priorities are articulated in regional policies and strategies on agriculture and food security, environment and natural resource management, and climate change. From the study, it is also clear that while the AU and RECs policies make positive statements about indigenous knowledge and production systems, there is an inherent tension between this and the vision of modernization and commercialization of agriculture.

Engagements with key policymakers

For each of the campaign countries, at least one national stakeholder meeting was organized to validate and disseminate the study findings with key policymakers at the national level and at the same time consolidate actions for future engagement on the relevant policy processes. At the global level, AFSA contributed to a global civil society paper on livestock in the Koronivia Joint Agreement on Agriculture (KJWA). Climate Action Network International spearheaded the action.





Galvanizing national and regional actors for Agroecology for Climate Action campaign

At the regional level, several online meetings were organized with the campaign team to share experiences, draw strategies and plan for joint participation in critical activities. The regular meetings worked to further strengthen the campaign team for future collaborations.

With the leadership of the Communications Officer, we successfully carried out an online campaign launch on Agroecology for Climate Action, including media activities on Earth Day. The Climate Change and Agroecology Working Group and other members of AFSA actively participated.

Seed & Agroecology Working Group

The AFSA Seed and Agroecology working group started to be active at the end of the second quarter of the year. From January to May, a discussion was going on to



validate the report of the Seed Working Group strategy meeting held from 26th to 28th November 2019 in Lusaka, Zambia. By December 2020, the following had been implemented:

- Series of online consultative meetings with working group members to redirect funding and identify workable solutions in the pandemic context.
- Online campaign on International Seed Day (April 26th).
- Webinar on farmer-managed seed systems (FMSS) (October 16th).
- FMSS radio campaign in six countries.
- Development and submission of proposals.

Online meetings with WG members

The group met separately with French speakers four times and English speakers three times, then two joint meetings:

- With French speakers, mapping of vegetable seed producers and market development of those seeds in West Africa emerged as a priority. The exercise started well then stopped because a few participants became cautious as corporates could steal their knowledge and also René, the lead person of the initiative, fell sick.
- With English speakers, a GMO campaign emerged as an area to work on.
- In the joint meetings, the working group agreed to develop a concept for a continental GMO campaign using cowpea and West Africa as an entry point.

Online campaign on International Seed Day

On April 26th, International Seed Day, the Seed working group contributed to the online campaign for FMSS. Some messages were drafted, approved by members, and used for the campaign with the support of AFSA's Communications Officer.

FMSS radio campaign in six countries

The full concept was developed and submitted in May; the go-ahead came in October. Organisations from six countries (Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal and Tanzania) signed MoUs with AFSA. A statement on biodiversity and a poster on FMSS considering various countries' perspectives are expected to be the primary outcomes. Burkina Faso and Uganda recently joined the campaign.

Webinar on FMSS (October 16th)

On International Food Day, AFSA organized a webinar entitled "Grow, Nourish and Sustain with FMSS" to reflect the year's theme. Organized in collaboration with INOFO (www.inofo.org), the webinar attracted more than 50 participants from all regions except North Africa. It gave clarity for countries involved in the FMSS radio campaign and created connections between FMSS platforms on the continent.





Video documentation of FMSS values/practices

AFSA collaborated with its member networks to further document seed knowledge on the continent. Two videos have been produced. They focused on the unspoken stories and knowledge that accompany seeds in communities, the method of passing on seed-related knowledge between generations and the spiritual connection between communities and their seeds.

• African Biodiversity Network (ABN) produced "seeds of continuity" (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Dl6gy_BPbny2nQfc44J2PaPZ8ARqx4WS/view?usp=sharing), an 11-minute video focused on intergenerational (youth) knowledge on seeds. The video was shot in Tharakara, a county in eastern Kenya.

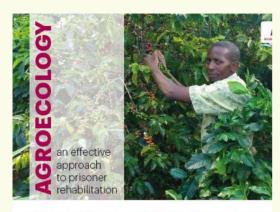
• We Are the Solution (WAS) produced "the cultivation of rice, a sacred heritage" (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1arnLMhz4axlmskkz2JJSuvEziw33ZUpJ/view), a 6-minute video showing women's traditional role in rice production. The video was shot in Thionck-Essyl, a rural municipality in Southern Senegal.

Development and submission of successful proposals for 2021

In its policy advocacy activities, AFSA also acts on two levers. On the one hand, we denounce what we do not want; on the other hand, we propose solutions that we want to see flourish. Thus, in the course of the year, we have successfully submitted the following projects:

- Documenting through video the negative impacts of industrial seed systems on African farmers. Here, with the financial support of the Rosa Luxembourg Foundation, we collaborated with our member Zambian Alliance for Biodiversity (ZAAB). The technical editing of the video was done by A Growing Culture (AGC), a specialised communications agency. A group of Zambian farmers, men and women, give testimonies about both the threats of industrial agriculture and the energy they will put into preserving peasant seed systems.
- Developing a seed policy framework for seed laws conducive to FMSS in 5 countries across four regions, including North Africa. Here, with funding from Rosa Luxembourg Foundation, the aim is to fill a gap and propose an agenda to policymakers for discussion (rather than CSOs discussing others' agenda). Indeed, farmers' organisations and CSOs have always denounced seed policies as developed since independence. On rare occasions, they have together proposed their solutions in a concrete way. This project targeting different regions of Africa should lead to an inclusive framework for public support to farmer-managed seed systems. This consensual framework could be used at different levels by farmers' networks and CSOs to advance the concerns of FMSS promoters.
- Consumption of Resilient Orphan Crop Products for Healthier Diets (CROPS4HD). AFSA collaborated on a successful concept note that was accepted by Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC). Together with FiBL in a consortium of three organisations led by Swissaid, the 10-year project plan will be finalised in the first quarter of 2021. The project has a global dimension and seeks to influence seed policies in favour of FMSS, with the countries of intervention being Niger, Chad, Tanzania and India.

Land & Agroecology Working Group



Agricultural communities in Kenya are rehabilitar prisoners through agroecology in a bid to reduc reoffending and revive local independent coffee

Kenyan prisons are full of the young and the poor. It is no surprise when you consider the high levels of unemployment and the criminal means to which many turn to survive.

Trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty and crime, former prisoners are often left stigmatised by society and as many as 40% will re-offend.

Why sustainable agriculture is key

Agriculture is integral to Kenya's economy, contributing 27% to the GDP. As a vital source of nutrition, health and income, it is the livelihood of many communities. However, much of the arable land is suffering from soil erosion and acidification from years of chemical fertilieers, leaving crops yields low and susceptible to disease.



Kenyan NGO, RODI (Resourc Development Initiatives) has beer issue with its Restorative Prisoner project that teaches prisoners pre

agroecological practices

Case studies of sustainable land use

Twelve case studies of sustainable land use were developed from eight countries. This collection of stories from the ground demonstrates the benefits of agroecology, a more thoughtful, more holistic, more natural way of farming, working with nature – not fighting against it.

Communities are reviving infertile land, conserving indigenous plants and wildlife, and recreating a balanced, thriving ecosystem. Sustainability is a recurring theme throughout the case studies. Agriculture that tears through resources and destroys the very land it harvests from is neither sustainable nor responsible. Nor is the "one size fits all" technology approach. The most successful agroecology models adapt to the local context, terrain, and indigenous traditions. The case studies are available on AFSA's website https://afsafrica.org/case-studies-land/



Building strong links with faith-based organisations

AFSA worked with faith-based members of the Our Land is Our Life platform to coordinate and produce two policy papers for a Vatican Task Force set up by Pope Francis towards a Just Recovery from COVID -19. The two papers, "The Struggle for Land Justice In Africa" and "Agroecology – the future for farming and food systems in Africa", set out an African peoples' contribution on land and agroecology respectively. They were developed in collaboration with faith-based organizations and submitted to the Ecology Commission of the Vatican Covid-19 Task Force. The outcome of this initiative is anticipated to be a papal encyclical to be released in late 2021.



African Civil Society Declaration on the African Union-European Union Partnership

AFSA led on the development of a joint civil society declaration aimed to influence a proposed meeting of AU-EU leadership and the forthcoming AU-EU Summit planned for 2021. The declaration expressed concerns by broad-based African civil society about the importance of the rural economy, family farming and small-scale food production, on which more than 60 per cent of African households depend for their livelihoods. The declaration was endorsed by over 60 civil society and faith-based organisations and sent to AU and EU leaders by Bishop Sipuka of The Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) and by AFSA General Coordinator Million Belay. The declaration is available online on the AFSA website: https://afsafrica.org/african-civil-society-declaration-on-the-african-european-union-partnership/



Workshop at VENRO Conference

AFSA co-organised a side event with faith-based organisations and AFSA members at the VENRO conference in Berlin. The eventbroughtAfricancivilsociety and faith-based organisations together with German NGOs, to share an African perspective on the land rights and agroecology nexus.

Healthy Soils Healthy Food

This year, AFSA collaborated with the Seed & Knowledge Initiative (SKI) to establish a community of practice across the continent to implement, share, develop, and spread farm and landscape management practices for healthy soils and food. The network involves 15 civil society organisations across East, West and Southern Africa. In 2020 the partnership ran a series of 12 learning and sharing webinars. The sessions each gathered 25-40 participants - mostly farmer trainers - from the Healthy Soil centres across Africa and were held on Zoom with simultaneous interpretation between English and French. External experts were brought in to share their experiences on issues such as techniques and methods for upscaling, compost making, minimum-till, FMNR, farmer research. Experts and organisations represented in the different sessions included Vijay Kumar from the Community Managed Natural Farming initiative in Andra Pradesh in India, Tony Rinaudo of the Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration initiative, McKnight Foundation's Farmer Research Networks, Groundswell International, and author Didi Pershouse.



Citizens & Agroecology Working Group

Introduction

In this year, AFSA worked towards influencing policies and institutions to gain increased citizen access to agroecologically produced food in Africa for better health and quality of life through active citizens' participation in the production, distribution and consumption of healthy food by working with like-minded individuals and institutions

Key accomplishments for 2020

In 2020, AFSA designed and implemented numerous programmes, projects and campaigns towards mobilising citizens across the African continent and beyond to demand, support and protect a food system that is just, sustainable, equitable, environmentally friendly and which upholds human rights. Broadly, AFSA started initiatives to develop an African food policy, carry out agroecological enterprises research, write a barefoot guide on nutrition, and expose and share food scandals. AFSA also convened a high-level online conference towards promoting territorial markets in Africa. Below are the highlights of the key accomplishments.

Development of an African Food Policy

In 2020, AFSA, in collaboration with the AU and UNFAO, embarked on a four-year political campaign aimed at developing an African food policy to guide the type and quality of food Africa intends its citizens to eat in the future, not just ensure sufficient quantity, access and choice for a growing and increasingly urban population. The policy will recognize the role of food in defining African identity, diversity and sovereignty. The policy will be a guiding framework that can be customized as and when necessary but not a 'one size fits all'. The policy development process went through an inclusive consultative and series of multimeetings. Collaborative actor research was commissioned in 2020, and the report is undergoing review to generate evidence to inform the development of the policy. AFSA mobilized resources to facilitate 24 country food policy dialogues and regional dialogues to identify priorities for reforms in food governance in Africa.

Agroecological Enterprises (AEEs) Research

AFSA, in collaboration with Agroecology Fund (AEF) with support from 11th Hour, commissioned a one-year collaborative research aimed at analysing existing AEEs and their service providers to understand how to enlist existing and emerging enterprises in creating an enabling environment for Agroecology. The first initial stage of the research was conducted with 68 enterprises (41 English, 27 French) in 17 countries in Africa. The study's initial findings informed high panel discussions during the 3rd Biennial Food Systems Conference and the Oxford Real Farming Conference. Much as the research is not yet completed, it has already generated significant interest worldwide. Biovision hasalreadybecomeaninterestedpartner to this research by committing funds to support the deep-dive research. The team created a set of guiding principles and formed and worked closely with a guiding and advisory group of four and six people respectively. This is a critical area, and AFSA will continue to take this forward after this first research phase.

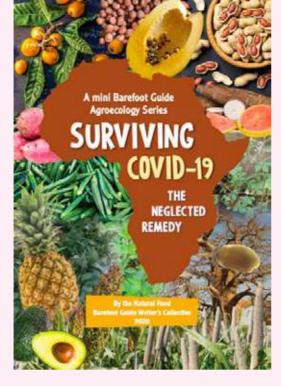


"Shaping the Future of Food Markets in Africa: What kind of markets do we need for the transition to agroecology?"

The 3rd AFSA Biennial Food Systems Conference and Celebration

From 27 to 29 October 2020, AFSA organised an unprecedented virtual third Biennial Food Systems Conference and Celebration. The conference brought together 25 key speakers and over 200 delegates from 64 countries, 37 of which were African. Participants representing farmers, research and development institutions, governmental and non-governmental organisations deliberated and explored issues relating to "Shaping the Future of Food Markets in Africa: What kind of markets do we need for the transition to Agroecology?" The event was aimed at understanding African markets and trends, shaping the future of markets for the transition to Agroecology and changing policy towards markets for healthy food systems in Africa.

The conference offered live interpretation in French and English, which enabled delegates to participate and engage with the presentations in their language of choice. Those unable to connect to the conference using the Zoom platform watched the event's live stream on AFSA's Facebook page. Participants used AFSA's social media pages to ask questions and continue the conversation using the conference hashtags: #AgroecologyMarkets, #AfricaFoodSystems, and #AfricaFeedsAfrica. After three days of fruitful deliberations, the delegates resolved to change policy towards territorial markets as the primary focus. They offered suggestions on the way forward, specifically research, advocacy, mobilisation, and educational efforts towards advancing such markets, as they are part of moving towards food sovereignty on the continent.



Barefoot Guide on Nutrition

In 2020, AFSA published "Surviving COVID-19: The Neglected Remedy" – the first Mini-Barefoot Guide and the first in a new Agroecology series. It is available in both English and French. The guide has been promoted by a number of stakeholders across the world, including the FAO and CONABIO in Mexico who have produced a Spanish version. AFSA members in two countries held a launch of the Barefoot Guide in 2020. The guide creates awareness of the value of African indigenous foods and cuisines, a diverse diet, and eating food grown without toxic chemicals as preventative measures against COVID-19 and a range of NCDs. AFSA, through the citizens working group, will continue to influence the launch of this guide in other countries, to integrate the content of the guide into the policies and institutions of government and guide public debate, programmes and policies on agroecology, food systems and nutrition. Work has started on a full-length Barefoot Guide on Nutrition.

The Mini-Barefoot Guide is available online.

English link: https://afsafrica.org/surviving-covid-19-the-neglected-remedy/

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Food Safety Scandals Work in partnership with GRAIN

Consumers need to join the struggles and campaigns around food sovereignty. To address this and create awareness among food consumers, AFSA and GRAIN embarked on a campaign to collect and document food safety scandals around Africa. The campaign is intended to document scandals with their genesis in the industrial food production process, especially since industrial food production has been promoted as the only way food security concerns can be addressed. This work overturns the narrative that industrial food production is a solution – we now know that it is a problem. The central argument here is that the industrial food system is not concerned about health and nutrition but about profits. Through this process, we are more confident than ever that agroecology is still the only safe, sustainable and inclusive process of food production; that the smallholder farmers are still our only hope to feeding the world, if only they could get the support (financially, socially and policywise) that they so require. GRAIN and AFSA are closely working together to ensure that they collect as many scandals resulting from consuming industrialised food as possible and also setting up a database for tracking these scandals. We continue to call upon others that have seen or come across these scandals on the continent to share them with us to continue to build this database.

Communications

2020 was the first implementation year of AFSA's five-year strategic communications plan. The document outlined four strategic pillars to enhance its communication.

Work for efficient, functional, and purposeful communication with AFSA's members

One of the significant highlights of the year was the



launch of AFSA's weekly media monitoring update. The idea was to create a reliable platform that can be used as an information-sharing hub to inform AFSA's members and the extended community with a vision of galvanizing a vibrant and informed pan-African movement towards food sovereignty and the transition to agroecology. From the outset, the program was an instant hit. There was a significant appetite for the latest weekly summary of news and reports relevant to the movement. The program received generous complements, spanning from people at FAO to African academia to CSO leaders to AFSA family and international partners. We have been consistent and never missed a single week since its first launch on March 6, 2020. We have shared more than 200 news articles and reports over a total of 37 weeks.

The other significant work with AFSA members is the three-day Communications Capacity Building Training for member organizations, including Messaging, Social Media campaigning, and Media interview Training for agroecology and climate change issues.

Timely storytelling of institutional news and success stories, enhancing AFSA's visibility and influence

We effectively exploited all the space we have to share and disseminate the latest organizational news and information. The major outlets are AFSA's website, social media, AFSA's google group mailing list, and MailChimp newsletter. The promotion of major AFSA's virtual events include book launches, online campaigns, Zoom webinar announcements, reports, and case studies.

- False Promise: The Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa, July 10-12, social media campaign.
- Landgrab at Gunpoint, book launch & social media campaign, August 25.
- Surviving Covid-19: The neglected remedy - book launch & social media campaign, September 10-11.
- The 3rd AFSA biennial food systems conference, October 27-29, live social media campaigning and streaming.
- Agroecology and Market Stories book launch & social media event & Mailchimp campaign newsletter.

Media relations with international, pan African, and national level journalists and media houses.

One of the most notable achievements of the year is the good working relationship forged with pan-African journalists specializing in environmental and agricultural journalism. We have also developed a media house and journalists' contact database with more than 100 contacts and 30 active African journalists listed. Below are some of the major activities done with media people.

- We worked with 21 journalists from 18 African countries to produce a compilation on "African Coronavirus Stories: Perspectives on COVID-19 Challenges to Livelihoods and Food Systems."
- We worked with 11 Journalists from 11 African Countries on a book titled "Agroecology and Markets-Stories from the field."

Communications work to expand AFSA's presence and influence on social media

The highlight of AFSA's communication for the year 2020 is the significant work done to improve AFSA's social media presence. We carefully designed and carried out a total of six digital campaigns. The first campaign was a three-daylong virtual campaign, and the remaining five are two-day campaigns. Below are the social media campaigns we successfully executed.

- Agroecology for Climate Action, social media campaign on Earth Day, April 21-23, organized in collaboration with AFSA's Climate Working Group. It was the main social media event of the year for AFSA, a milestone.
- AFSA joined the call for the 'International Seed Day, Not World IP Day' global digital campaign on April 26. We did this campaign with the help and guidance of AFSA's Seed Working Group. The official Hashtag of the international movement was #InternationalSeed Day not #WorldIPDay
- AFSA launched a two-day social media campaign on agroecology on World Biodiversity
 Day, May 21-22. We advocated for Agroecology, biocultural diversity, and No GMOs for
 Africa. The campaign hashtags were #NoToGMOs #Agroecology #BioculturalDiversity
- AFSA launched a two-day campaign on World Environment Day, June 5. AFSA's Hashtag for the event was #Agroecology4Nature
 - AFSA launched a two-day social media campaign on World Food Day with the motto of Transitioning to Agroecology for Just Food Systems and Resilient Future!
 - We used the International Hashtags #WorldFoodDay, #FoodHeroes. We promoted #Agrecology for a just food system.

In addition to the above-mentioned International days, we observed International Labour Day, World Forest Day, Mandela Day, World Poetry Day.

We have rightfully sustained our position as a thought leader regarding global and continental discourses related to Agroecology, Food Sovereignty and Food Systems.





Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)

During the year, several MEL activities were undertaken as presented below:

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning plan

We developed a monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) plan to guide the measurement of progress towards results. This plan is complete with key performance indicators to provide a basis for learning both by AFSA and her member organisations to improve the realization of AFSA's mandate.

Commission baseline study for the strategic plan

A baseline survey was commissioned in December 2020 as a benchmark for measuring progress to inform actions. The official work will start in January 2021. This report will provide a basis for measuring the impact of AFSA's five-year strategic plan 2020-2024.

Survey on Impact of COVID 19 on AFSA Member Organizations

Governments in Africa and elsewhere instituted wide-ranging measures to curb the spread of the disease, which had immense impacts on all aspects of life, including AFSA operations. AFSA undertook an online survey to understand the impact of the pandemic on the operation of AFSA member organisations in the delivery of their mandate and design appropriate support mechanisms to improve advocacy, interactions and coordination with members.

End of project evaluation for Bread for the World

AFSA, with support from BFW, has implemented a 3-year project (July 2017 – June 2020) that focused on food, climate change and land management. Following the end of the project, an evaluation was conducted. The findings show that the project fully achieved the three project objectives, and all five indicators were achieved above the set targets. Recommendations for further actions and improvement were provided in the report.

Development of project Gantt chart to track progress

During the year, an initiative was started to develop a tracking system to monitor activity implementation and budget status to inform management decisions and further actions. The process started with the AEEs project and others will follow in 2021. Once completed, it will provide real-time information on the percentage of project activities completed, activities lagging, on time or ahead of schedule, and expenditure performance compared to the planned budget.

Institutional Growth

The institution has grown considerably in the last year. Below are some of the major achievements.



AFSA finalized its 5-year strategy plan 2020-2024. This was informed by reviews done in the previous year and partly by an end of project evaluation done for a 3-year project supported by Bread for the World.



AFSA has recruited three new staff, a Communications Officer, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, and Campaign and Advocacy Officer. These have improved the efficiency of the secretariat.



The Senegal office has acquired new premises shared with SOS Faim.



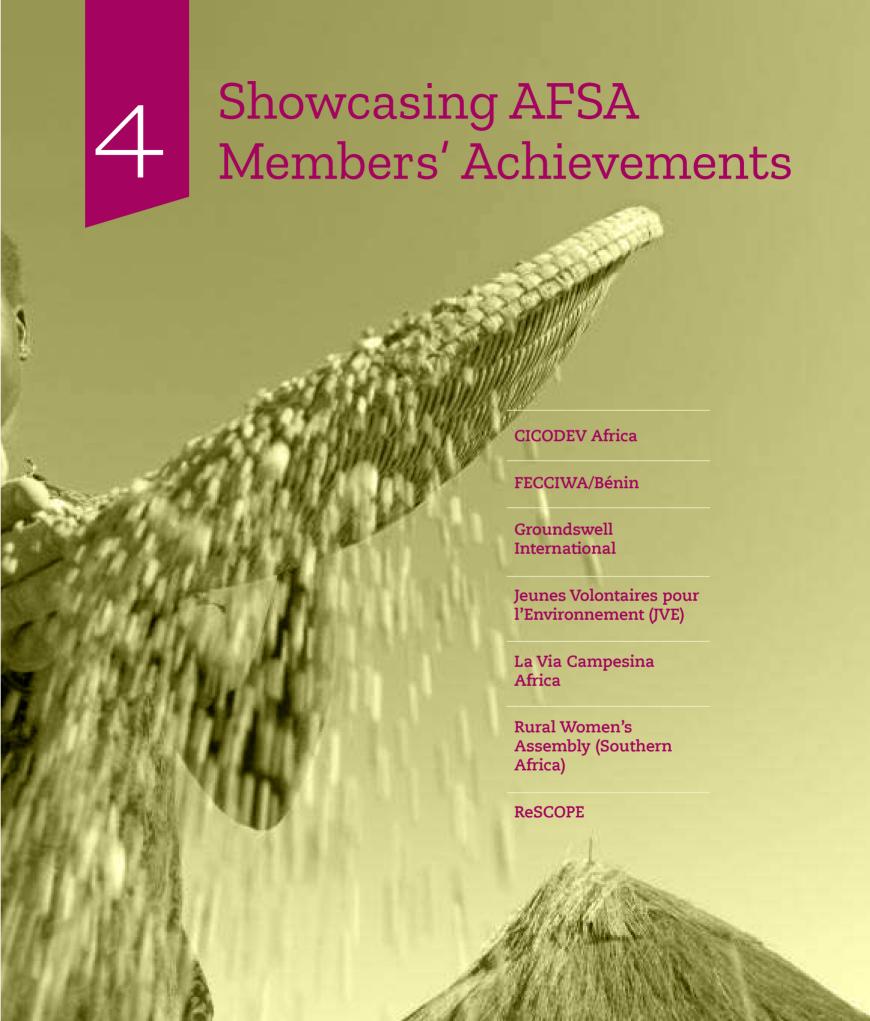
AFSA has developed new partnerships supporting both funding and joint implementation of activities. New partners include Welthungerhilfe supporting work on the African Food Policy, Rosa Luxembourg and SOS Faim.



AFSA's funding base has grown by more than 10%, including previously existing and new funding partners.



AFSA successfully organised its first online Annual General Assembly giving an opportunity to member organisations to have more than one participant representing the member institution.





CICODEV Africa

CICODEV Africa is the Pan-African research, training and action institute for Citizenship, Consumption and Development in Africa. It is an international non-profit association under Senegalese law, aimed at promoting the emergence of a movement of citizen-consumers awareness of the impact of their consumption choices on trade, the environment and development; the choices and models of citizen consumption that promote development and are able to fight against poverty; and the rights and duties of citizen-consumers with particular emphasis on promoting the consumption for the most disadvantaged citizens.

The Action

How can we reduce the vulnerability and poverty of citizen consumers by advancing their rights with a strong bias towards the most disadvantaged? Solving the problem

requires justice, fair use of the country's natural resources, an economy that reduces inequalities and does not discriminate against women or minorities, active citizens and informed consumers.

To this end, the Dynamics for an Agroecological Transition in Senegal (DyTAES) initiative, of which CICODEV Africa is a member, produced a document of contribution to national policies of agroecological transition which constitutes a first collective investment for an agroecological transition in Senegal.

To share the experience of Rufisque at the national level on the implementation of a Territorial Food Plan, CICODEV, in partnership with Enda Pronat, organized a televised debate around the food sovereignty of the territories on 5 December. The debate was structured around the central question: "How to build healthy and sustainable food sovereignty from our territories?" It brought together consumer organizations, producers, mayors, a representative of the State, local authorities, farmers' organizations, and non-governmental organizations. https://youtu.be/Fdsa68nx8qE

Achievements

Political: The Head of State of Senegal, Mr Macky Sall, has consecrated Agroecology as one of the priorities of his Emerging Senegal Plan (PSE), a reference framework for policies for an emerging Senegal by 2035. During the meeting of DyTAES with the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Equipment (MAER), the latter informed the DyTAES delegation that the government of Senegal will include in the budget dedicated to fertilizers a subsidy of at least 10 % for organic fertilizers. This rate could change depending on results and demand. He reiterated his commitment and his openness to supporting everything that is ecological and sustainable. "We borrowed our land from future generations, so we must not destroy it. You preach to the convinced; if organic fertilizers give good yields and are not more expensive than chemicals, why not go for it," continued the Minister.

Social: The televised debate on food sovereignty was broadcast on 2STV, a national television very popular with the Senegalese population and those of the diaspora. The reactions of Internet users on the various online platforms have revealed that consumers are aware of food sovereignty and the advantage of healthy, local and nutritious food.

Strategic alliances and capacity building: FAO and DYTAES organized a virtual meeting within the framework of the Initiative for the strengthening of Agroecology. As a result of this exchange, members of DyTAES identified possible areas of collaboration, particularly on FAO methodological tools, in order to see the possibilities of using them to monitor territories in Agroecological transition.

Lessons

Consumers are major players and carriers of this Agroecological transition by taking ownership of it, supporting it in their choice of consumption and demanding it from decision-makers and producers.

Awareness of consumers is essential for the adoption of Agroecology. Therefore, it is important to educate, inform, protect and defend them so that they are aware of the impact of their consumption choices for environmental protection and sustainable development.

FECCIWA

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The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA), in French "L'Association des Conseils Chrétiens et Eglises en Afrique de l'Ouest (ACCEAO)", is a regional community of Christian Councils and National Churches in thirteen West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo). It was founded in 1994 thanks to the determination of the Christian Councils of Gambia, Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria to be a regional ecumenical movement able to meet the challenges of West African populations on hunger, poverty, violation of human rights, injustice and armed conflict. It has its headquarters in Lomé, Togo. We

campaign for food sovereignty in churches with the slogan: "Produce what we consume and consume what we produce."

Achievements

We used the International Tree and Food Day to raise awareness and mobilize around the importance of trees and the Ten Commandments of Food. Each participant left with an example of the Ten Commandments of



Eating. We also provided some communities with handwashing devices as part of measures to fight COVID19. These activities were made possible with the collaboration of the NGO Déborah, which is a social promotion network in Benin.

Celebration of Tree Day

Tree Day was celebrated with students and teachers from the Protestant Methodist Institute of Theology (IPMT) of Dowa / Porto-Novo / Benin. This activity aims to help preserve the environment as well as limit the effects of climate change. Seedlings were planted on an estate of the Protestant Methodist Institute of Theology (IPMT) in Dowa, with the support of some members of the NGO Deborah.

Celebration of Food Day

Food Day was marked on October 15, International Rural Women's Day. A presentation debate was organized with the students of the Protestant University of West Africa (UPAO) on the theme "Growing, Nourishing, Supporting together". This theme, which addresses food security, aims to make young people aware of the influence of food on human health. A panel of three people led this discussion session on food security. We retain the following ten food commandments:

- 1. Give thanks for the food you eat
- 2. Eat foods grown as close as possible to where you live
- 3. Fight for all people to know about cheaper and nutritious food
- 4. Eat mindfully and in moderation
- 5. Don't waste food
- 6. Be grateful to those who grow and prepare the food for your table
- 7. Support fair wages for farmers, farm and food workers
- 8. Reduce environmental damage to land, water and air from food production and the food system
- 9. Protect the biodiversity of seeds, soils, ecosystems and food crops
- 10. Rejoice and share with the sacred gift of food

The "HOSANNA" radio broadcasts: the voice of hope

Several programs were produced with the radio team to raise awareness and mobilize listeners on the ten commandments, local consumption and local production based on Agroecology.

Groundswell International

Overview of our regional network activities in West Africa

In 2020, Groundswell's network members in West Africa helped small-scale farmers in rural

communities produce more abundant and nourishing food in ecologically sustainable ways, improve and diversify local diets, increase incomes, build resilience to climate change, restore degraded land, and strengthen local economies, while strengthening status and empowerment of women.

Achievements in 2020

Ghana: In the Upper West Region, CIKOD implemented activities to: strengthen the capacities of women farmers to establish 8 Village savings and loans associations mobilizing up to \$1,588 USD by one group; set up market gardens; improve management of their farm produce during and after harvesting, for safe food; train on the control of aflatoxins and post-harvest management; construct a 5,000-ton capacity food storage, treatment, and marketing facility with a drying floor; promote farmers' cooperatives and linkages with consumer groups in cities to secure market places.

Senegal:Groundswell'snetworkpartner"Agrecol" facilitated: secure access to land for several groups of women for market gardening areas; promotion of organic agriculture; marketing of their products by organizing "organic weekends"



in local markets; delivery of market garden products directly to citizen consumers; promotion of home consumption of market garden produce to improve the nutritional quality and diversity of family meals; support to 1,025 women in 41 women's savings and credit groups to mobilize local savings totalling \$4,922 USD.

Burkina Faso: In 2020, Groundswell's network member, the NGO association "ANSD": supported 100 villages to set up 177 savings and credit groups consisting of 3,792 women and mobilize over \$27,500 USD. Helped women saving and credit groups invest in agriculture and various incomegenerating activities such as livestock, market gardening, processing of agricultural products and non-timber forest products: promoted various livelihood activities.

Mali: Our network member, Sahel Eco: trained 200 women on nutrition and production of high value crops such as baobab, moringa and orange sweet potato; helped establish 450 women's home food gardens to improve their nutrition and income; supported 20 women's savings and loan groups, consisting of 447 members mobilize \$6,905 USD; helped 98 women in three women's groups set up and manage 3 units for the processing and marketing their non-timber forest products.

Within AFSA: Groundswell helped write, produce and disseminate the Barefoot Guide "Surviving COVID-19: The Neglected Remedy" about the role of food in strengthening the immune system of individuals. Groundswell also actively contributed to 3 AFSA Working Groups.

Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (JVE)

JVE seeks to empower the rural poor to achieve their fullest potential. It provides young people with environmental education and trains them into environmental protection champions in their schools, homes and communities. After completing the training, the youth graduate with knowledge on key environmental topics, project design and group management as well as the capacity to create solutions that respond to the key environmental problems in their communities.

In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, JVE is leading the promotion of Agroecology as a transformative and holistic solution to sustainable agriculture and food systems. This is developed based on a multidisciplinary approach where traditional knowledge coupled with modern and nature-based innovations are used to respond to the growing agricultural production needs at local, national and regional levels. JVE proposes local actions adapted to the needs of each local ecosystem, indigenous knowledge and the natural environment that contribute to charting the transition at national and regional levels.

Successes

A multistakeholder Agroecology movement has been created and reinforced and several discussion platforms activated, which has led to an increase in knowledge, information and experience sharing as well as sharing of practices among the Agroecology actors. Local women, farmer and youth groups have put into practice their skills and knowledge. An increase in those interested to practice and those already practicing Agroecology is evident.



Attention from the government and willingness to extend the platform for local multistakeholder actors' participation in charting a way forward in transforming the agricultural sector towards a more sustainable system. The government has seen the need to create a consultation platform that will permit actors to voice their opinions and concerns.

As a result of advocacy and lobbying efforts, the government finally included Agroecology in the national document that was initially targeting only organic agriculture. The document is now known as the National Strategy for the Development of Agroecology and Organic Agriculture, taking on board the various contributions from non-state actors.

An amazing result is the flexibility demonstrated by the government to postpone the validation workshop of the Agroecology and Organic Strategy to allow more input from a wide range of stakeholders, including other ministries within the same government. The Ministry is expecting CSOs to amend the document directly instead of just sending comments. A real breakthrough. This will allow for comprehensive review and inputs before validation takes place in 2021.

Local and traditional leaders of Grand Kloto have made a public engagement to promote Agroecology in their various localities. JVE has now signed several memorandums of agreement with several municipalities interested and willing to advance towards sustainability of their food systems and reap the benefits of Agroecology.

Publication of a study on soil restoration has reached various actors and increased understanding of the importance of Agroecology and enabled JVE to advance in advocacy efforts given the recorded evidence.

Lessons

There is strength in numbers. As a result of having the various agriculture and Agroecology networks as part of the movement promoting Agroecology, the government was obliged to render audience and consider the various propositions. Therefore, it is important to create a strong network of actors and a multidisciplinary alliance to strengthen the advocacy efforts.

Great impact in working with local government. The engagement of local and traditional leaders is vital to ensure acceptance and ownership of the movement at the local level. Local leaders and local authorities have been very useful in creating awareness and in support of the activities at the local level.

Financial partners are also stakeholders and need to be associated with the activities' implementation. This enables their direct contribution and the creation of a sense of credibility and value in the partnership. Vital advice and direction can also contribute to reaping the most impact from the activities.

It is important to capitalize on key assets such as the network's accrued knowledge, experience, tools and materials. As an organization, part of a network (or many networks) capitalizing on the resources available enriches the quality and impact of the activities. The support from other members is also a rich resource and a bank of knowledge from which efforts at local level can be amplified.

The use of communication platforms and keeping up with the trends is also a vital means to reach out beyond the local level and attract the interest of similar organizations and partners.

Evidence-based advocacy is critical in convincing policymakers and government officials at large about the real added value of full and active involvement of CSOs in the policy design process. CSOs must be up to date with relevant information and be able to channel it to relevant platforms where government officials can be reached.

La Via Campesina Africa

La Via Campesina (LVC) is now among the world's largest social movements, echoing the voices, hopes and aspirations of over 200 million small-scale food producers. Over the last three decades, this movement was built with patience and perseverance and the sweat and blood of peasants and indigenous peoples who work the land and wade the waters to feed nearly 70% of the world's population. It is a movement of the peasants, run by the peasants, to defend the interests of peasants and protect the earth.

In contemporary times, rarely can one find a social movement that has internationalised local struggles and built global solidarity, despite the challenges and constraints placed on rural communities and urban workers by a system of profit and greed. Today, this movement has established



a place for itself in several global spaces of decision making, defending people's food sovereignty, presenting a compelling evidence-based case for peasant Agroecology, and negotiating successfully international for that instruments protect the rights of rural communities. The movement has been in Africa since 2004. since the joining of the National Peasants Union of Mozambique (UNAC). LVC has 16 members in 15 African countries.

Achievements

In Southern and Eastern Africa, LVC has continued the strengthening of its network of Agroecology schools and programs through a wide range of focused interventions, including:

- improving water and energy (solar panels) access in training centres (Zimbabwe, South Africa, Kenya),
- the establishment of community seed banks, development of food sovereignty restaurant (DRC),
- · the establishment of Agroecological demonstration plots (Tanzania),
- and securing access to land for Agroecological production (Kenya).

We have also completed the translation of our "Peasant Agroecology achieves Climate Justice" into 10 African languages, making it now available in 13 different languages spoken in Africa (English, French, Portuguese, Luo-Uganda, Luganda, Lingala, Kikongo, Swahili — Tanzania and Kenya, Afrikaans, Tsonga, Shona and Ndebele).

The organization has continued the political education of our members on peasant feminism (Tanzania, Uganda) and held national speak-outs to end Violence against Women (Tanzania, Kenya, DRC, Uganda, South Africa).

LVC Africa completed the translation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other people living in rural areas (UNDROP) into 10 African languages, making it now available in 13 different languages spoken in Africa (English, French, Portuguese, Luo-Uganda, Luganda, Lingala, Kikongo, Swahili — Tanzania and Kenya, Afrikaans, Tsonga, Shona and Ndebele).

LVC Africa launched the first episode of our online series – Pollinations: Peasant Talks for Food Sovereignty, and has been part of the development and launch of the UN Decade of Family Farming communication campaign aimed at publicizing and mobilizing civil society engagement in its implementation.

The translation of our Peasant Agroecology Achieves Climate Justice primer and UNDROP into African languages are some of the main achievements both practically and symbolically. This will mark an important step towards bridging the significant language gaps in Africa, as far as moving forward the climate justice and peasant rights agenda in the continent.

Despite our significant efforts, it will still be an uphill battle to achieve climate justice in Africa, ensure the protection of peasant rights, and stop violence against women. We aim to continue to invest our time and effort into these lines of action and important others, such as the struggle against corporate capture of our African public policy spaces and institutions.

Rural Women's Assembly (Southern Africa)

The RWA is a regional grassroots (farmers, farmworkers, peasants and producers) movement based in Southern Africa. It focuses on building the collective voice and agency of poor rural women to act in their own interests and challenge patriarchy. One of the key areas around which the organization mobilizes is food and seed sovereignty and challenges the corporate capture of our seeds, our land and our biodiversity and actively campaigns around the Right to Say No!!

Achievements

We participated in the SAPSN (Southern African People's Solidarity Network) during the SADC Heads of State gathering in Mozambique in August, where we organized a speak out on the Corporate Capture of the FISP (farmer input subsidy programme). The organisation also mobilized its members to participate in the Alternative Mining

Indaba, where we challenged the multinational mining corporations that grab land and destroy livelihoods. The organisation also hosted its annual Feminist School.

Despite the challenges of COVID 19, the organization has managed to keep the movement alive and active. Though it has not changed laws as it is difficult to engage the SADC Secretariat, the organisation raised awareness of the problems of Farmer Input Subsidy Programmes. Women have also declared their intention to promote local seeds, share seeds, and continue advancing their seed sovereignty.

We have to think through access to low-cost data and technology and work to overcome the digital divide that excludes the rural poor.



ReSCOPE

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A member of ReSCOPE, Schools and Colleges Permaculture Program (SCOPE) Uganda is a network of 20 organizations that work with schools ensuring that children get practical education and lunch meal while developing ecologically sustainable an landscape where children get countless learning. Empowering children is at the forefront of all SCOPE activities, but they are aware that they cannot do this alone. SCOPE works with development partners member organizations that use



schools as entry points to the communities. Children have virgin brains, so they can passionately carry out agriculture in a way that heals the environment.

We work with schools, transforming their desert grounds into functional food forests. This enables children to get nutritious meals and the right skills for self-sustenance. We empower civil society organizations to enhance regenerative agricultural practices in order to ensure environmental health. We also carry out advocacy to ensure that regenerative agriculture is embedded in the national education curriculum. We also enhance the conservation of indigenous foods by creating household-based food forests. These food hubs enhance nutritional security and food sovereignty amongst hunger-stricken households in rural areas.

Successes

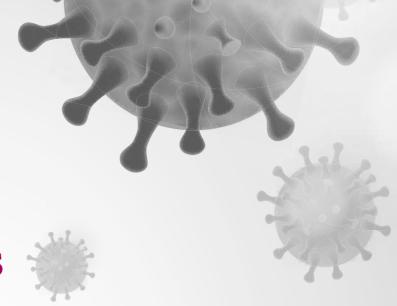
In 2020, we organized a seed and food celebration in partnership with AFSA. This was a wake-up call for farmers to realize that some indigenous seeds are becoming rare, yet they have a lot of nutritional and medicinal value. They learnt that they have to lead the battle of protecting these seeds from extinction.

We started a partnership with the Buganda Kingdom. Through this partnership, a total of 100 new civil society organizations wish to join the SCOPE network and work with us to scale up functional food forestry in their communities.

Three SCOPE member organizations have influenced the district education departments to integrate food forestry in the curriculum. These are ANAMED in Bundibugyo, Dream Farm in Kiruhura and St Jude Family Projects in Masaka.

We set up food forests in 5 schools. Within these schools, 12 teachers decided to use these food forests to disseminate practical lessons to children, especially in science classes.



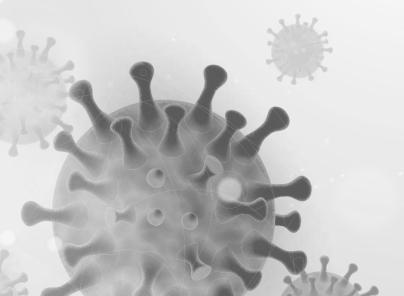


Challenges

Our biggest challenge for 2020 was COVID-19. COVID will still be a challenge this year as we do not know how long it will continue to disrupt our face-to-face meetings. Even though we have managed to hold a series of meetings virtually, our work needs a series of in-depth and extended face to face meetings.

Even though members' engagement with AFSA working groups was much better in 2020, there is still a need for improvement. Members' response to email requests and engagement in working groups need a lot of progress.

Fundraising and resource utilization was better in 2020, but an organization as broad-based as AFSA and working in 50 African countries needs a lot of resources. Fundraising needs to improve.







Way Forward

AFSA is showing significant growth, and its members are engaging much more with the organisation's activity. The four working groups are much better organized, and there are plenty of activities to do.

This has to continue. Even then, the forces that are bent on transforming African agriculture to their own benefit are also ramping up their activity. We are countering this throughour projects, including a focus on mobilizing farmers in more than 15 countries for landscape improvement, exploring the power of markets for promoting agroecology, using food dialogues in more than 20 countries to advocate for a sustainable food system, using the climate crisis as an opportunity for integrate agroecology in country climate-related policies, and campaigning for farmer-managed seed systems.

The strong relationship that we are creating with faithbased institutions for better engagement with the AU and EU process is another avenue to explore.

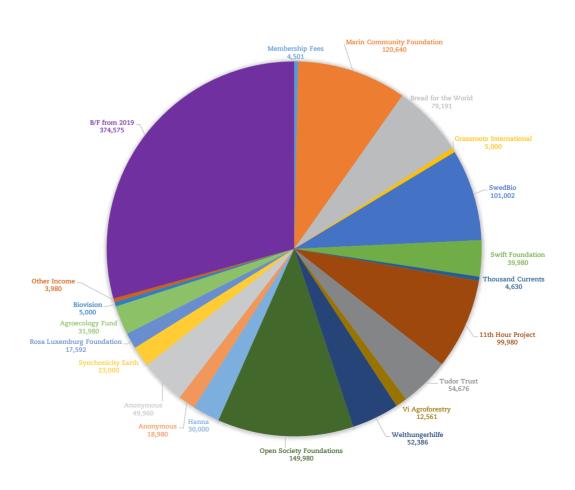
All in all, the future holds a lot of promise as well as a lot of challenges.

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Financial Report

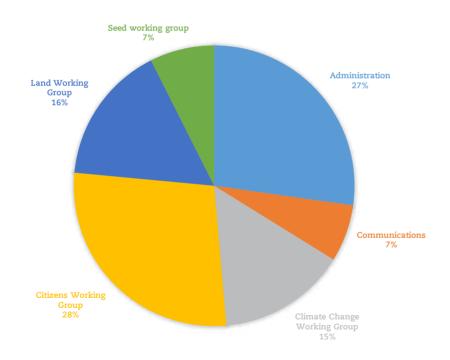
INCOME (USD)

Membership Fees	4,501
Grants	869,538
Other income	3,980
Brought forward from 2019	374,575
TOTAL INCOME	1,279,594



EXPENDITURE (USD)

Total Expenditure	878,390
Balance	401,214

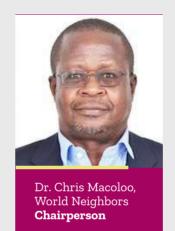


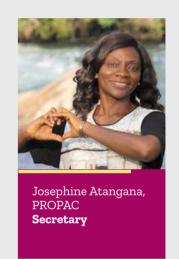


Our Board of Directors

The current board members were elected at the General Assembly in Addis Ababa in November 2019.

















































































Our Partners

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



























For a world without hunger

