

EDITORIAL

This first quarter 2026 edition of the AFSA Newsletter captures a period of intense reflection, sharpened advocacy, and strategic action across Africa and beyond. From Lilongwe to Dakar, Garuga to Cartagena, AFSA and its members engaged critical questions shaping the future of African food systems, including school meals, land justice, seed sovereignty, public agricultural finance, cross border agroecological trade, territorial markets, and citizen mobilisation. Across these interventions, one message stands out clearly: the struggle for food sovereignty is not only about production, but also about power, policy, markets, culture, and the right of African people to define their own food futures.

In these pages, readers will see how AFSA continued to link grassroots realities with continental and global advocacy. This edition highlights the adoption of the Lilongwe Declaration on agroecology based school and college meals, AFSA's participation in ICARRD+20 in Colombia, the launch of a major report on the African Development Bank's role in reshaping African agriculture, renewed calls to centre farmers in regional seed policy processes, and important internal moments of alignment through the AFSA staff retreat, the Citizens Working Group on Agroecology meeting, and the TAFS annual review workshop. It also documents growing momentum in public campaigns and movement spaces, including the #MyFoodMyIdentity online campaign and continued efforts to strengthen agroecological trade, territorial markets, and African food cultures.

What this edition reflects most of all is AFSA's continued commitment to building a food systems movement rooted in justice, resilience, dignity, and African knowledge. Whether confronting corporate capture, defending land and seed rights, supporting local markets, or reshaping public narratives around food, AFSA's work remains anchored in the conviction that Africa's food future must be led by its farmers, communities, women, youth, and social movements. We invite you to read, reflect, and continue walking with us as we strengthen the movement for agroecology and food sovereignty across the continent.

THE LILONGWE DECLARATION

ON AGROECOLOGY-BASED SCHOOL AND COLLEGE MEALS

On 22 January 2026, more than 80 delegates from Kenya, Uganda and Malawi adopted the Lilongwe Declaration on agroecology based school and college meals in Lilongwe, Malawi. The meeting brought together educators, school administrators, entrepreneurs, researchers, civil society organisations, development partners and policy actors to discuss agroecology based school and college food procurement systems in East and Southern Africa.

Participants recognised that

school meal programmes are critical for nutrition, education, gender equality, social protection and local economic development, but are also shaped by climate change, rising food prices, environmental degradation and policy gaps. They affirmed a shared regional vision for school and college meal systems that are agroecology based, home grown, inclusive, climate resilient and supported by coherent policies and accountable governance.

Through the declaration, delegates

committed to promoting diversified and culturally appropriate local foods, strengthening links between schools and smallholder farmers, expanding school gardens and food forests, supporting women and youth across the value chain, and advancing research and advocacy to integrate agroecology into school feeding systems. They also called on governments, farmers, civil society, researchers and development partners to provide sustained support for agroecology based home grown school and college meals across the region.

AFSA Staff Meeting in Senegal Aligns Team on Strategy, Coordination and Priorities for 2026

From 2 to 4 February 2026, the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa held a three-day staff retreat and strategic planning meeting at Hotel Jardin Savana in Dakar, Senegal, bringing together all 17 full time staff members. The retreat created space for collective reflection on AFSA's ongoing work, organisational practices and staff welfare, while also deepening shared understanding of the political and economic context shaping the organisation's operating environment. Through presentations, group work and internal dialogue, staff reviewed achievements and challenges from 2025, clarified expectations for 2026 and strengthened alignment around AFSA's six pillar Theory of Change.

The meeting examined key issues affecting AFSA's strategic direction, including geopolitical shifts, climate finance, the role of the African Development Bank in agriculture, and the need to integrate financial flows analysis across AFSA's thematic work. Staff also reviewed major programmes and working groups, including climate and agroecology, My Food Is African, cross border trade, agroecological entrepreneurship, the Congo Basin initiative, seed systems, land and soil, youth engagement, communications, knowledge generation through participatory action research, monitoring and evaluation, network building, and

finance and administration. Across these sessions, staff identified important gains in policy engagement, movement building, communication reach and programme implementation, while also noting challenges related to coordination, funding sustainability, monitoring systems, procurement, staff workload and cross working group collaboration.

The meeting concluded with practical actions to strengthen internal performance and organisational coherence in 2026. These included developing individual key performance

indicators, improving financial and procurement systems, enhancing staff capacity in fundraising, lobbying and accountability, strengthening communications across new digital platforms, and mapping priority AFSA events for the year ahead. Staff also identified stronger linkages across working groups through joint festivals, convenings, campaigns and enterprise initiatives, reinforcing AFSA's effort to connect land, seed, climate, food systems and citizen action under a more integrated continental strategy.



Civil Society Organisations Raise Alarm Over Exclusion of Farmers from Regional Seed Strategy Discussions in West and Central Africa

On 12 February 2026, the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa, together with civil society organisations and farmers from West and Central Africa, issued a press release from Thiès, Senegal raising alarm over the exclusion of farmers from a sub-regional seed sector workshop organised by CORAF and FAO in Abidjan. While recognising the importance of regional dialogue on seed systems, AFSA and its partners warned that any strategy developed without meaningful participation of peasant organisations risks undermining the rights of farmers whose seed systems remain central to food production across Africa.

The statement argues that the workshop process largely sidelined civil society and peasant actors with longstanding experience in community seed banks, seed fairs and participatory seed development. AFSA and its allies also criticised the continued use of the term informal seeds in policy discussions, stressing that recent African

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Through the press release, AFSA and partner organisations called on CORAF, FAO and regional institutions to ensure that future seed policy processes fully include farmers' organisations and civil society, align with the African Union's evolving policy direction, and strengthen peasant seed systems as the foundation of resilient African food systems. The statement reaffirmed that farmers are not peripheral actors but the custodians and innovators of the seed systems that feed the continent, and insisted that the future of seeds in Africa cannot be decided in spaces where farmers are absent.

New Report: Who Is Financing the Future of African Agriculture?



On February 24, 2026, the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa launched a new report titled Tracking the Role of the African Development Bank in Reshaping African Agriculture. The report asks a critical question: whether the African Development Bank is financing food systems that truly serve Africa's people. Researched by Dr Keiron Audain for AFSA, the study analyses 20 AfDB supported agricultural projects and examines how public agricultural finance is shaping the continent's food systems at a time of worsening climate shocks, biodiversity loss and food insecurity.

The report finds that despite strong rhetoric around food security and climate resilience, a significant share of AfDB financing continues to reinforce agro industrial models built on monocultures, synthetic inputs and corporate value chains. It shows that farmer managed seed systems, agroecological practices, territorial markets and Indigenous knowledge remain underfunded and marginalised. Across the 20 projects assessed, the study found that none achieved high agroecological alignment, and that major flagship programmes such as TAAT and the Special Agro Industrial Processing Zones scored at the lowest end because of their uniform, top down and technology driven design. The study also exposes persistent gaps in transparency and participation,

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noting that communities are frequently consulted but rarely empowered to shape decisions, even when investments directly affect their land, livelihoods and diets.

AFSA says the report is both an analysis and a call to action. It argues that Africa does not need a blind expansion of industrial agriculture, but greater investment in agroecology, crop diversity, resilient seed systems and local food economies that strengthen sovereignty and community control. Through this launch, AFSA is calling on the African Development Bank and African governments to ensure that public resources build resilient, community rooted food systems rather than entrenching models that deepen dependency, degrade soils and concentrate power in corporate hands.



AFSA Supports Emerging African Agroecology Tourism Initiative

The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) is supporting a new continental initiative the African Food and Culture tourism (AFCT), that links agroecology, food culture, and tourism to strengthen local economies and reconnect people with African food systems. The initiative aims to bring together farms, agroecological centres, and communities across the continent to host visitors seeking authentic food, cultural, and ecological experiences.

From 21–23 February 2026, the initiative's Steering Committee met in Entebbe, Uganda, at Country Lake Resort in Garuga to develop a strategic direction for the next two years. The meeting brought together eight members from Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, including agroecology practitioners, organizers, and community leaders.

Over three days, participants reviewed nearly two years of discussions, refined their vision and principles, and developed a practical workplan. The meeting highlighted several key issues shaping the initiative: a growing global demand for authentic travel experiences, the rapid expansion of domestic tourism within Africa, and the

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increasing disconnect especially among urban youth between people and the origins of their food.

Participants agreed that Agroecology Tourism offers a powerful way to celebrate local cultures, support small farms, and regenerate ecosystems while creating viable community enterprises. The steering team will now establish a Community of Practice, identify country initiators, and develop a continental platform to connect agroecological tourism sites and share learning across Africa.

AFSA Brings Land Justice and Agroecology Agenda to ICARRD+20 in Colombia



Peoples, pastoralist networks, researchers and faith based actors gathered to renew commitments on land justice and rural development. AFSA used the conference to advance its continental land agenda, strengthen global alliances and highlight the growing threats posed by land concentration, land grabbing, ecological degradation and food insecurity. During the conference, AFSA organised a side event titled Protect Our Land, Restore Our Soil: Collective Territorialities for Land Justice, Pastoralist Futures, and Ecological Restoration and used the platform to foreground community led land governance, agrarian reform and agroecology as central pillars of just and sustainable food systems.

During the side event, AFSA also released a position statement calling for urgent action to protect collective and customary land rights, defend pastoralist rangelands and cross border mobility, and resist the growing pressures of agribusiness expansion, extractive industries, carbon offset projects and speculative land markets. The statement stressed that rural communities across Africa and the Global South continue to face dispossession and exclusion

despite long standing global commitments on agrarian reform, and warned that land justice cannot be separated from ecological restoration, pastoralist futures and food sovereignty. It further called on governments, international institutions and development partners to end land speculation, redirect agricultural and climate finance toward agroecology and community led food systems, protect land and environmental defenders, and ensure meaningful participation of affected communities in all land, agriculture and climate decisions.

The wider conference discussions reaffirmed that unequal land distribution remains a major obstacle to food security, climate resilience and social justice. AFSA and its allies stressed that agrarian reform must go beyond policy language and translate into concrete protections for rural communities, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and pastoralists who sustain food systems and ecosystems. AFSA's participation strengthened its visibility as a leading African voice on land justice and reinforced its call for stronger alliances, deeper integration of agroecology into land and food policy debates.

From 24 to 28 February 2026, the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa participated in ICARRD+20, the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, in Cartagena, Colombia, where governments, civil society organisations, Indigenous

AFSA Citizens Working Group Meets in Uganda to Set New Priorities for Agroecology Mobilisation in Africa



On 27 and 28 February 2026, the Citizens Working Group on Agroecology convened its Review, Strategic Planning and Coordination Meeting at Country Resort Hotel in Garuga, Uganda, bringing together AFSA members and partners to reflect on progress, assess challenges and define priorities for the next phase of collective action. The meeting reviewed CWGA's role as AFSA's platform for mobilising citizens around agroecology, food sovereignty and fair food systems, and highlighted its contributions to major initiatives such as the My Food Is African campaign, Barefoot Guides, agroecological entrepreneurship, territorial markets, cross border trade and African food policy advocacy. Participants agreed that the gathering was a critical moment to clarify CWGA's identity, strengthen coordination and renew collective ownership of its future direction.

Discussions recognised important achievements, including strong policy engagement, growing visibility of the My Food Is African campaign, grassroots storytelling, and the successful involvement of diverse actors such as chefs and policymakers. At the same time, participants identified major gaps, including uneven member participation, limited youth leadership, weak cross country amplification of activities, centralised fundraising, insufficient documentation of member initiatives

and a growing tendency for CWGA to function mainly as an oversight body for funded programmes rather than a dynamic learning and mobilisation space. The meeting also explored how the group should define itself, with members describing CWGA variously as a movement, catalyst, platform, network and working group, but reaching common ground that its unique role lies in connecting citizens, consumers, markets and policy processes within the agroecology movement.

Looking ahead, participants agreed that CWGA should continue strengthening the My Food Is African campaign, promoting African food cultures and engaging chefs and food practitioners, while placing greater emphasis on food safety, consumer awareness, access to agroecological foods, media engagement and value addition. They also proposed starting new grassroots citizen engagement platforms, improving documentation and sharing of member experiences, creating thematic working teams, building fundraising capacity and establishing clearer annual planning and accountability mechanisms. The meeting concluded with practical next steps, including preparation of the meeting report, development of a calendar of celebrations and events, profiling of members, and follow up online sessions to carry the reflections into the wider CWGA process.

Strengthening Agroecological Trade in Africa



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From 19–23 January 2026, policymakers, regulators, traders, civil society organizations, and agroecology practitioners from across Eastern and Central Africa convened in Arusha, Tanzania, for a Regional Training Workshop on Agroecology, Agroecological Produce, and Cross-Border Trade Regulations, organised by ESAMI–trapca in collaboration with the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA). The workshop brought together 50 participants from eight countries, including Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, and Togo, to strengthen regional capacity for trading agroecological products within the EAC and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) frameworks.

The training responded to growing recognition that agroecology contributes significantly to food security, climate resilience, biodiversity, and rural livelihoods, yet producers and traders still face serious

barriers when accessing regional markets. Discussions revealed that regulatory procedures, certification costs, inconsistent standards enforcement, and complex border documentation remain major obstacles for small-scale traders, cooperatives, women, and youth involved in agroecological trade.

Through technical sessions, policy simulations, and a field visit to the Namanga One-Stop Border Post, participants examined how trade rules, inspections, and border coordination affect agroecological products in real trading environments. The workshop emphasized practical reforms including risk-based regulation, improved coordination among border agencies, and greater use of digital tools such as ePhyto and electronic certificates to reduce delays and costs. Participants left the training better equipped to promote inclusive, transparent, and climate-resilient trade systems that enable agroecological producers to compete fairly in regional markets

TAFS Partners Meet in Uganda to Review Progress and Set Priorities for 2026

From 24 to 26 February 2026, the Transforming the African Food System to Sustainability Annual Review, Planning and Learning Workshop was held at Country Lake Resort, Garuga, Entebbe, Uganda, bringing together 29 participants from TAFS partner organisations and the AFSA Secretariat. The workshop created a structured space to reflect on implementation during 2025, identify major outcomes and failures, review challenges, and align strategic priorities for the remaining period of the project. Guided by Outcome Harvesting as the central reflection framework, participants examined how project interventions had influenced policy processes, school food systems, citizen mobilisation, network building and cross border agroecological trade.

The discussions highlighted important gains across the consortium. These included policy advances such as submission of Uganda's draft National Agroecology Strategy and regional commitments within the East African Legislative Assembly, changes in school feeding and food behaviour in Ghana and Zambia, stronger public mobilisation through food festivals and youth platforms, and growing visibility of the My Food Is African campaign. At the same time, partners reflected on major setbacks, including stalled policy processes, weak translation of awareness into behaviour change, persistent trade and market barriers, poor multi actor coordination, funding and planning



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weaknesses, and strategic assumptions that had not delivered the expected results. Participants agreed that reflecting on failures was critical for improving strategy, strengthening accountability and building adaptive capacity across the project.

The workshop concluded with development of the Year 3 work plan around four core outcomes: increasing preference for healthy and culturally appropriate food, strengthening networks of food systems actors, supporting policy adaptation and adoption, and promoting cross border trade and

regional collaboration. Planned activities include food and seed festivals, cooking demonstrations, documentaries, school gardens, policy dialogues, agroecology standards consultations, support to participatory guarantee systems, and advocacy to remove non tariff barriers affecting agroecological trade. The meeting also called for stronger quarterly coordination, better policy and trade tracking, more consistent outcome documentation, and a clear sustainability roadmap to ensure that the gains of the TAFS project are consolidated beyond the current funding cycle.

The My Food My Identity Online Campaign reached more than 7 million citizens and reclaimed African Food Pride



Social media posts and campaign pages framed African food as a living expression of culture, ancestry, ecological knowledge, and dignity.

Across the continent, the campaign gained life on social media through AFSA members and TAFS partners who adapted the message to their own national realities. Public posts show strong participation from organisations such as SCOPE Kenya, CNOP-CAM, ZAAB in Zambia, CIKOD in Ghana, CICODEV Africa in Senegal, ESFSAC in Ethiopia, CNPAF-

RDC in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Association Tunisienne de la Permaculture in Tunisia, alongside related participation and reposting by schools and agroecology networks in Southern and Eastern Africa. In several cases, organisations connected the campaign to country-specific identity tags such as #MyFoodIsSenegalese, #MyFoodIsZambian, and #MyFoodIsZimbabwean, showing how the wider message was rooted in local culture, language, and food traditions. The #MyFoodMyIdentity campaign is estimated to have reached about 7,569,050 people across digital platforms through partner posts, cross-posting, hashtag engagement, and wider online circulation.

The campaign's impact can be seen in the way partners used it to do more than post pictures of food. Social media posts and campaign pages framed African food as a living expression of culture, ancestry, ecological knowledge, and dignity. In Zambia, campaign messaging stressed that food is not just about what is eaten, but about history and lived experience. In Ghana, CIKOD's campaign posts highlighted food and culture connections. In Senegal, CICODEV Africa tied the campaign to consuming local food and asserting national and African food identity. In Ethiopia, ESFSAC linked the campaign to public events and youth-facing mobilisation around African food heritage. Together, these examples suggest that the campaign helped renew public conversation on indigenous foods, agroecology, and the need to value African diets on African terms.

Although this phase of the campaign ended, its message remains as relevant as ever. We encourage citizens across Africa to continue sharing their food stories, traditional dishes, local ingredients, and cultural food knowledge under #MyFoodMyIdentity. Every post helps keep Africa's food heritage visible and valued. We are also planning more campaigns in the coming months to keep building public pride in African foods, strengthen awareness on food sovereignty, and inspire a new generation to reconnect with the foods that define who we are.

The #MyFoodMyIdentity online campaign emerged as a powerful call to celebrate African food, culture, and memory. The campaign's central objective was to encourage people to rediscover, promote, and take pride in indigenous and traditional foods, while also supporting food sovereignty, local food systems, biodiversity, and the knowledge held by farming communities. It is an effort to bring forgotten and endangered foods back to the table and to restore pride in food as part of identity and heritage.

Training of Trainers on Integrating Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems into African Territorial Markets



From 18–20 February 2026, the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) convened a Training of Trainers (ToT) in Entebbe, Uganda, bringing together 40 participants from Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Ghana, and Togo to strengthen the integration of agroecology into African territorial markets. The participants drawn from civil society organizations, farmer networks, and national partners met to explore how local markets can better support

sustainable food systems and smallholder livelihoods.

Discussions revealed persistent challenges within African food systems. Participants emphasized that smallholder farmers, who produce much of the continent's food, still struggle with weak market infrastructure, unstable pricing, and limited policy recognition for territorial markets. The growing dominance of industrial agriculture and export-oriented value chains was also noted as a factor that sidelines indigenous crops,

diversified farming, and local food cultures.

Participants examined practical models for integrating agroecology into territorial markets. These included establishing direct producer consumer markets such as organic or agroecological market days, strengthening Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) to build trust and verify agroecological products, and working with existing market committees to create dedicated stalls for agroecological foods. Other approaches highlighted

were digital promotion tools, farmer networks supplying local markets, and awareness campaigns that link healthy diets to agroecological production.

A field visit to Kitoro Farmers Market in Entebbe allowed participants to observe how local markets operate and identify opportunities to scale these models. Participants left with action plans to train farmers, traders, and market leaders, helping strengthen resilient, locally rooted food systems across Africa.

Taking Stock and Learning Forward on Progress from TAFS Monitoring Visits and the Mid-Term Evaluation

By *Abbot Ntwali, AFSA MEL Coordinator, March 2026*

How is the Transforming African Food Systems (TAFS) project progressing across countries? What is changing on the ground? And what must be strengthened in the next phase?

To answer these questions, AFSA carried out monitoring visits to 11 partner organisations in nine countries and commissioned an independent Mid-Term Evaluation of the project. Together, these processes created space not just to review activities, but to listen, reflect, learn, and sharpen the path ahead.

The overall picture is encouraging. The Mid-Term Evaluation rated TAFS at 4.2 out of 5 (84%), pointing to strong relevance and effectiveness in advancing agroecology and food sovereignty. It found that the project has helped move food systems issues from the margins of civil society advocacy into wider public and policy conversations, while directly reaching more than 250,000 people and indirectly reaching over 4 million since early 2024.

The field visits showed that this progress is not abstract. It is visible in schools, communities, media spaces, and public institutions.

In Ghana, AFSA found clear signs of behaviour change. In Wa, five of the six targeted schools had revised their menus to include more local foods, and food vendors around the schools reported

growing demand for traditional dishes. The visit also confirmed that school-based work is helping shift attitudes about what children eat and what schools promote.

In Senegal, the campaign is helping communities reconnect food, health, and farming. Women in Kaolack and Tambacounda reported reducing reliance on chemical inputs and consuming more locally grown, chemical-free vegetables. At the same time, CICODEV built a network of 18 journalists, helping strengthen media engagement around agroecology and African foods. The organisation also opened dialogue with the Ministry of Education on integrating agroecological foods into school feeding programmes.

In Cameroon, the monitoring visit highlighted the growing public and institutional visibility of agroecology. CNOP-CAM's work is contributing to stronger advocacy momentum and helping position agroecology and indigenous foods more firmly in national debates and implementation spaces.

In Ethiopia, AFSA saw a promising youth-led approach taking shape. ESFSAC trained youth social media ambassadors to produce practical, engaging content on traditional foods, nutrition, and where people can access indigenous dishes. This is helping make the campaign more relevant to younger audiences and more visible in digital spaces.

The Mid-Term Evaluation reinforces these field-level findings. It shows that the My Food is African campaign is performing

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particularly well in network development (4.8/5) and policy advocacy (4.5/5). Across several countries, campaign recognition is high and cultural resonance is strong. But the evaluation also offers an important reminder: awareness alone is not enough. Many households now value agroecological and culturally appropriate foods, but regular access and consumption are still constrained by price, weak market infrastructure, and other structural barriers.

That is why these learning processes matter. AFSA's monitoring visits were not designed as fault-finding exercises. They were opportunities for accompaniment, joint reflection, and practical problem-solving with partners. They helped document emerging outcomes, surface evidence gaps, and identify what needs more attention in the final stretch of implementation. Across several countries, the visits also pointed to the need for stronger MEL systems, more consistent outcome documentation, and better tracking of inclusion, especially for persons with disabilities.

The message coming through is clear: TAFS is building momentum. It is helping communities value African foods, strengthening networks of food system actors, and opening new policy spaces for agroecology and food sovereignty. At the same time, it is reminding us that transformation requires more than visibility. It also needs affordability, stronger evidence, sustained organising, and continued learning.

As AFSA and partners move into the second half, the lessons from these visits and the Mid-Term Evaluation will help ensure that the work ahead is not only active but smarter, sharper, and more grounded in what is happening on the ground.

Battle for African Agriculture Podcast Probes Big Tech, Biodigital Agriculture and Corporate Power

Since January 2026, AFSA's Battle for African Agriculture podcast, hosted by Dr Million Belay, has turned sustained attention to one of the most urgent emerging frontiers in African food systems: the rise of biodigital agriculture, big tech expansion, data governance and the growing corporate capture of agriculture. Across four episodes in the current reporting period, the podcast brought together leading international experts Edward Ongweso Jr., Jim Thomas, Lim Li Ching and Professor Jennifer Clapp to unpack how digital technologies, artificial intelligence, platform systems and corporate concentration are reshaping the political economy of farming. Through these conversations, the podcast examined not only what these technologies are, but who finances them, who controls them, who benefits from them and what they mean for African farmers, food sovereignty and agroecological futures.

The discussions exposed a consistent pattern across the four conversations. Edward Ongweso Jr. argued that technologies are never neutral, but are shaped by political and corporate interests, warning that what is called digitization in agriculture often amounts to privatization, surveillance and new forms of dependence. Jim Thomas described biodigital agriculture and generative AI as extractive systems tied to energy use, mineral extraction, water consumption and data capture, linking these developments to corporate consolidation by companies such as Bayer, Syngenta ChemChina and Corteva, and warning of a new era of biopiracy and digital colonialism in Africa. Lim Li Ching reinforced these concerns by showing how big tech firms such as Amazon, Microsoft and



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Google are converging with agribusiness giants to turn farm data into a new frontier of power, while Professor Jennifer Clapp situated these trends in the longer history of industrial agriculture, explaining how patents, finance, state support and corporate mergers created the lock ins that continue to trap farmers in input intensive systems.

Taken together, the four episodes made clear that the struggle over African

agriculture is no longer only about seeds, fertilizers or land, but also about data, infrastructure, digital platforms and the governance of technology itself. The conversations warned that Africa is increasingly being treated as a frontier for biodiversity mining, data extraction and corporate experimentation, yet they also pointed to the possibility of resistance through

agroecology, community knowledge, territorial markets and democratic control over technology. By convening these voices, Battle for African Agriculture has helped sharpen AFSA's public narrative on emerging corporate threats to African food systems while equipping listeners with critical analysis on the links between biodigital agriculture, corporate concentration and the future of food sovereignty on the continent.

