

This edition therefore tells a story of convergence. Laws, markets, seeds, finance, climate, culture and community action are often treated as separate fields, yet the quarter showed how deeply they depend on one another. AFSA's achievement was to hold these threads together and to keep African farmers, citizens and communities at the centre of each conversation. What emerges is not simply a record of completed activities, but evidence of a movement gaining stronger tools, clearer positions and greater influence over the decisions that will shape Africa's food future.

EALA grants formal approval for drafting a law that could strengthen farmers' rights and agroecological food systems

The decision followed several years of advocacy by AFSA and its partners to move agroecology from policy dialogue into a binding regional framework. The proposed Bill would establish a Regional Agroecology Coordination Unit and National Agroecology Councils in Partner States, recognise the participation rights of small scale producers and provide a pathway for phasing out highly hazardous pesticides. It would also protect farmer managed seed systems and allow Partner States to adopt stronger national measures while aligning regional implementation with the EAC Treaty.

With parliamentary leave secured, the Committee can proceed with technical review, stakeholder consultations, public hearings and eventual presentation of the Bill to the full Assembly for debate and voting. AFSA and its coalition partners will continue providing technical input and coordinating consultations to ensure the proposed law reflects the realities of smallholder farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk and Indigenous communities across East Africa.

Producers, processors
and market actors
agree on practical
steps to improve
business capacity,
market access and
collaboration

From 9 to 10 April 2026, SHIWAKUTA convened 36 participants at Royal Village Hotel in Dodoma for the National Convening for Agroecological Small and Medium Enterprises and Territorial Markets. Organised with technical and strategic support from AFSA, the meeting brought together producers, processors, marketers, market managers, government representatives and civil society actors to strengthen collaboration, improve market access and develop practical strategies for advancing agroecological enterprises in Tanzania. Discussions were informed by findings from a national profiling study, which showed growing demand for healthy and environmentally responsible products, while also revealing persistent barriers related to business formalisation, finance, packaging, value addition and reliable markets.

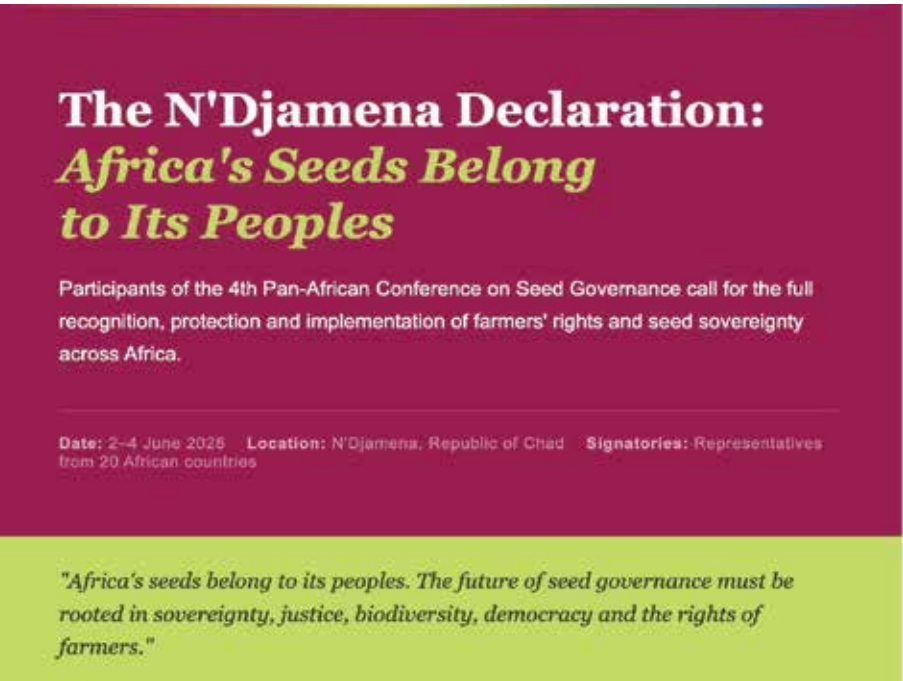
Through presentations, group discussions, product exhibitions and peer learning, participants examined how agroecological businesses can improve



quality, visibility and competitiveness. Entrepreneurs showcased products including honey, spices, sunflower oil, dried vegetables, herbal tea, indigenous seeds, nutritional flour and fresh produce, while market managers from Kilombero, Samunge, Mbauda and Kibaigwa shared insights on consumer demand, pricing, packaging and supply requirements. The convening also created direct business connections among producers, processors and traders and highlighted successful enterprises whose growth had been supported through improved skills, equipment, market engagement and value addition.

The meeting concluded with a joint action plan covering production, access to agroecological inputs, enterprise development, certification, digital marketing, market infrastructure and policy advocacy. Participants also established a WhatsApp platform and elected a leadership team to support continued coordination and collective representation. These outcomes provide a foundation for stronger market linkages, sustained peer learning and coordinated action to build resilient, inclusive and locally rooted territorial food systems in Tanzania.

Seed Is Life Campaign Mobilises Africa to Defend Farmers’ Seeds



Continental campaign links farmer testimony, seed sovereignty and international human rights advocacy

From 25 to 27 April 2026, [AFSA marked International Seed Day](#) through the 2026 [Seed Is Life campaign](#), a continent-wide mobilisation to protect farmer managed seed systems and defend farmers’ rights to seed. The campaign highlighted that an estimated 80 percent of Africa’s food is produced from seeds saved, exchanged and nurtured by farming communities across generations. It also connected AFSA’s continental seed sovereignty work with a series of consultations organised in partnership with the United Nations Working Group on the Rights of Peasants.

More than 140 farmers, civil society representatives, farmer organisations and seed rights advocates from 18 African countries participated in consultations held in English, French, Portuguese and Kiswahili, with observers from Nepal and Portugal. Their testimony will inform the Working Group’s thematic report on the right to seeds under Article 19 of the United Nations

Declaration on the Rights of Peasants, which is expected to be presented to the United Nations Human Rights Council and General Assembly in October 2026. Participants consistently highlighted the role of women as seed custodians, the importance of community seed banks, the need for regional and continental legal protections, and widespread gaps in public awareness.

AFSA warned that farmer managed seed systems are increasingly threatened by corporate seed laws, legislation aligned with UPOV 1991, the expansion of genetically modified crops and growing political and corporate influence over seed policy. These pressures risk transferring control of seeds from communities to companies while weakening biodiversity, cultural identity and climate resilience. Through the Seed Is Life campaign, AFSA reaffirmed that seeds are not merely agricultural inputs, but the foundation of food sovereignty, identity, culture and life.

AFSA Questions the Agricultural Future Being Financed by the AfDB

From 25 to 29 May 2026, during the African Development Bank’s Annual Meetings in Brazzaville, AFSA called for closer scrutiny of the agricultural systems being financed under the theme of mobilising Africa’s development financing at scale. [Drawing on two AFSA studies and research from the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies](#), the organisation highlighted how the Bank has become one of the continent’s most influential agricultural financiers while directing substantial resources towards agro industrial zones, large agribusinesses and corporate value chains.

Three studies reveal persistent support for industrial agribusiness over farmer led food systems

The research challenges claims that Africa contains vast areas of unused land awaiting commercial development. AFSA argues that this idea repeats colonial assumptions about empty land and overlooks the reality that smallholder farmers manage around 80 percent of Africa’s farmland and provide up to 80 percent of the food consumed in sub Saharan Africa. Yet investments supporting diversified, farmer led and agroecological systems remain marginal.

AFSA called on the Bank to create an Agroecology Transition Window, adopt meaningful ecological performance indicators, improve transparency and guarantee community consent before investments proceed. It also urged the Bank to protect local markets and farmer managed seed systems, arguing that the central choice is not whether Africa should receive investment, but which model of African agriculture that investment will build.



AFSA and S3F Challenge Africa’s Emerging Financial Architecture



From 25 to 29 May 2026, during the African Development Bank’s Annual Meetings in Brazzaville, the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa and Stop Financing Factory Farming released [a joint statement examining the proposed New African Financial Architecture for Development](#). While welcoming the principle of African capital financing African development, the organisations raised a central question about what kinds of development that capital will support and who will have the power to decide.

The statement warns that the proposed architecture contains no firm commitment to agroecology, no safeguards against corporate monoculture expansion, no protection for smallholder food systems and no binding conditions on land rights. AFSA’s assessment of 20 African Development Bank agricultural projects found that none achieved high agroecological alignment, while the 2026 African Economic Outlook does not mention agroecology despite its extensive discussion of development finance.

AFSA and S3F argue that African pension funds, sovereign wealth and

diaspora capital could finance an agroecological transition at scale, but only if farmers, communities and civil society are included in investment decisions. Without democratic control and a binding investment mandate, they caution that the new architecture could simply use African savings to finance the same extractive model it claims to replace.

Joint statement calls for democratic control over development capital and a binding commitment to agroecology

My Food Is African Barefoot Guide Turns Stories into Citizen Action

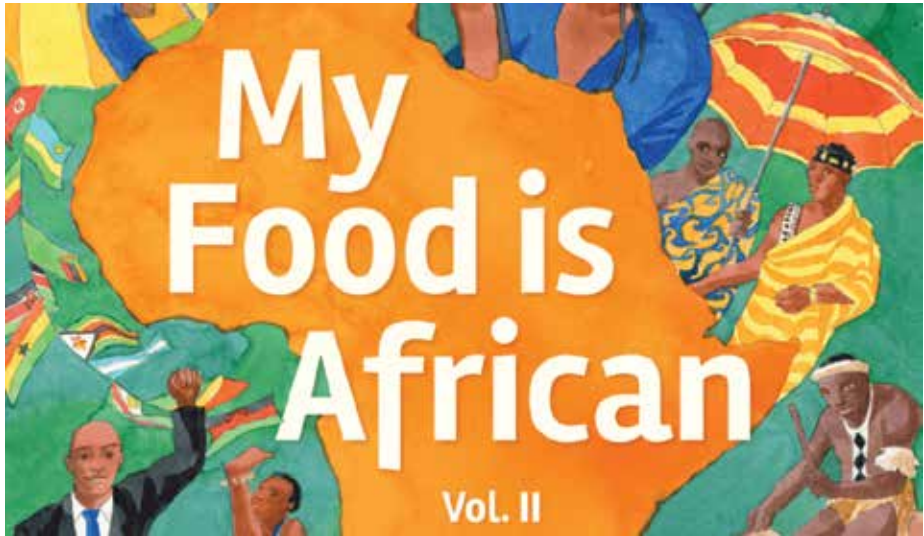
On 26 May 2026, [AFSA launched My Food Is African Barefoot Guide Volume II: How Citizens Are Reclaiming African Food Systems](#) during a virtual gathering held under the theme From Story to Movement. Participants from across Africa and beyond joined a celebration of African food diversity while reflecting on the growing displacement of traditional foods by imported products, ultra processed foods and fast food cultures. AFSA General Coordinator Dr Million Belay described the launch as part of a wider effort to reclaim African food, memory, dignity, biodiversity and cultural confidence.

Drawing on stories from campaigners and communities in 13 African countries, the new volume moves beyond household diets to examine the markets, policies, advertising, corporate power and public institutions that shape what people eat. Through readings and

discussions, participants explored the loss of traditional foods and market cultures, the spread of dietary colonisation and the role of citizens in resisting and rebuilding food systems. The guide presents citizens not as passive consumers, but as organisers, storytellers and advocates capable of transforming food systems through collective action.

Participants proposed using the guide through schools, community dialogues, podcasts, food festivals, youth activities, media campaigns, chef led events and policy advocacy. Designed as a living tool rather than simply a publication, Volume II encourages communities to read, reflect, organise and act together. Its central message is that reclaiming African food systems begins in homes, schools and local markets, but must extend to policies that protect agroecology, territorial markets, farmer managed seed systems and culturally rooted diets.

Second volume invites communities to reclaim African food, culture and sovereignty



N'Djamena Declaration Advances Africa's Farmer Managed Seed Systems



From 2 to 4 June 2026, AFSA convened the [Fourth Pan African Conference on Seed Governance in N'Djamena](#), Chad, bringing together farmers' organisations, civil society groups, national agricultural research institutes, gene bank representatives, Plant Treaty focal points, regional institutions, the

African Union Commission, women and youth organisations, development partners and the media from 20 African countries. The conference took place on the eve of the official launch of the African Union's Continental Policy and Strategy Frameworks for Farmer Managed Seed Systems, a major milestone achieved through the sustained efforts of AFSA, its members,

Pan African conference welcomes continental policy progress while calling for strong national and regional implementation

allies and partners.

The conference was organised in two phases, beginning with an analysis of the seed governance context before moving to the development of collective strategies. Participants examined the opportunities created by the new continental framework as well as the challenges that could undermine farmer managed seed systems, including restrictive seed laws, corporate concentration, the digitisation of agriculture, external influence over national seed policies and the conversion of biological heritage into private assets. They reaffirmed that farmer managed seed systems provide most of the seeds used by African farmers and remain central to agricultural biodiversity, climate resilience,

cultural identity and food sovereignty.

The gathering concluded with the adoption of the N'Djamena Declaration, which welcomed the African Union Commission's progress in recognising farmer managed seed systems while identifying concerns that must be addressed during implementation. Participants committed to supporting the domestication of the continental framework at national and regional levels, strengthening farmers' rights to save, exchange and use seeds, and protecting community control over Africa's seed heritage. The declaration sends a clear message that Africa's seeds belong to its peoples and must remain under their stewardship.

East African Advisory Committee Sets Strategy for Agroecological Cross Border Trade

Regional stakeholders agree on priorities for law, certification, market access and coordinated implementation

From 4 to 5 June 2026, AFSA convened policymakers, legislators, traders, government agencies, civil society representatives and regional trade experts at Lake Victoria Hotel in Entebbe, Uganda, for the Advisory Committee Strategy Meeting on Cross Border Trade for Agroecological Produce. The meeting reviewed progress under the regional project, including the EAC Agroecological Produce Trade Knowledge Hub, stakeholder capacity building, policy engagement and the Jinja Declaration, while examining persistent barriers such as weak certification systems, limited market infrastructure, high compliance costs and gaps in policy harmonisation.

Participants explored both the policy opportunities and practical challenges shaping agroecological

trade in the East African Community. Discussions highlighted the proposed EAC Agroecology Bill as an important opportunity to establish a harmonised legal framework for agroecology, seed sovereignty, farmers' rights and regional trade. At the same time, traders and market actors stressed that progress must respond to realities across the full value chain, including production, aggregation, transport, border procedures, certification, market information and access to buyers. The meeting also reviewed ways to strengthen the visibility and long term use of the multilingual Knowledge Hub as a practical source of information on trade procedures, policies, markets and non tariff barriers.

The meeting concluded with a coordinated engagement strategy



built around four priorities: advancing the EAC Agroecology Bill, strengthening governance and partnerships, improving certification and product recognition, and expanding market access and commercialisation. Participants also operationalised the Advisory Committee to provide technical guidance, track regional

developments, support advocacy and coordinate quarterly engagement. The agreed strategy establishes a clearer pathway for turning policy momentum into practical improvements for farmers, women and youth traders, producer organisations and territorial markets across East Africa.

AFSA Launches Agroecology Policy Brief at UN Climate Talks in Bonn

On 8 June 2026, at the opening of the sixty fourth session of the United Nations climate negotiations in Bonn, [AFSA launched a new policy brief positioning agroecology as an essential pathway for climate action in Africa](#). The brief was released as African countries continue to experience severe climate impacts despite contributing the least to global greenhouse gas emissions. Staple crop yields may decline significantly by 2050, while climate related losses are already placing considerable pressure on national economies.

The brief focuses on three interconnected areas of the negotiations. It calls for the Sharm el Sheikh Joint Work on Agriculture to move from dialogue towards implementation and place agroecology at the centre of climate action in agriculture. It also argues that



New policy analysis calls for climate action centred on small scale food producers and frontline communities

food systems must become a central component of the Just Transition Work Programme and that agroecology should be recognised within adaptation discussions and the Belem Addis Vision.

AFSA urged negotiating parties to ensure that climate finance reaches small scale food producers, women, youth, pastoralists and Indigenous Peoples who are already developing practical responses to climate disruption. The organisation warned that continued delays in implementation will deepen the vulnerability of communities facing escalating climate shocks and called for frontline knowledge to guide future climate policy.

AFSA Advances Agroecology at UN Climate Talks in Bonn

Delegation engages negotiations, African negotiators and civil society ahead of COP31 and COP32

From 8 to 18 June 2026, AFSA participated in the sixty fourth session of the United Nations climate change subsidiary bodies in Bonn, Germany, where delegates followed negotiations on agriculture, adaptation, just transition and climate finance. Anchored in AFSA's Agroecology for Climate Action campaign, the engagement built on earlier advocacy at COP30 and focused on strengthening the place of agroecology within official climate policies and implementation processes. The delegation also contributed to side events, held bilateral meetings with negotiators and partners, and used strategic communications to raise awareness of the role of agroecology in climate resilience.

Agriculture negotiations under

the Sharm el Sheikh Joint Work on Agriculture and Food Security made limited progress, with substantive proposals removed from the text and agroecology reduced from a standalone paragraph to a footnote among several concepts. Discussions on the Global Goal on Adaptation and climate finance also remained unresolved, particularly around adaptation finance, governance of the indicator taskforce and implementation of developed countries' financing obligations. More progress was recorded under the Just Transition Work Programme, where food systems, agriculture and agroecology featured more clearly in an informal note, although broader discussions continued to prioritise energy transitions.



Beyond the formal negotiations, AFSA strengthened engagement with the African Group of Negotiators, whose Chair publicly recognised the organisation's contribution to sustainable food systems advocacy. The delegation also opened discussions with Ethiopian government representatives ahead of COP32 in 2027 and met partners including Climate Action Network, HUMUNDI, the African Climate

Foundation and GIZ. AFSA's policy brief, press conference, media engagement and daily delegate coordination reinforced its call for climate action that places agroecology, small scale food producers and frontline communities at the centre of implementation.

New Report Examines World Bank Influence on African Livestock Systems

In June 2026, the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy launched [The Bank Takes the Lead?, a new report examining the World Bank Group's growing role in financing livestock development in East and Southern Africa](#). The study finds that as other Green Revolution proponents have retreated, the World Bank has emerged as a dominant force in African agricultural transformation. Its annual agricultural spending on the continent tripled between 2021 and 2024 to nearly USD 3 billion, while approximately USD 12 billion has been committed to livestock related projects since 2014 across 29 countries in sub Saharan Africa.

The report warns that many World Bank livestock investments promote a productivist model centred on intensification, industrial value chains and large supply systems. Some projects even aim to reduce the



The Bank Takes the Lead questions whether expanding agricultural finance is supporting African farmers or deepening industrial control

number of farmers operating in particular countries or regions. Private sector lending through the International Finance Corporation has also expanded sharply, supporting major agribusinesses such as ETG, Zambeef and DAL Group. Despite language around climate action and small farmer development, the report argues that farmers are often positioned as indebted suppliers within value chains they have little power to influence.

AFSA and IATP call for a different direction rooted in agroecological livestock systems, pastoralism, public extension services, locally available feed, territorial markets and stronger national policy autonomy. The report concludes that these approaches would better strengthen food security, climate resilience and dignified rural livelihoods than the continued expansion of industrial livestock systems.

New AFSA Publication Shows How Communities Are Restoring African Soils



Healthy Soil Healthy Food initiative documents farmer led transformation across ten countries

In June 2026, AFSA released [Healthy Soil, Healthy Food, Healthy Communities](#), a new publication documenting how farmers and communities across ten African countries are restoring soil fertility and rebuilding food systems through agroecology. The publication responds to a widespread crisis in which declining soil health, unstable yields and rising dependence on costly external inputs continue to undermine smallholder livelihoods.

The publication draws on the work of

16 community based Healthy Soil Healthy Food centres operating in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, Togo, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Through locally produced biological inputs, farmer led experimentation and peer learning, participating communities are rebuilding fertility, reducing dependence on purchased inputs and generating evidence that is beginning to influence policy discussions.

The report profiles experiences from the centres, identifies lessons from implementation and offers recommendations for governments, researchers, civil society and development partners. Its findings show that healthy soils are not simply an environmental objective, but a foundation for human dignity, resilient livelihoods, nutritious food and food sovereignty across Africa.

Healthy Soils Initiative Expands Farmer Led Agroecology Across Three Countries

From April to June 2026, partners in Uganda, Kenya and Burkina Faso expanded the Healthy Soils, Healthy Food Initiative by strengthening agroecological learning hubs that equip farmers, youth and local leaders with practical approaches to restoring soil health. Across the three countries, the initiative combined farmer training, local research, bio input production, enterprise development and institutional partnerships to reduce dependence on synthetic inputs and build more resilient food systems.

In Uganda, AFIRD partnered with Uganda Martyrs University, UGOCERT and district authorities to strengthen technical support, research and certification pathways for community led

Community learning hubs in Uganda, Kenya and Burkina Faso strengthen soil restoration, local enterprise and rural resilience

bio input enterprises. Ten Community Based Trainers, with equal representation of women and men, were trained and are now supporting 130 smallholder farmers across Wakiso, Mukono and Buikwe districts. Technical visits improved bio input quality and introduced digital tools for accessing agricultural information, while women entrepreneurs such as Nakiwu Monica began using project supported equipment to process biochar fertiliser and develop local businesses linked to soil restoration. In Burkina Faso, BIO Protect GIE trained 576 producers in agroecological production, 19 young people in plant protection and 18 local trainers in facilitation and adult learning, using demonstrations on composting, bioprotector preparation and farmer field schools to restore degraded soils

and strengthen political awareness among local leaders.

In Kenya, BIOGI trained 13 new Trainers of Trainers, organised learning exchanges with the Organic Agriculture Centre of Kenya and introduced Participatory Action Research with Maseno University to combine scientific evidence with farmer experience. New farmer clusters are establishing biofertiliser enterprises, while trial plots are showing improvements in soil carbon, soil pH and crop performance. Farmers are also adapting these practices to household food production, including portable gardens enriched with locally produced biofertilisers, demonstrating how the initiative is turning agroecological knowledge into practical innovations, stronger livelihoods and healthier communities.

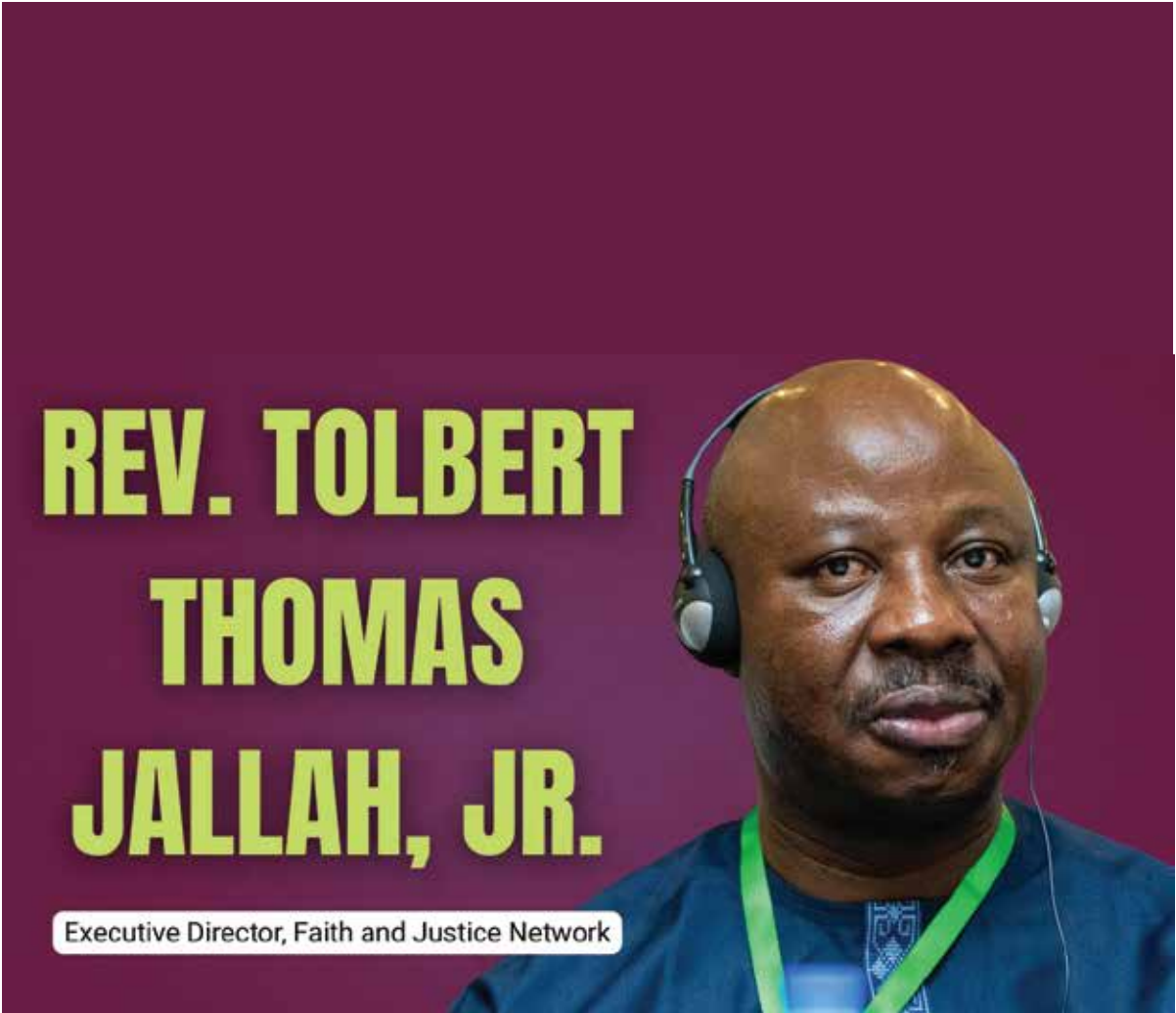
Meet Reverend Tolbert Thomas Jallah, AFSA Chair

New Board Chair brings decades of faith leadership, regional advocacy and commitment to justice

During the second quarter of 2026, AFSA introduced [Reverend Tolbert Thomas Jallah Jr.](#) as the new Chairperson of its Board of Directors, following his election at the organisation’s General Assembly in October 2025. Rev. Jallah is an ordained Lutheran priest, researcher, peacebuilder, doctoral candidate at St. Paul’s University in Kenya and Executive Director of the Faith and Justice Network, which works across Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Côte d’Ivoire.

He holds a master’s degree in Peace and Governance from Africa University in Zimbabwe and is completing postgraduate studies in development economics with a focus on contemporary African economies. Before joining the Faith and Justice Network, he served for nearly a decade as Secretary General of the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa, where he advanced work on food justice, climate advocacy and trade policy reform.

Born in Zorzor, Liberia, Rev. Jallah overcame severe hardship and limited access to education to become a respected regional voice for justice and food sovereignty. His leadership brings together faith, scholarship and practical advocacy, strengthening AFSA’s commitment to a continent where food systems uphold dignity, community rights and ecological wellbeing.



AFSA Launches New Digital Home for Africa’s Food Sovereignty Movement



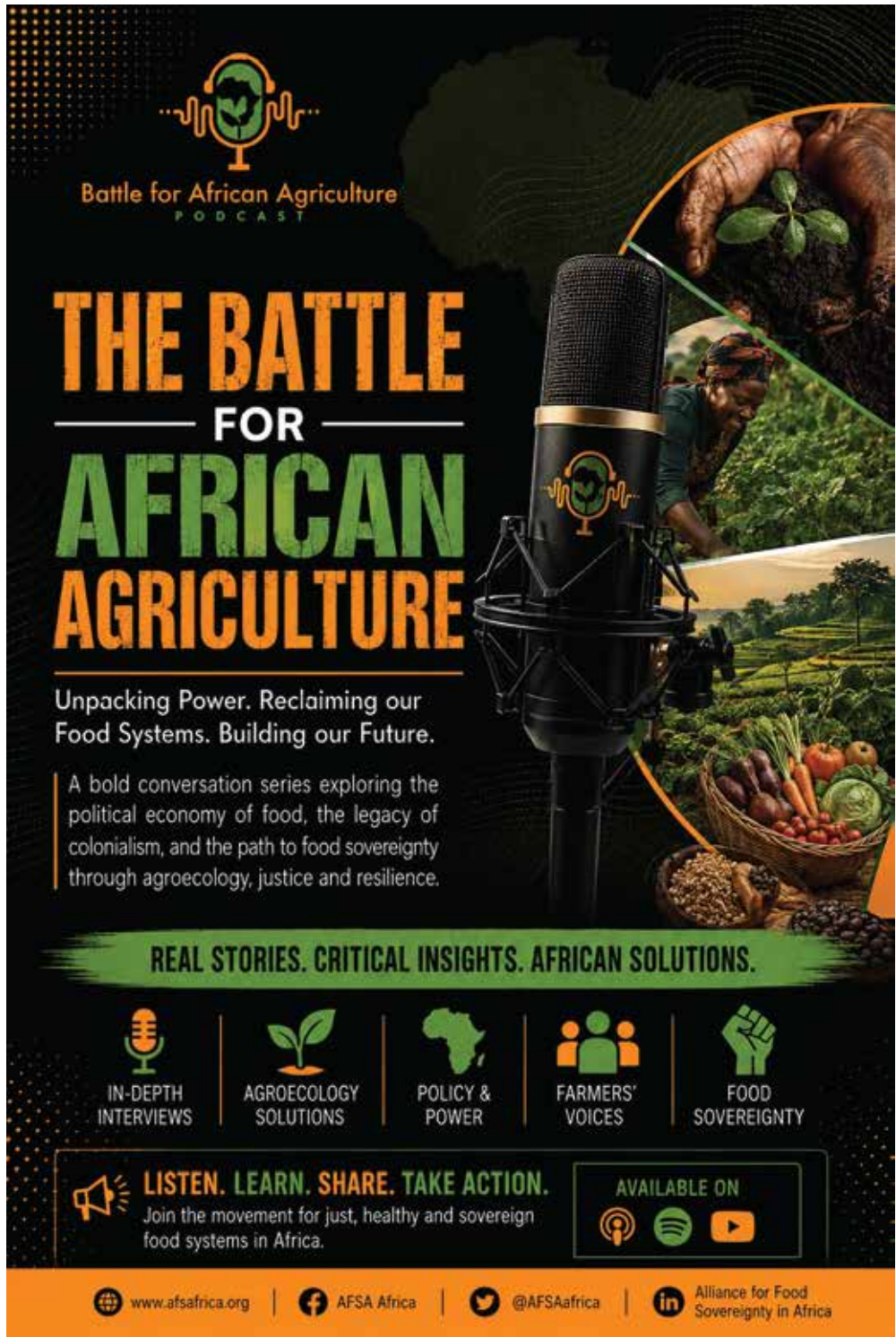
Redesigned website expands access to campaigns, knowledge and the organisation’s continental network

During the second quarter of 2026, [AFSA launched its newly redesigned website](#), creating a more accessible and dynamic digital platform for its members, partners and the wider public. The new website reflects AFSA’s identity as a major civil society movement working across Africa to advance agroecology, food sovereignty and the right of African people to shape their own food systems.

Visitors can explore AFSA’s four Pan African campaigns, learn about its Theory of Change and access a searchable knowledge library containing hundreds of reports, publications and advocacy resources. The platform also introduces the 48 member alliances working across 50 African

countries and provides clearer pathways for journalists, researchers, donors and citizens to understand and engage with AFSA’s work.

The website was developed as more than an institutional showcase. It is designed as a shared movement resource that connects evidence, campaigns, member experiences and public action. Through the new platform, AFSA aims to strengthen knowledge exchange, expand the visibility of grassroots initiatives and deepen continental engagement around Africa’s food future.



The Battle for African Agriculture: Quarter of Critical Conversations

From April to June 2026, [The Battle for African Agriculture Podcast](#) continued its journey of examining who controls Africa’s food systems and what must change for the continent to reclaim its agricultural future. Hosted by Dr. Million Belay, the quarter featured five guests across seven episodes: Christopher Wali Magala, Pat Mooney in a three part series, Hon. Gideon Gatpan, Hon. Françoise Kiza, and Dr. David Kabanda. Together, they brought perspectives from civil society, global activism, regional parliament, law, policy, and food systems governance.

Across the quarter, the conversations explored the political and economic forces shaping African agriculture, including corporate concentration, industrial agriculture, seed control, emerging technologies, weak legal protection, and externally driven policy agendas. Pat Mooney’s three part series offered a deeper examination of the global powers, technologies, and corporate interests influencing agriculture, while the June episodes brought the discussion closer to East African policy realities. Hon. Gideon Gatpan and Hon. Françoise Kiza reflected on regional agricultural laws, agroecology, farmers’ rights, women’s participation, climate pressures, hazardous chemicals, food culture, and the persistent

gap between policy commitments and implementation. Dr. David Kabanda placed law, justice, health, governance, and accountability at the center of the struggle for food sovereignty.

The quarter’s journey showed that the battle for African agriculture is not simply about producing more food. It is about who controls seeds, laws, markets, knowledge, technology, and public policy. At the same time, the episodes advanced a clear alternative rooted in agroecology, farmer managed systems, African knowledge, stronger regional laws, public accountability, and people centered food systems. Through these conversations, the podcast continued to establish itself as a bold platform for challenging dominant narratives and amplifying African voices working to build a sovereign, healthy, and just agricultural future.