



ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

1 JULY 2025 -
30 JUNE 2026







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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACRONYM		ACRONYM	
AAE	Agroecological Enterprise	JVE	Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (Youth Volunteers for the Environment)
ACS2	Second Africa Climate Summit	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
AFIRD	Agency for Integrated Rural Development	MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
AFSA	Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa	MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
AGM	Annual General Meeting	MFIA	My Food Is African
AGN	African Group of Negotiators	NAP	National Adaptation Plan
ARAA	Agence Régionale pour l'Agriculture et l'Alimentation	NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
ASANE	African Sciences for Agroecology, Nutrition, and Ethnobotany	PAR	Participatory Action Research
AU	African Union	PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
AUC	African Union Commission	PGS	Participatory Guarantee System
BIOGI	Bio Gardening Innovations	RASIP	Regional Agrifood Systems Investment Plan
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme	RCCDN	Rwanda Climate Change and Development Network
CAFOD	Catholic Agency for Overseas Development	REC	Regional Economic Community
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	RUFORUM	Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture
CCARDESA	Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa	SABESA	Strengthening Agroecology-Based School & College Meals Systems in East and Southern Africa Project
CEMAC	Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa	SADC	Southern African Development Community
COBCAI	Congo Basin Biodiversity, Climate and Agroecology Initiative	SB64	64th Sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	SFHC	Soils, Food and Healthy Communities
COP	Conference of the Parties	SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
CROPS4HD	Consumption of Resilient Orphan Products for Healthier Diets	SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo	TABIO	Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity
EAC	East African Community	TAFS	Transforming African Food Systems
EALA	East African Legislative Assembly	TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States	TM	Territorial Market
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	TRAPCA	Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa
ESAMI	Eastern and Southern African Management Institute	UNDROP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas
FMSS	Farmer-Managed Seed Systems	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
GIE	Economic Interest Group (Groupement d'intérêt économique)	UNFSS	United Nations Food Systems Summit
HSHF	Healthy Soil, Healthy Food	UPOV	International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants
ICARRD+20	International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development +20	UVM	University of Vermont
IFA	Institute for Agroecology	WG	Working Group
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights		

Message from

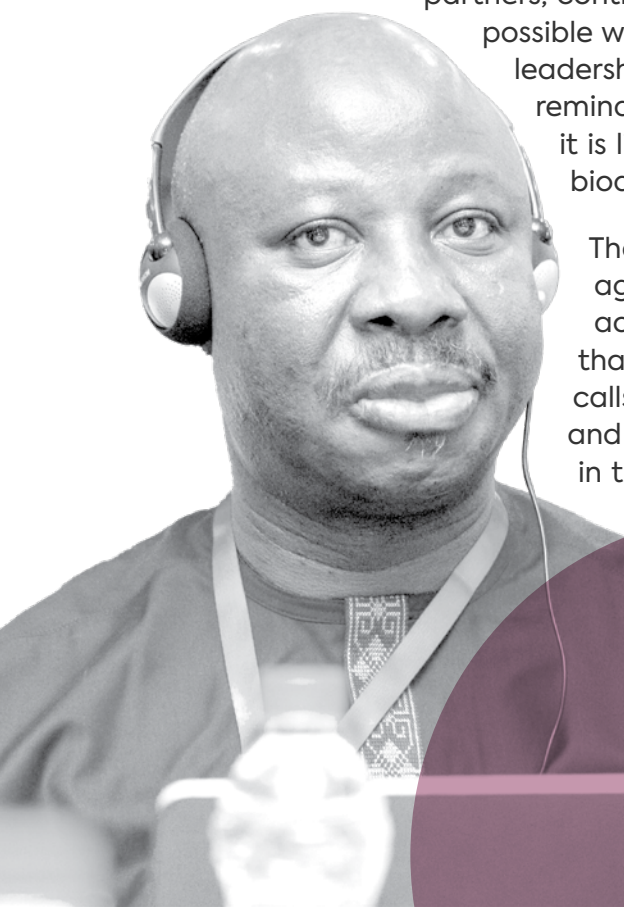
Chairperson of the Board of Directors

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present AFSA's Annual Narrative Report for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. This reporting period marks the first year of implementing our 2025–2029 Strategic Framework and provides an important opportunity to reflect not only on AFSA's achievements, but also on the shared vision, values and collective responsibility that continue to guide our movement.

Over the past year, the Board has witnessed the continued relevance of AFSA's role as a continental platform advancing food sovereignty, agroecology and equitable, people-centred food systems. Across Africa, communities continue to navigate complex and interconnected challenges, including the impacts of climate change, pressures on land and natural resources, constraints on seed systems, unequal market access and evolving policy environments. Against this backdrop, AFSA's work remains both timely and essential.

This report reflects the strength and resilience of the movement that underpins AFSA. Our 48 member organisations, working alongside farmers, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, pastoralists, fisherfolk, consumers and civil society partners, continue to demonstrate that sustainable transformation is possible when local knowledge, cultural heritage and community leadership are recognised and supported. Their experiences remind us that food sovereignty is not simply a policy aspiration; it is lived every day through the stewardship of land, seeds, biodiversity, livelihoods and human dignity.

The Board is encouraged by the increasing recognition of agroecology within policy dialogues and public discourse across the continent. At the same time, we recognise that meaningful progress requires more than visibility. It calls for sustained commitment, inclusive partnerships and evidence-based advocacy that remains firmly rooted in the priorities and realities of African communities while engaging constructively with a broad range of stakeholders.



This year also underscored the importance of continued institutional strengthening. Enhancing member engagement, reinforcing governance systems, improving monitoring, evaluation and learning, strengthening communications, and building financial sustainability are all essential to ensuring AFSA's long-term effectiveness and influence. The Board remains committed to providing strategic oversight and supporting a Secretariat that is accountable, transparent, responsive and well-positioned to serve the movement.

I extend my sincere appreciation to AFSA's members, Secretariat, working groups, partners, donors and allies for their dedication and collaboration throughout the year. I also pay tribute to the communities whose resilience, wisdom and leadership continue to inspire AFSA's mission and reinforce our shared commitment to advancing just, sustainable and resilient food systems across Africa.

As we look ahead, the Board will continue to provide strategic leadership and oversight in support of AFSA's vision of an Africa where communities exercise greater control over their natural resources and food systems, where agroecology is embraced as a pathway to sustainability, justice and resilience, and where collective action contributes to a more equitable and dignified future for present and future generations.

Reverend Tolbert Thomas Jallah Jr. PhD
Board Chairperson
Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa

Message from

The General Coordinator

The 2025–2026 reporting year has been a defining moment for AFSA. It was the first year of implementing our 2025–2029 Strategic Framework, and it reminded us why this work matters so deeply. Across Africa, communities are still carrying the weight of climate change, biodiversity loss, food insecurity, shrinking civic space, restrictive seed laws, and the growing concentration of economic and political power in food systems. But even in the middle of these challenges, I remain encouraged.

This year has shown clearly that **African-led agroecology and food sovereignty are no longer marginal ideas**. They are practical, political and economic pathways for building resilient, fair and sustainable food systems that serve people, communities and the planet.

Working with our 48 member organisations and many committed partners, AFSA continued to bridge grassroots struggles with national, regional and global policy spaces. Guided by our Theory of Change, we strengthened evidence, influenced policy, built movements, amplified African voices, expanded agroecological practice, and reinforced our continental network. Our engagement in climate negotiations, seed policy, land governance, and food systems debates has helped demonstrate that agroecology is not only an environmental solution but also a question of justice, sovereignty, and economic self-determination.



It is about who controls land, seed, markets, knowledge and the future of food in Africa. I am particularly proud of the progress we made in strengthening farmer-managed seed systems, advancing territorial markets, promoting Indigenous foods through the My Food Is African campaign, supporting agroecological enterprises, and expanding healthy soils initiatives. These are not isolated activities. Together, they represent a different vision of development, one rooted in local economies, community knowledge, public accountability, ecological care and the dignity of African food producers. We also invested in youth leadership, participatory research and strategic communications, because Africa's food future must be shaped by farmers, Indigenous Peoples, women and young people themselves.

None of this would have been possible without the commitment of our members, Board, Secretariat, donors and partners. I am sincerely grateful for your trust, solidarity and hard work. Your dedication gives strength to this movement and keeps alive the possibility of a food system that is more democratic, more inclusive and more just.

As we move forward, AFSA remains firm in its commitment to food sovereignty, biodiversity protection, farmer-managed seed systems, agroecology, and the right of African communities to shape their own food systems. Our task is not only to respond to crisis, but to build power, alternatives and hope. Together, we will continue working for an Africa where people and nature thrive in harmony, where local economies are strengthened, and where African solutions lead Africa's transformation.

Dr. Million Belay
General Coordinator
Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)



Our Identity

Vision

Africa developed in harmony with nature, harnessing its traditional knowledge and systems, and her people controlling natural and other resources and related decisions.

Mission

To influence policies and promote African solutions for food sovereignty. AFSA is a continental platform that unites diverse voices to address food-sovereignty issues and present clear, actionable African solutions.

Our Constituency

Established in 2011 and currently with 48 members, AFSA brings together farmers' organisations, civil society organisations, Indigenous Peoples, faith-based organisations, women's and youth movements, consumer groups and other allies working across Africa.

AFSA's Theory of Change

The six pillars guide work across AFSA's five thematic areas



- **Knowledge Generation:**

Build research capacity, integrate scientific and Indigenous knowledge, document evidence and make useful knowledge accessible to members, communities and policymakers.

- **Policy Advocacy:**

Use evidence and collective positions to influence policies and institutions in support of agroecology, food sovereignty, seed sovereignty, climate resilience and community rights.

- **Building the Movement:**

Mobilise and connect farmers, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, civil society and allied movements, while strengthening grassroots leadership and coordinated action.

- **Communication and Changing Narratives:** Amplify African voices and communicate the benefits of agroecology, challenge harmful industrial narratives and build wider public understanding and support.
- **Scaling Agroecological Practice:** Expand the adoption of context-specific agroecological practices through farmer-to-farmer learning, training, innovation, supportive markets and enabling policy.
- **Fostering a Vibrant Network:** Strengthen AFSA as a Pan-African network of networks through collaboration, inclusive leadership, sound governance, effective coordination and financial resilience.



Programme Performance

The 2025–2026 reporting year marked the first year of implementation of AFSA's 2025–2029 Strategic Framework. Across its programme areas, AFSA combined evidence generation, policy advocacy, movement building, communication, practical scaling and network strengthening to advance food sovereignty and agroecology. The work brought together farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, civil society organisations, researchers, media actors and policymakers, connecting community experience with national, regional and global decision-making.

During the year, AFSA strengthened agroecology's recognition across different policy spaces, debates, programmes, and frameworks on climate, seed, and land. AFSA engaged major policy processes, from national climate plans and seed laws to the African Union, Regional Economic Communities, and UNFCCC spaces, advocating for farmer-managed seed systems, healthy soils, territorial markets, agroecological enterprises, and citizen mobilisation. Practical learning remained central: farmer training, participatory research, community and national platforms and regional convenings generated evidence.

Communications amplified this work and helped shift public narratives. Through the Weekly Media Digest, The Voice of AFSA, the quarterly newsletter, the Battle for African Agriculture podcast, media partnerships and digital campaigns, AFSA connected member experience to wider audiences and strengthened its visibility as a continental voice on agroecology, food sovereignty and climate justice. These channels also supported advocacy around key convenings and enabled African experts, farmers and movement leaders to tell their own stories.

Together, these efforts enabled AFSA to track not only activities but also changes in policy, practice, relationships, institutional strengthening, accountability, organisational learning and informed decision-making across the network.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning reinforced **implementation and adaptation**.

AFSA strengthened organisation-wide and programme-level **monitoring systems**

Conducted **15 monitoring support visits**

Completed the **TAFS** mid-term evaluation

Facilitated **16 Outcome Harvesting** sessions.

112 staff, members, and partners were trained,

Approx. **40 knowledge products** were produced.

Programme Areas

Climate Change and Agroecology Working Group



AFSA at COP31 march for agroecology and protection of indigenous forests.

Introduction

The Climate Change and Agroecology Working Group advanced agroecology as an African-led response to the climate crisis through policy advocacy, civil society capacity building, national campaigning, and engagement in regional and global climate processes. During 2025–2026, work centred on the Agroecology for Climate Action campaign and the full UNFCCC cycle, from the second Africa Climate Summit (ACS2) to COP30 and SB64.



Summary of Activities

- **Regional and global advocacy:** AFSA hosted a Food Systems and Agriculture pavilion at ACS2 in Addis Ababa, presenting farmer, pastoralist, Indigenous, women's, youth and faith-based perspectives. At COP30 in Belém, a diverse AFSA delegation followed the agriculture, adaptation, just transition, and climate finance negotiations; met with negotiators from Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Cameroon, and South Africa; and engaged with ministers and officials from the DRC, Chad, Burkina

Faso, South Africa, and Togo. At SB64 in Bonn, AFSA continued engagement on the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Agriculture and Food Security, the Global Goal on Adaptation, Just Transition and finance, and began dialogue with Ethiopia ahead of COP32 in 2027.

- **Civil-society capacity:** Ahead of ACS2, AFSA convened a continental training led by African Group of Negotiators experts. Participants strengthened their understanding of climate science, the Paris Agreement, NAPs, the Global Goal on Adaptation, climate finance, Loss and Damage and a just transition for African agriculture, and jointly developed messages for COP30.
- **National policy engagement:** Policy dialogues, capacity building and public mobilisation were undertaken in 11 countries: Uganda, Kenya, Togo, the DRC, Ghana, Cameroon, The Gambia, Botswana, Malawi, Ethiopia and Rwanda to strengthen the treatment of agroecology in Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans and related frameworks.
- **Evidence and communications:** Policy briefs, position papers and advocacy materials were used at ACS2, COP30 and SB64. Partnerships with journalists and digital influencers extended public understanding of agroecology as a practical, people-centred climate solution.



COP31 Debrief- Panel of policy makers from various African countries.



Key Results

- Agroecology appeared as a stand-alone paragraph in the draft COP30 agriculture negotiation text for the first time, following sustained engagement with negotiators, including those from Uganda and Zimbabwe.
- National policy traction increased: Cameroon included agroecology in its revised NDC; Togo validated an Agroecology Transition Budget and advanced an intermunicipal convention; Botswana drafted a Model National Agroecology Policy Framework; and Rwanda and Uganda developed position papers recognising agroecology as a climate solution.
- AFSA's relationship with the African Group of Negotiators deepened. AFSA was invited into coordination processes, held a dedicated bilateral with the AGN Chair at SB64 and received public

acknowledgement for its contribution to sustainable food systems.

- Government relationships expanded, including early collaboration with Ethiopia's Ministry of Planning and Development toward COP32 and follow-up interest from several African ministers and officials.



Looking Ahead

- Coordinate a civil-society coalition and shared African food-systems positioning for COP32, including work toward a Food Systems Compact covering finance, monitoring and accountability.
- Strengthen national Agroecology for Climate Action campaigns, policy evidence and civil-society capacity, while deepening engagement with the AU, Regional Economic Communities, negotiators and national governments.



*AFSA members
pre-negotiations
debrief and
strategy meeting at
SB664 in Bonn.*

together 40 young people from more than 20 countries to strengthen advocacy on seed laws, FMSS and seed sovereignty.

- **Continental campaigning:** Through the year-round Seed Is Life campaign, AFSA supported 12 seed celebrations across Africa, disseminating policy demands and mobilising against restrictive intellectual-property and industrial seed regimes. Membership of the campaign's coordination group increased from 86 to 156.

- **AfCFTA and Plant Treaty engagement:** A francophone workshop in Cotonou trained 30 delegates from 10 West and Central African countries on the AfCFTA IPR Protocol, the Multilateral System, Access and Benefit Sharing and Digital Sequence Information. Participants developed country workplans and two regional plans, while AFSA later facilitated coordination between African civil society and African negotiators ahead of the Plant Treaty Governing Body in Lima.

- **UNDROP Consultation with farmers:** Three regional consultations with the UNDROP Working Group documented barriers, good practice and recommendations on the right to seed. Discussions included: (1) actions taken to protect, conserve, and share seeds and related knowledge; (2) the main legal, economic, institutional, and political barriers to realising the right to seeds; and (3) recommendations for governments, regional bodies, and development partners to strengthen the implementation of this right.
- **AFSA also convened the Fourth Pan-African Seed Governance Conference** in N'Djamena, Chad, bringing together policymakers, farmer organisations, researchers, women, youth, civil society,



Resilient Seed Systems and Agroecology Working Group

Introduction

The Resilient Seed Systems and Agroecology Working Group strengthened farmer-managed seed systems (FMSS), farmers' rights, and seed sovereignty through policy analysis, training, campaigning, and engagement with national, regional, and international institutions. Particular attention was given to the AUC FMSS framework, the AfCFTA Intellectual Property Rights Protocol, UPOV-inspired seed laws and the right of farmers to save, exchange and use seed.

Summary of Activities



- **Policy capacity strengthening:** AFSA delivered three online policy-negotiation sessions for participants from five Regional Economic Communities to use an FMSS policy toolkit.
- **Youth training:** A five-day training with Seed Savers Network in Kenya brought

and the media to discuss the transition from seed sovereignty to genetic sovereignty. The conference mainly discussed the next steps for the AUC FMSS framework and the threats posed by biodigitization and financial flows to the seed subsector.



Key Results

- Advanced national policy dialogue on FMSS through high-level engagement with the Parliamentary Committee and the Minister for Agriculture in Tanzania.
- Influenced regional agroecology policy through contributions to the East African Draft Agroecology Bill presented to the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA).
- Strengthened regional collaboration and cross-country learning through AFSA's Fourth Pan-African Seed Governance Conference, bringing together CROPS4HD partners from Chad, Niger, and Tanzania.
- Elevated Chad's voice in regional and continental dialogues, namely the Pan-African seed conference, on biodiversity, Farmer-Managed Seed Systems, and seed policy and governance.
- Experts critically reviewed the AUC FMSS framework, and AFSA developed a policy-oriented communications toolkit that continues to support the Seed Is Life campaign.
- The Cotonou process initiated policy dialogue on the AfCFTA seed protocol in Togo, Benin and Senegal and created 3 national work plans and regional advocacy plans for West and Central Africa.
- The UNDROP consultation report clarified the scope of the right to seed and is expected to inform the Working Group's presentation during the October 2026 UPOV meetings in Geneva.



Looking Ahead

- Monitor country-level advocacy in Cameroon, Chad, Kenya, Niger, Tanzania, Senegal and Zimbabwe.
- Undertake research on financial flows and seed systems, refresh the Seed Working Group strategy and consolidate gains around Tanzania's policy process and the East African Agroecology Bill.
- Influence the continental FMSS framework during the AUC seed summit and the launch of the framework.
- Conduct research on financial flows and seeds as recommended during the N'Djamena conference.
- Consolidate the policy gains achieved in Tanzania by strengthening engagement with national and regional policymakers and supporting the continued advancement of the East African Agroecology Bill.
- Targeted capacity-building and strategic planning workshops in Crops4hd countries.
- Update the strategy of the Seed Working Group and engage in CBD processes.



Mobilising Citizens' Support for Sustainable Food Systems

Introduction

The Citizens Working Group mobilised citizens, markets and institutions around agroecology, food sovereignty, biodiversity and African food identity. Work was delivered through four interconnected strands: the Congo Basin Biodiversity, Climate and Agroecology Initiative (COBCAI); the My Food Is African campaign; cross-border trade in agroecological produce; and support for African Agroecological Enterprises and Territorial Markets.



Summary of Activities

- **COBCAI:** Across six Congo Basin countries- Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon- national multi-stakeholder platforms were established or strengthened, each involving more than 20 institutions. Advocacy training was delivered through the six national partners; My Food Is African celebrations in five cities reached more than 500 people directly and an estimated 50,000 through media; and approximately 120 people were trained using three practical modules. Partners also engaged in consultations on COP30, CEMAC, ECCAS, and AfCFTA, and in follow-up to the AU Kampala Declaration.
- **My Food Is African:** AFSA engaged UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS)+4, the CAADP Partnership Platform, the Africa Food Systems Forum and the EAC Regional Agrifood Systems Investment Plan, while

Cameroon's President signed the national organic agriculture law in December 2025

540 community conservation and development actors empowered

EALA adopted a motion promoting agroecology and committed to advancing the EAC Agroecology Bill

National platforms mapped 1,006 agroecological enterprises and 145 territorial markets across eight countries



supporting the draft EAC Framework Bill for the Promotion of Agroecology. Public mobilisation included the African Chefs' Gathering, journalists' training, the African Food Baskets initiative and publication of Breaking the Silence on pesticide risks. The launch of My Food Is African Barefoot Guide Volume II shifted the campaign from storytelling to practical movement-building.

- **Cross-border trade:** Field dialogues in Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, and Rwanda engaged farmers, traders, officials and civil society. National consultations and field visits reached 320 people, while more than 100 participants from seven countries adopted the Jinja Declaration on agroecological trade. Two ESAMI-TRAPCA cohorts trained 90 participants on SPS/TBT compliance, Rules of Origin, the Simplified Trade Regime and digital

trade tools. In Uganda, stakeholders visited the Busia border market and held a major consultation in Bugiri, gathering over 140 participants, while Tanzania hosted more than 130 actors in Arusha and Karatu. In Kenya, AFSA facilitated a field exchange at Bee My Partner Farm in Njoro and a national dialogue with regulatory bodies, media, and border associations; Rwanda's engagement included a visit to the Rubavu market and a policy dialogue.

- **Agroecological Entrepreneurship and Territorial markets:** National platforms mapped 1,006 agroecological enterprises (616 formally registered and 390 informal) and 145 territorial markets across eight countries. A Training of Trainers in Uganda brought together 51 participants, 32 women and 19 men, and a territorial-markets training involved

National consultations and field visits reached 320 people

More than 100 participants from seven countries adopted the Jinja Declaration on agroecological trade

Capacity support on AAEs and TMs reached 222 enterprises and strengthened 21 territorial markets

40 participants from seven countries. AFSA also trained 20 journalists from 10 countries and convened 36 market actors in Tanzania.

- Capacity support on AAEs and TMs reached 222 enterprises and strengthened 21 territorial markets.



Key Results

- Cameroon's President signed the national organic agriculture law in December 2025 following coordinated advocacy by civil society actors. This marked a major policy gain and provided clear evidence that COBCAI's model of sustained, collaborative civil society engagement can contribute to binding policy change.
- COBCAI platforms created durable coordination structures, empowered 540 community conservation and development actors and generated policy recommendations, with two ministries committing to follow-up.
- The My Food Is African campaign strengthened networks of chefs, journalists and citizens, and opened concrete policy pathways through CAADP and EAC RASIP.

EALA adopted a motion promoting agroecology and committed to advancing the EAC Agroecology Bill.

- Tanzania governmentsoughtcollaboration on an agroecological market at Rusumo Border and appointed AFSA member SHIWAKUTA as Deputy Chair of the National Agroforestry Advisory Committee. Busia County in Kenya allocated market space to agroecological traders, and Rwanda established a childcare centre for women traders at Rubavu market.
- Five regional business forums in Uganda generated more than 117 market and finance linkages; 17 of 35 bootcamp businesses improved bookkeeping and digital financial management; and at least seven policy actions secured commitments to recognise agroecological enterprises and territorial markets in public planning.



Looking Ahead

- Complete national COBCAI platforms and policy analyses, convene the second Congo Basin meeting of stakeholders and launch an open-access knowledge hub.
- Use the sixth Continental Food Systems



Conference and Barefoot Guide Volume II to deepen citizen mobilisation, chef- and school-led action, media engagement and policy advocacy.

- Implement the Jinja Declaration through engagement with EALA and EAC institutions, while expanding enterprise mentorship, investment readiness, PGS, territorial-market linkages and the Africa Food and Culture Tourism Community of Practice.
- To sustain achievements, AFSA will continue supporting the MFIA Chefs Network, the Journalists' Community of Practice, and country-level platforms with clearer action plans, regular engagement, joint campaigns and strong documentation of outcomes.
- On cross-border trade, AFSA will further strengthen engagements with an Advisory Committee and the forthcoming AFSA-EALA Memorandum of Understanding, while advancing reforms such as green desks at border posts, improved cold storage and digital platforms, and public awareness campaigns to place agroecological trade at the heart of East African integration.
- On territorial markets, AFSA will continue strengthening territorial market linkages, business capacity and market access for agroecological SMEs, while extending the lessons learned in Tanzania and Uganda to additional countries.



Land and Agroecology Working Group

Introduction

This year marked a year of strategic renewal, institutional strengthening, and expanded continental engagement. Guided by a newly adopted three-year continental campaign, the Working Group consolidated its governance structures, expanded farmer-centred programs across six African countries, strengthened regional and global policy engagement, produced influential research and knowledge products, and advanced a continent-wide advocacy agenda on land rights, soil restoration, and agroecological transitions.





Summary of Activities

- Coordination and campaign development: Strategy meetings in Uganda and Ethiopia secured AGM endorsement of the new campaign and elected new leadership. The Working Group also strengthened resource mobilisation planning and continued its participation in the Global Agroecology Leadership Programme.
- Healthy Soil Healthy Food (HSHF): Phase II was launched for July 2025–June 2028 across Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Togo, Senegal and Burkina Faso, focusing on farmer education, bio-input commercialisation and evidence-based advocacy. Eleven HSHF centres contributed to a new publication and short videos. In Kenya, BIOGI trained 13 Trainers of Trainers (nine women), supported 25 additional farmers and formed eight clusters involving 45 trainers. In Uganda, AFIRD trained 10 community trainers (five women), who reached 130 farmers (79 women), and established a bio-input outlet. In Burkina Faso, BioProtect refreshed 18 trainers, trained 19 young plant-protection service providers and reached 576 farmers, while opening an agroecological input outlet.
- Research and learning: Launched Participatory Action Research at three HSHF centres (BIOGI – Kenya, SFHC – Malawi, and BioProtect GIE – Burkina Faso), integrating on-farm trials, farmer research committees, and university

partnerships to generate evidence for agroecological practice and policy.

- Capacity building: SABESA, a 42-month initiative in Uganda, Kenya and Malawi, was launched to strengthen agroecology-based school and college meals. Three CAFOD partner exchange visits and three virtual workshops shared practical approaches on soils, seeds, water, livestock and programme design. An urban agroecology platform was also initiated and now connects 80 members in more than 30 countries.
- Policy engagement: AFSA supported the EAC Agroecology Bill pathway through engagement with EALA; contributed to COMESA's regional investment-plan consultations; explored collaboration with ECOWAS/ARAA; and engaged SADC/CCARDESA on research and education. Globally, AFSA contributed civil-society perspectives at the Conference on Land Policy in Africa and ICARRD+20, challenging land-grab narratives and promoting agrarian justice.



Key Results

- The Protect Our Land, Restore Our Soil campaign and new Working Group leadership were formally adopted, giving the land and soil agenda a clearer continental direction.
- BIOGI helped formulate and launch the Vihiga County Agroecology Policy, while farmer research and soil analysis strengthened the evidence available for county budgeting.
- PAR was established at three centres, the Healthy Soils, Healthy Food, Healthy Communities book was published,
- Regional engagement contributed to progress toward an EAC Agroecology Bill and stronger recognition of agroecology in COMESA, SADC and ECOWAS policy discussions.
- Participatory Action Research began at HSHF centres in Kenya, Malawi and Burkina Faso. A manuscript on agroecological resilience drew on data from 194 participants across 17 Ugandan districts, while farmer-led biofertiliser trials and policy briefs strengthened the evidence base for advocacy. ASANE webinars connected researchers and practitioners across 21 countries, and the PrAECTiCe agroecology course was made publicly available through RUFORUM and SmartStep.
- Launched a new initiative called the urban agroecology platform coordinated by the Land WG but bringing together all AFSA WGs. This platform now covers 80 members across more than 30 countries.



Looking Ahead

- Full implementation of HSHF Phase II across all six countries, including farmer training, ToT roll-outs, and bio-input commercialisation, anchored by an in-person HSHF partners' convening.
- Planning and convening of a Biofertilizer Continental Conference (provisionally June 2027), building on HSHF evidence to advance bio-input ecosystems and green market development across the continent.
- Completion and dissemination of the Land Campaign background research paper, providing the analytical foundation for the "Protect Our Land, Restore Our Soil" advocacy campaign and its continental roll-out.
- Continued engagement with the EAC Agroecology Bill process and other regional legislative frameworks, working to embed agroecology within East African and AU policy and investment architecture.
- Scaling the urban and peri-urban agroecology initiative through the Community of Practice, deepening multi-city engagement, and building a network of urban agroecology champions across Africa.
- Continued investment in knowledge generation through the ASANE webinar series, the CAFOD-AFSA workshop series, and the IfA Global Agroecology Leadership Programme, deepening the ecosystem of African agroecological practitioners and advocates.



Youth Working Group

Introduction

The Youth and Agroecology Working Group is AFSA's platform for young people advancing food sovereignty, agroecology and community-led food systems. In a continent where more than 60% of the population is under 35, the Working Group moved from an informal youth platform toward a recognised, structured network with a continental strategy, stronger research capacity and youth-owned advocacy priorities.



Summary of Activities

- **Strategy development:** Sixteen youth leaders from 10 African countries held the first strategic planning meeting of the formally recognised Working Group. They adopted a shared mission and vision and developed objectives, indicators and activities aligned with AFSA's six Theory of Change pillars.
- **National movement building:** Participants documented progress since the 2024 Thousand African Youth Summit. In Zimbabwe, a national youth group on climate justice and agroecology was formed, a member joined the PELUM Zimbabwe board and youth engaged the national Climate Change Management Bill. In Ghana, youth partnered with local assemblies on farmer training and local seed distribution and supported advocacy for a national agroecology policy. Related networks, festivals, school initiatives and research activities grew in Benin, Togo, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Zambia, Uganda, Kenya and Nigeria.
- **Youth-led evidence:** Participatory Action Research training helped youth generate and use community evidence. PAR support extended to young members in Malawi, Kenya, Togo and Nigeria, reinforcing their role as researchers and knowledge holders.
- **Continental learning and advocacy:** The 2026 webinar series, Sowing Sustainable Futures, began in May with a session on food sovereignty and agroecology. Youth also developed a draft continental campaign on regulating ultra-processed foods and agreed to engage other AFSA Working Groups before launch.
- **Seed sovereignty and digital exchange:**

A five-day residential training with Seed Savers Network in Kenya reached 40 youth leaders from more than 20 countries and produced a continental advocacy strategy on restrictive seed laws and FMSS. In partnership with Rhodes University's Environmental Learning Research Centre, youth were trained to develop and manage an online platform for agroecology knowledge exchange.



Key Results

- Formal recognition within AFSA gave young people a defined place in governance and programming and created a stronger foundation for intergenerational leadership.
- The first strategy aligned youth priorities with AFSA's Theory of Change and established a common framework for planning, accountability and resource mobilisation.
- Continental convenings translated into visible national initiatives and policy engagement, including youth leadership in Zimbabwe and collaboration with local government and the agroecology movement in Ghana.
- The webinar series created a low-cost bilingual continental learning space, while PAR strengthened the ability of youth to generate grounded evidence for advocacy.
- The emerging ultra-processed-foods campaign gave the Working Group a youth-owned continental advocacy focus, complemented by a seed-sovereignty strategy and digital resource platform.



Looking Ahead

- Build and connect national youth movements, champions and mentors, with deliberate succession planning and stronger participation between meetings.
- Expand policy and research capacity, support youth journalists and challenge narratives that present industrial agriculture and ultra-processed foods as symbols of progress.
- Promote youth adoption of agroecological practices, showcase livelihood opportunities and strengthen partnerships and resource mobilisation across AFSA and beyond.

Challenges Across the Five Programme Areas

Several challenges recurred across the programme portfolio and are therefore presented together rather than repeated under each Working Group:

- Resource constraints limited the scale and continuity of country engagement, participation in policy spaces, research, communications and follow-up. Delayed funding also slowed some seed and healthy-soils activities.
- Political instability, public-health disruptions and shrinking civic space affected work in countries including Togo, Kenya, Malawi, Niger and parts of the Congo Basin, requiring partners to adjust timelines and advocacy approaches.
- Government and regional policy processes remained slow. Commitments to agroecology were not always translated into budgets, mandates or implementation, while engagement with some Regional Economic Communities was difficult to sustain.
- Uneven partner capacity, compliance and coordination delayed implementation and reporting in some countries. Expanding portfolios also placed pressure on small coordination teams and made consistent follow-up between meetings more difficult.
- Market access remained constrained by standards, certification, packaging and finance gaps; tariff and non-tariff barriers; lengthy border procedures; weak implementation of simplified trade arrangements; and limited recognition of Participatory Guarantee Systems. Women traders faced additional barriers related to infrastructure and care.
- Industrial agriculture, restrictive seed and trade regimes, imported foods and ultra-processed products continued to shape policy and public perceptions. Sustained evidence, practical alternatives and stronger citizen communication are needed to shift these narratives.
- Youth participation and leadership continuity require ongoing mentorship, documentation and succession planning as members change roles, take up employment or move beyond youth categories.

Communications

Introduction

During 2025–2026, AFSA’s communications function moved from expansion to consolidation. It strengthened AFSA’s role as a continental voice on agroecology, food sovereignty and climate justice. Four regular products carried the work: the Weekly Media Digest, The Voice of AFSA, the AFSA Quarterly Newsletter and The Battle for African Agriculture podcast. These were supported by a redesigned website, publication campaigns, journalist engagement, and stronger social media storytelling.

Summary of Activities

The Weekly Media Digest maintained its weekly rhythm throughout the year. English editions were shared every Wednesday and French editions every Thursday. The Digest curated credible news, research and commentary for members, partners and journalists. It remained an important source of timely information and helped connect developments across AFSA’s movement.

The Voice of AFSA continued profiling leaders within the agroecology movement. Features included Josephine Akia Luymibazi of PELUM Uganda, Sena Alouka of JVE, Dr Million Belay and Reverend Tolbert Thomas Jallah Jr., the newly elected AFSA Board Chair. The profiles gave greater visibility to member leadership and the people behind AFSA’s work.

The AFSA Quarterly Newsletter became a regular institutional publication. Editions covered April 2025, May–August 2025, September–December 2025 and January–March 2026. Published in English and French, the newsletter documented programmes, policy engagement and Working Group results. It also strengthened institutional memory and provided a useful reference for reporting.

The Battle for African Agriculture podcast was launched in August 2025. By June 2026, Dr Million



Belay had hosted 32 weekly episodes. Guests included scholars, farmers, activists, lawyers and policy thinkers. Discussions examined colonial legacies, corporate power, seed sovereignty, pesticides, climate justice, land, markets and African-led alternatives. The podcast created a sustained space for deeper public discussion beyond short campaign messages.

AFSA also launched a redesigned website www.afsafrica.org organised around its Pan-African campaigns and Theory of Change. The site includes a searchable Knowledge Library and profiles the alliance's 48 member organisations across 50 African countries.

Publications were supported through integrated release campaigns, which were another significant stride of the year that combined webinars, concise email summaries, and coordinated social media promotion. Media engagement remained central. AFSA sustained a WhatsApp network of more than 50 Pan-African agroecology journalists, with over 40 active members from more than 30 countries. Three training sessions strengthened reporting on agroecology, food systems transformation, cross-border trade, and food sovereignty.

AFSA also issued more than 25 major statements, policy briefs, declarations and reports during the year. Major releases included work on the African Development Bank, healthy soils and food, the Africa Fertiliser and Soil Health Action Plan, seed sovereignty and cross-border agroecological trade.

Key Results

- The Weekly Media Digest ran without interruption in English and French, reinforcing its place as one of AFSA's most trusted communication products.
- The Quarterly Newsletter was institutionalised as a bilingual record of AFSA's work, while The Voice of AFSA strengthened member visibility and

movement identity.

- Agroecology Stories from the Ground became one of AFSA's strongest social-media formats, generating high engagement on LinkedIn, Facebook and X.
- Digital audiences grew across major platforms: X reached 11,500 followers; Facebook 5,900; Instagram 4,300; LinkedIn 5,400 after its July 2025 launch; and Mailchimp 5,200 subscribers.
- The podcast reached 32 episodes and strengthened AFSA's position as a continental source of analysis and thought leadership on African agriculture and food systems.

Challenges and Lessons

The growth in weekly and quarterly products placed pressure on a small team and limited budget. Bilingual production also required careful translation and cultural adaptation. In addition, AFSA could more easily measure reach and engagement than policy or advocacy influence. The year confirmed the need to prioritise the strongest products, plan releases as integrated campaigns and develop a clearer framework for measuring communications outcomes.

Looking Ahead

AFSA will deepen the reach and influence of existing platforms rather than add many new ones. Priority will go to the podcast, Stories from the Ground and the Quarterly Newsletter. Publications and policy products will continue to receive coordinated support across web, email, webinar, and social media channels. Communications around major continental convenings will cover preparation, live reporting and sustained follow-up. AFSA will also invest in LinkedIn and YouTube, build relationships with African digital influencers and improve measurement of narrative and policy impact.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Introduction

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) supported accountability, evidence generation and adaptive management throughout 2025–2026. AFSA strengthened organisation-wide and project-level systems under the 2025–2029 Strategic Framework and MEL Strategy. The emphasis moved beyond counting activities toward understanding changes in policy, practice, relationships and institutional behaviour.

Strengthening MEL Systems

AFSA refined Indicator Reference Sheets to standardise definitions, reporting requirements and data quality across programmes. It also developed programme-specific systems, including the SABESA MEAL Strategy and related Indicator Reference Sheets. Online tools were initiated to support the first annual review of the Strategic Framework and strengthen organisational performance tracking.

Monitoring and Evaluation

AFSA conducted 15 monitoring support visits across programmes and countries. The visits combined document review, field observation, partner consultation and Outcome Harvesting. They were used as joint learning exercises rather than only compliance checks. Findings informed donor and annual reporting, programme reviews and implementation adjustments.

One major evaluation was completed: the Mid-term Evaluation of the Transforming African Food Systems programme. AFSA supported the full process, including the Terms of Reference, consultant procurement, methodology, tools, inception and report review. The evaluation found strong progress in network strengthening, policy engagement and institutional collaboration. It also identified the need for stronger measurement of behaviour change and for partner-level MEL systems.

Outcome Harvesting and Learning

Outcome Harvesting remained AFSA's main approach for documenting behavioural, policy and institutional change. Sixteen sessions involved Secretariat staff, implementing partners and member organisations. The findings captured changes that conventional indicators often miss and fed into strategic reflection, reporting, annual reviews, learning products and evidence synthesis.

Capacity and Knowledge Management

AFSA trained 112 staff, members and partners in MEL, Outcome Harvesting, reporting, indicator development and organisational learning. Its first structured online introductory course made training more accessible and generated demand for advanced support in evaluation, data analysis and evidence use. Mentoring and technical review also improved the consistency of partner reporting.

Around 40 reports, outcome stories, newsletters and other learning products were produced. AFSA also completed the 2020–2024 Strategic Performance and Learning Report, consolidating evidence from the previous strategic cycle and informing implementation of the new framework.

Challenges

Partner MEL capacity remained uneven. Many organisations lacked dedicated M&E staff, and some used outdated or incomplete tools. Reporting quality and timeliness varied, leaving evidence gaps during consolidation. Citizen mobilisation, narrative change and policy influence also remained difficult to measure consistently. Monitoring still relied heavily on

qualitative evidence and partner self-reporting, while resources limited visits, verification and technical support.

Key Lessons

- Integrating MEL into programme design from the beginning improves evidence quality and adaptation.
- Outcome Harvesting is valuable for capturing policy, institutional and behavioural change, but it should be used alongside other monitoring methods.
- Monitoring visits produce better learning when partners experience them as collaborative support rather than compliance inspections.
- Digital tools and Artificial Intelligence can improve analysis and efficiency, but they must be paired with stronger partner capacity and sound data-quality controls.

Looking Ahead

- Strengthen data-quality assurance, member reporting systems and evidence generation.
- Expand Outcome Harvesting while improving the balance between qualitative and quantitative evidence.
- Develop interactive organisational performance dashboards and responsible AI-supported MEL tools.
- Increase the use of MEL findings in programme decisions, strategic learning and communications.

Statistics (2025–2026)

RESULT INDICATOR	2025–2026 ACHIEVEMENT	WHAT THE RESULT SHOWS
CLIMATE CHANGE AND AGROECOLOGY		
Countries with national policy dialogue, capacity building or mobilisation	11 countries	Agroecology advanced in NDCs, NAPs and related climate frameworks.
SEED SOVEREIGNTY AND FARMER-MANAGED SEED SYSTEMS		
Online policy-negotiation sessions	3 sessions for 5 RECs representatives	Regional actors equipped to use the FMSS policy toolkit.
Youth seed-policy training	40 youth trained from 20 countries.	A continental cohort strengthened on seed laws, FMSS and seed sovereignty.
Seed Is Life celebrations	12 celebrations held	Coordinated public mobilisation against restrictive seed regimes.
Campaign coordination-group membership	86 156 (increase in membership)	Substantial growth in the campaign's organising base.
AfCFTA and Plant Treaty workshop	30 delegates from 10 countries	Country and regional advocacy capacity strengthened.
Advocacy plans generated	3 nationals + 2 regional plans.	Training translated into action plans for West and Central Africa.
CITIZEN MOBILISATION, ENTERPRISES AND MARKETS		
COBCAI country platforms	6 countries / 20+ institutions in each	Multi-stakeholder coordination established or strengthened across the Congo Basin.
My Food Is African celebrations	5 cities / 500+ direct / 50,000 media reach	Community mobilisation was amplified through media.
COBCAI practical-module trainees	3 modules	Practical capacity built among community and institutional actors.
Cross-border field dialogues and consultations	320 people / 4 countries	Farmers, traders, officials and civil society informed the trade agenda.
Jinja Declaration adoption	100+ people / 7 countries	A shared position established on agroecological trade.
ESAMI–TRAPCA trade training	2 cohorts / 90 participants	Capacity improved on SPS/TBT, origin rules and digital trade tools.
Uganda and Tanzania national consultations	140+ Uganda / 130+ Tanzania	Strong national participation grounded regional policy engagement.
Agroecological enterprises mapped	1,006	616 formal and 390 informal enterprises made visible for support and policy action.

RESULT INDICATOR	2025–2026 ACHIEVEMENT	WHAT THE RESULT SHOWS
Territorial markets mapped	145 / 8 countries	A stronger evidence base created for market development.
AAE Training of Trainers	51 (32 women; 19 men)	Women represented 63% of participants.
Territorial-markets training	40 / 7 countries	Regional market actors strengthened through shared learning.
Journalists trained on AAEs and territorial markets	20 / 10 countries	Media capacity expanded across the continent.
Enterprises receiving capacity support	222	Enterprise capability, market readiness and collective advocacy strengthened.
Territorial markets strengthened	21	Direct support moved beyond mapping into market development.
COBCAI actors empowered	540	Community conservation and development leadership strengthened.
Regional business forums	5 forums / 117+ linkages	New market and finance connections were generated.
Bootcamp firms improving financial management.	17 of 35 (49%)	Improved bookkeeping and digital financial management.
Policy-action commitments	At least 7 commitments made	Recognition of AAEs and territorial markets advanced in public planning.
HEALTHY SOILS, LAND AND AGROECOLOGY		
HSHF Phase II footprint	6 countries / 11 centres	A multi-country platform for farmer education, bio-inputs and evidence.
Kenya training and farmer clusters	13 ToTs ; 25 farmers; 8 clusters; 45 trainers	A multiplier system expanded farmer-led learning.
Uganda trainer-to-farmer reach	10 trainers 130 farmers	Women comprised 61% of farmers reached.
Burkina Faso capacity and farmer reach	18 trainers; 19 youth providers; 576 farmers	Training linked farmer services, youth roles and bio-input access.
Participatory Action Research sites	3 centres / 3 countries	On-farm trials linked farmers, research committees and universities.
CAFOD learning exchanges	3 visits + 3 virtual workshops	Peer learning strengthened programme design and practice in agroecology.
Urban agroecology platform	80 members / 30+ countries	A new cross-working-group learning platform achieved rapid continental reach.

RESULT INDICATOR	2025–2026 ACHIEVEMENT	WHAT THE RESULT SHOWS
Agroecological resilience study	194 participants / 17 districts	Evidence generated for policy and practice in Uganda.
ASANE webinar reach	21 countries	Researchers and practitioners connected across regions.
YOUTH LEADERSHIP		
Continental youth strategic planning	16 leaders / 10 countries	The Youth Working Group established shared priorities, indicators and activities.
Youth seed-sovereignty cohort	40 leaders / 20+ countries	A continental advocacy strategy was produced. *Seed*
COMMUNICATIONS AND NARRATIVE CHANGE		
Regular editorial products	4	Media Digest, Voice of AFSA, Quarterly Newsletter and podcast sustained AFSA's voice.
Podcast production	32 episodes	Weekly long-form analysis strengthened thought leadership.
Pan-African journalist network	50+ members; from 30+ countries	A sizeable media community supported agroecology reporting.
Journalist training sessions	3	Reporting capacity strengthened on food systems, trade and sovereignty.
Major statements, briefs, declarations and reports	25+	Evidence and positions were consistently translated into public products.
Digital following and subscribers	32,300 combined	X 11,500; Facebook 5,900; Instagram 4,300; LinkedIn 5,400; Mailchimp 5,200. *Non-unique audiences.
MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING		
Monitoring support visits	15 visits to members	Joint monitoring informed reporting, programme reviews and adaptation.
Major evaluations completed	1	The TAFS mid-term evaluation generated strategic recommendations.
Outcome Harvesting sessions	16	Policy, behavioural and institutional changes were documented.
People trained in MEL	112	Staff, members and partners strengthened MEL, reporting and learning skills.
Countries receiving MEL support	27	Face-to-face and virtual support extended across the network.
Knowledge and learning products	40	Reports, outcome stories and newsletters strengthened institutional learning.

Institutional Growth

The 2025–2026 period marked the First year of AFSA’s five-year strategic plan. Over this time, the network has made notable progress, while also navigating a range of challenges. Throughout the year, the Secretariat led an inclusive and participatory process involving members and partners.

AFSA’s visibility and influence within regional and global food systems spaces continued to grow. At the same time, significant strides were made in institutional development, particularly in network building, communications, finance, and monitoring and evaluation.

Human Resource Strengthening

One staff member joined the AFSA Secretariat during the year: Mr Nicholas Omoding, who is AFSA Research Officer and currently spearheading the integration of Participatory Action Research in several projects. He brings over a decade of experience working in research and with civil society organisations across Africa.

This addition has enhanced AFSA Secretariat’s capacity to coordinate, support, and amplify Participatory Action Research initiatives across the continent.

Financial Growth and Challenges

AFSA’s funding base has remained stable during the year, with support from both new and existing donors. However, the broader funding landscape remains challenging. Several funders have reduced or closed their grant windows due to shifts in the global political and economic context. This underscores the need for AFSA to diversify its funding sources and build more resilient financial strategies moving forward.

Expanding Membership and capacity assessment.

AFSA’s membership grew to 48 organisations during the reporting period, reflecting the network’s continued relevance and appeal. The inclusion of new member organisations has expanded the alliance’s reach and reinforced its legitimacy as a continental platform for food sovereignty, agroecology, and farmer-led transformation.

AFSA undertook an extensive assessment of all the members. This was done through one-on-one meetings with the member network support officer. The assessment has informed some of the capacity-building activities undertaken for the members, including on Monitoring and Evaluation, and these will continue to inform a more robust capacity-building programme where resources are available.

AFSA Staff also participated in a number of training sessions; for example, a four-day Financial Sustainability Workshop organised by Bread for the World focused on the Holistic Resource Mobilisation Model built around five pillars of relevance, credibility, visibility, relationships, and calls to action. AFSA continued participation in the IFA Global Agroecology Leadership Programme at the University of Vermont (UVM) and another series of virtual workshops on non-elite participation, visioning and sense-making, and agroecological transformations.

Finance Summary Report

AFSA Income Statement Analysis		
July 2025 – June 2026		
Key Financial Indicator	USD	
Total Income	9,473,169.73	
Total Expenses	5,509,774.60	
Surplus	3,963,395.13	
Expense to Income Ratio	58.2%	
Income Source	Amount (USD)	% of Total Income
Grants	8,683,433.43	91.7%
Other income	747,337.34	7.9%
Other income – UGX (UNITRUST)	37,989.36	0.4%
Membership fees	4,409.60	0.0%
Total Income	9,473,169.73	100.0%
Expense Category	Amount (USD)	% of Total Expenses
Administration Costs	876,044.95	15.9%
Communications Working Group	93,290.44	1.7%
Citizen Working Group	2,617,678.28	47.5%
Land Working Group	517,254.18	9.4%
Seed Working Group	598,740.40	10.9%
Climate Working Group	665,105.95	12.1%
Monitoring	13,360.00	0.2%
Institutional Development	128,245.07	2.3%
Total Expenses	5,509,774.60	100.0%

Income Statement Commentary

Income

Total income was USD 9,473,169.73; grants contributed USD 8,683,433.43 (91.7%).

Expenses

Total expenditure was USD 5,509,774.60, equivalent to 58.2% of total income.

Fund Balance

The period closed with a Fund balance of USD 3,963,395.13, representing 41.8% of total Funds.

Largest cost area

Citizen Working Group was the largest expense category at USD 2,617,678.28, representing 47.5% of total expenditure.

Funding mix

Grant funding remains the dominant source of income.

AFSA Member Highlights

Advancing Agroecology in Rwanda's NDC 3.0

RWANDA CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (RCCDN)



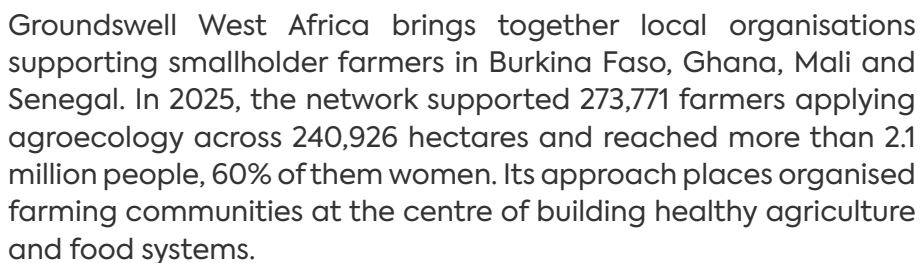
During 2025–2026, RCCDN helped secure partial integration of agroecology into Rwanda's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) and National Adaptation Plan. The result is an important policy step toward recognising agroecology as a climate adaptation and mitigation pathway linked to resilient food systems, biodiversity and smallholder livelihoods.

The achievement followed sustained engagement with civil society, government institutions, researchers and development partners. RCCDN convened multi-stakeholder dialogue and technical consultations, engaged institutions responsible for revising the NDC and NAP, and submitted a policy position paper setting out practical options for integrating agroecology and animal welfare. Scientific evidence, community experience, and recognised good practice provided decision-makers with a concrete basis for considering the proposals.

RCCDN policy dialogue and technical engagement in Rwanda.



Although the integration remains partial, it creates a platform for continued advocacy toward fuller mainstreaming of agroecology across Rwanda's climate and agricultural policies. The outcome demonstrates how coordinated, evidence-based civil society action can influence national policy and advance a more equitable and sustainable food system.



At the community level, 35 Agroecology Committees were established to plan, mobilise resources, implement village action plans, share farmer-to-farmer knowledge and influence local policy. Independent evaluation evidence from Burkina Faso reinforced the advocacy case: advanced agroecological farmers recorded yields 4.4 times higher than those of conventional farmers, while net income per hectare was 67% higher than that of farmers in the early stages of transition.

Young Farmers Lead Landscape Restoration in Zambia

RESCOPE PROGRAMME, WATER WISE AFRICA AND SEED AND KNOWLEDGE INITIATIVE

In Hanamoonga community, Monze District, young people and women are leading a landscape-level agroecology effort to restore degraded land and regenerate a shared water catchment. The programme combined community organisation, awareness-raising and practical training in landscape restoration, water harvesting and other regenerative agroecological practices.

The initiative has helped farmers work collectively to improve access to water, strengthen food production and protect livelihoods in an area affected by water scarcity. Young farmers were among the earliest adopters and now serve as visible champions of contour ridges, water pans, sunken beds and related soil- and water-conservation methods. The average age of the community's leading agroecological farmers is about 30, compared with roughly 60 in many other communities.

Women and youth have become local change agents, sharing knowledge with older farmers and demonstrating practices in their own fields. Their leadership is especially significant in a strongly patriarchal setting: it shows that restoring ecosystems can also expand voice, confidence and responsibility within the community. The partnership illustrates how locally led learning can turn water challenges into collective action and long-term resilience.

Young agroecology champions and community water-harvesting work in Hanamoonga.

The partnership illustrates how locally led learning can turn water challenges into collective action and long-term resilience.



Linking Agroecological Enterprises to Territorial Markets

SHIWAKUTA, TANZANIA

With AFSA's support, SHIWAKUTA advanced agroecology, food sovereignty and farmer-led market development in Tanzania through research, policy advocacy, enterprise strengthening and strategic communication. A regional validation workshop in Arusha brought together 64 participants from government, farmer organisations, civil society, research, cross-border trade and the media, ensuring that farmers' experience informed East African policy dialogue.

SHIWAKUTA then joined AFSA members in bilateral engagement with the East African Legislative Assembly and trained agroecological SMEs and territorial-market actors in enterprise management, product quality, market access and collective advocacy. Media engagement included an editors' and journalists' programme, five radio programmes and one national television programme.

A national multi-stakeholder workshop in Dodoma attracted 125 participants and produced joint advocacy resolutions on indigenous seeds, food sovereignty, safer food systems and market reform. The process culminated in an April 2026 national convening at which 36 participants adopted a joint action plan to strengthen agroecological enterprises, territorial markets and inclusive food systems. Together, these steps connected practical enterprise needs with coordinated policy influence.

Together, these steps connected practical enterprise needs with coordinated policy influence.



Enterprise capacity building and national dialogue convened by SHIWAKUTA.

Coordinated Advocacy for Farmer-Managed Seed Systems

TANZANIA ALLIANCE FOR BIODIVERSITY (TABIO)

Joint advocacy and knowledge sharing also strengthened collaboration among Working Group members and increased the platform's credibility with policymakers. The experience shows the value of collective action: by aligning diverse actors behind clear evidence and common recommendations, TABIO and its partners created a stronger national voice for resilient food systems and the protection of farmers' seed rights.

As Secretariat of Tanzania's Seed Working Group, TABIO strengthened coordinated advocacy, evidence generation and policy engagement for farmer-managed seed systems. The Working Group brings together civil society organisations, researchers, farmer organisations and development partners around a common agenda of farmers' rights, agroecology and seed sovereignty.

A major milestone was engagement with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Industry and Trade. The Working Group mobilised more than 42 organisations and farmer representatives from across Tanzania to present evidence and recommendations for a legal framework that recognises and protects farmers' seed systems and plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.



Seed Working Group engagement with policymakers and stakeholders in Tanzania.

The dialogue elevated farmers' voices and reinforced the need for policy reform grounded in biodiversity and local knowledge.

Restoring Soil Health and Maize Yields with Bokashi

WORLD NEIGHBORS, MALAWI

Maize is central to food security in Malawi, but long-term dependence on imported synthetic fertiliser has contributed to declining soil fertility and rising production costs for smallholder farmers. In Mwanza District, World Neighbors is responding by promoting Bokashi organic manure to rebuild soil health, improve yields and reduce dependence on costly inputs.

The programme trained 139 lead farmers to produce and apply Bokashi. Through farmer-to-farmer learning, more than 500 households now use organic manure in their maize fields. Farmers report stronger crop growth, earlier maturity and better performance under erratic rainfall. Average yields rose from about 20 to 30 bags per acre, strengthening confidence in agroecological approaches and attracting neighbouring communities to learn the techniques.

For Mary Nokas of Mchotseni Village, the change has been personal. As her soil deteriorated and chemical fertiliser became unaffordable, providing for her family became increasingly difficult. After adopting Bokashi, her harvest doubled from about 15 to 30 bags per acre.

The additional maize has renewed her confidence, improved household security and enabled her to begin saving toward a better home—showing how soil restoration can translate directly into dignity, resilience and hope.



Mary Nokas in her maize field established with Bokashi organic manure. Agroecological Orchard in Uganda flourishing in the dry season.

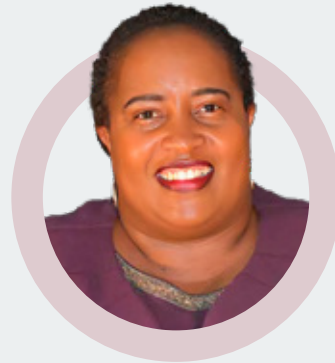
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Media links

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