

EDITORIAL

The third quarter of 2026 showed AFSA operating across the full landscape of Africa's food systems transformation. From parliamentary chambers and continental policy processes to farmer fields, media spaces, youth platforms and international forums, the work moved steadily between ideas and action. The Pan African Parliament's decision to advance a continental Model Law on African Food Policy created an important opening for greater coherence in how Africa governs food, agriculture, health, trade and the environment. At the same time, AFSA strengthened advocacy for farmer managed seed systems, challenged provisions in the proposed East African Community Seed and Plant Varieties Bill, and continued pressing for laws that recognise farmers not as beneficiaries of seed systems, but as their custodians and rights holders.

The quarter also placed difficult questions about finance and agricultural development firmly on the table. At the Africa Food Systems Forum in Kigali, through the release of *The Green Revolution Has Failed Africa*, and in AFSA's support for the Food, Land & Money report, a consistent question emerged: who controls the resources shaping Africa's agricultural future, and whose interests do those investments ultimately serve? These interventions were matched by practical alternatives. In Yaoundé, 198 participants from the six Congo Basin countries adopted a regional action agenda for agroecology, biodiversity and climate justice. In Kenya, farmers, scientists and development partners advanced plans for an African agenda on locally produced biofertilisers. In Tanzania, researchers, farmer organisations and policymakers examined how evidence can better influence policy, while a new urban agroecology learning series began connecting practical experiences from African cities.

Climate action was another defining thread. In Ethiopia, AFSA connected negotiators and civil society directly with agroecology in practice before convening more than 130 participants from 33 countries to shape a common African civil society position towards COP31 and COP32. In Harare, AFSA entered the technical spaces where the next decade of CAADP implementation will be measured and financed, defending the place of agroecology in national and regional investment plans. At the same time, 24 journalists from 15 countries were equipped to investigate the science, seed politics and financial flows behind African food systems, while young agroecology entrepreneurs used International Youth Day to demonstrate that ecological farming can also generate livelihoods, innovation and opportunity. The *Battle for African Agriculture* podcast carried these conversations further, connecting science, policy, women's experiences, environmental leadership and African knowledge with wider public debate.

This was also a quarter of profound loss. The passing of Sena Alouka, founding Chair of AFSA's Climate and Agroecology Working Group, touched the entire movement. His life embodied many of the values reflected throughout this edition: belief in young people, courage in confronting harmful systems, faith in African knowledge and the conviction that organised communities can change their future. His absence is deeply felt, but the work carried across these pages is also part of the legacy he leaves behind. The third quarter therefore closes with both achievement and responsibility: important doors have opened, stronger alliances have been built and clearer alternatives have been articulated. The task now is to carry that momentum forward and ensure that Africa's food systems are shaped increasingly by the people who grow, protect, prepare and depend on its food.

Pan-African Parliament Backs AFSA Call for Continental Food Policy Model Law

Parliamentary resolution moves food sovereignty and agroecology further into Africa's legislative agenda

From 20 to 25 July 2026, AFSA General Coordinator Dr Million Belay participated in the sitting of the Pan African Parliament's Permanent Committees in Midrand, South Africa. On 23 July, he addressed a joint sitting of committees responsible for agriculture, natural resources, transport, communication, energy, science and technology, presenting AFSA's case for a continental Model Law on African Food Policy.

AFSA argued that Africa's food challenges cannot be addressed through isolated agricultural policies because food insecurity, nutrition, health, climate change, biodiversity, trade and Indigenous food systems are deeply connected.

Parliamentarians agreed that stronger policy coherence was needed and unanimously supported the development of a harmonised legislative framework that African Union Member States could adapt to their national contexts.

On 30 July, the Parliament adopted a resolution formally approving the development of the Model Law, with AFSA recognised as a technical partner in the process. The resolution calls for stronger protection of Indigenous food systems and biodiversity, support for smallholder farmers, women and youth, regional food markets, nutrition, consumer protection and inclusive participation. It also creates a path towards future regional consultations and national



advocacy on food systems legislation across Africa.

Seed Working Group Strengthens Continental Advocacy on Farmer Managed Seed Systems

Quarterly coordination focuses on African Union policy, legal recognition and future continental engagement

During the third quarter of 2026, members of AFSA's Seed Working Group held their third quarterly meeting to review progress, follow up earlier action points and strengthen advocacy around farmer managed seed systems. A major focus was the African Union Commission's emerging policy, strategy and action plan frameworks on farmer managed seed systems.

Working Group members consolidated different submissions into a common document for engagement with the African Union and prepared an additional set of general contributions covering issues that could not be accommodated within the existing draft frameworks. The process reflects AFSA's

continued effort to ensure that continental seed policy recognises the realities of farmer seed systems and farmers' rights.

The advocacy also

A major focus was the African Union Commission's emerging policy, strategy and action plan frameworks on farmer managed seed systems.

opened a new opportunity for engagement at the African Union's inaugural Seed Summit in Eswatini, scheduled for 5 to 7 October 2026. AFSA's proposal for a side event was accepted, with two delegates expected to represent the network at the summit and continue advancing the political recognition of farmer managed seed systems.





AFSA Takes Seed Sovereignty Campaign to World Social Forum in Cotonou

Quarterly coordination focuses on African Union policy, legal recognition and future continental engagement

From 4 to 8 August 2026, three delegates from AFSA's Seed Working Group participated in the World Social Forum in Cotonou, Benin, using the gathering to promote the Seed Is Life campaign and strengthen awareness of the growing continental recognition of farmer managed seed systems.

AFSA contributed to several strategic discussions. A workshop attended by around 100 participants explored a proposed two year continental campaign supporting local poultry systems as an alternative to industrial chicken production. AFSA, HOMEF and Bread for the World also convened a session on Seeds in the Hands of



Farmers, highlighting farmers as custodians of genetic diversity and knowledge and calling for stronger policy recognition of farmer managed seed systems.

The Working Group also contributed to a consultation on African policy and strategy frameworks for farmer managed seed systems, sharing lessons

from AFSA's support in Niger, Chad, Tanzania, Mozambique, Cameroon, Kenya and Senegal. Other sessions addressed farmers' seed rights, UPOV, women's role as seed guardians and agroecological coalitions, reinforcing AFSA's message that seed policy must protect farmers' rights, biodiversity and intergenerational knowledge.

AFSA Calls for Major Changes to East African Seed and Plant Varieties Bill

Regional submission warns that proposed law could undermine farmer managed seed systems across eight EAC Partner States

In August 2026, ahead of country level public hearings scheduled for 27 and 28 August, AFSA prepared a detailed briefing paper and formal memorandum on the East African Community Seed and Plant Varieties Bill, 2025. The submission was made on behalf of AFSA member networks and allied farmer organisations in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

AFSA's analysis warns that the Bill places farmer saved seed and commercial seed within the same regulatory definition and could make certification a condition for practices that currently sustain farmer seed systems. The organisation notes that farmer managed seed systems provide an estimated 80 to 90 percent of planting material across the region, yet the proposed legal framework contains no separate pathway for farmer varieties and landraces.

AFSA proposed a dual legal system that would retain formal certification for commercial varieties while creating simplified registration, labelling and quality assurance mechanisms for farmer varieties. It also called for an explicit farmers' rights chapter, stronger community representation in regional seed governance and safeguards for farmers' rights to save, use, exchange and sell seed. The submission draws on international agreements and examples such as Nepal's dual system and the AfCFTA Plant Variety Protection Annex to show that a more balanced approach is legally and practically possible.



African Youth Showcase Agroecology as a Pathway to Livelihoods

International Youth Day event launches continental resource platform for young agroecology practitioners

On 12 August 2026, AFSA's Youth and Agroecology Working Group marked International Youth Day with a virtual webinar attended by about 55 participants from across Africa. Held under the theme Celebrating African Youth: Showcasing Agroecology's Economic Viability through Youth Entrepreneurship, the

event highlighted the role young people are already playing in building livelihoods through agroecology.

Young entrepreneurs from Togo and Zimbabwe shared practical experiences. In Zimbabwe, a youth run culture and agro ecotourism village has developed income streams through farm visits, agroecology training, traditional food and cultural performances without external funding. In Togo, a youth led organisation is supporting women's cooperatives, organic input production and an agroecological market. Speakers also identified persistent barriers, including insecure land tenure, limited finance, weak markets and policies that continue to favour chemical inputs.

The webinar also marked the official launch of the African Youth Regenerative Resource Site, a digital platform designed to connect young people working on agroecology and sustainability across the continent. The site features profiles and stories of young practitioners and will continue expanding as a space for sharing experiences, opportunities and African sources of inspiration.



Congo Basin Convening Turns Agroecology Commitments into a Regional Action Agenda



Nearly 200 delegates adopt the Yaoundé Declaration and strengthen a common strategy for food sovereignty, biodiversity and climate justice

From 25 to 27 August 2026, AFSA and the National Coordination of Peasant Organisations in Cameroon convened the Second Congo Basin Convening in Yaoundé, Cameroon, with the support of the country’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The meeting brought together 198 participants from the six Congo Basin countries, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and the Republic of Congo, alongside delegates from other parts of Africa.

Under the theme Agroecology for Inclusion, Sustainable Food Systems, Biodiversity and Climate Justice in the Congo Basin, participants reviewed progress since the first regional conference held in Kinshasa in 2023. Countries reported advances including agroecology strategies, legal reforms, community seed banks and national food systems roadmaps, while also identifying persistent challenges related to finance, land rights, policy fragmentation and the exclusion of women, youth and Indigenous Peoples.

The meeting concluded with the adoption of the [Yaoundé Declaration 2026](#), containing 24 articles calling for stronger public investment



in agroecology, direct access to climate and biodiversity finance for communities, protection of land and seed rights and deeper recognition of community leadership. Participants also reaffirmed the Congo Basin Biodiversity, Climate and Agroecology Initiative as the region’s shared strategy and agreed to track progress through an annual review and future convenings.

Nearly 100 individuals and institutions also signed a Wall of Commitments, while close to 50 exhibitors showcased local seeds, foods, textiles and crafts. Together, the declaration, roadmap and public commitments moved the Congo Basin process from broad political agreement towards measurable implementation.



AFSA Challenges Investor-led Agriculture at Africa Food Systems Forum

Eight member delegation brings agroecology, farmer autonomy and food sovereignty into high level discussions in Kigali

An eight member AFSA delegation participated in the Africa Food Systems Forum in Kigali, Rwanda from 31 August to 4 September 2026. The delegation engaged governments, funders, parliamentarians, civil society and senior AGRA representatives while challenging an agricultural development model centred heavily on private investment, commercial inputs and productivity growth.

Across sessions on finance, seed, soil health, livestock, climate, trade, gender, youth and artificial intelligence, AFSA delegates raised concerns about whether investment models sufficiently protect farmer autonomy, farmer managed seed systems, territorial markets and local control over food systems. Finance discussions highlighted continuing difficulties for farmer organisations seeking direct access to funding, while climate finance was described as slow and frequently absorbed by intermediaries.

AFSA delegates questioned speakers, distributed reports and policy briefs and used the Forum to present evidence challenging two decades of Green Revolution approaches. Daniel Banuoku co chaired a critical dialogue on Twenty Years of Lessons, while the delegation closely followed growing efforts to mobilise private capital around implementation of the Kampala CAADP agenda.

The Forum confirmed that the next phase of African agricultural policy will increasingly centre on finance and implementation. AFSA's engagement therefore focused on ensuring that public resources and agricultural policy do not deepen farmer dependence, but instead support agroecology, seed sovereignty and locally controlled food systems.



New AFSA Report Finds Green Revolution Model Has Failed to Reduce Hunger

Two decades of evidence raise questions about the agricultural model guiding Africa's next development strategy



During the third quarter of 2026, AFSA released [The Green Revolution Has Failed Africa](#), a report examining the record of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa nearly two decades after it promised to raise productivity, improve farmer incomes and



reduce hunger across its target countries.

The report finds that the number of chronically undernourished people across the 13 countries prioritised by AGRA has risen by 58 percent since 2006. Fertiliser use more than doubled and cropland expanded by 46 percent, yet growth in staple crop yields slowed compared with the period before AGRA began. The report argues that much of the additional production came from expanding cultivated land rather than achieving sustained improvements in productivity.

The research contrasts these outcomes with Senegal, which was not an AGRA focus country and reduced hunger by half while maintaining more diversified farming systems and relying on substantially less fertiliser than countries such as Zambia. AFSA presents agroecology as a practical alternative already being advanced by farmers through soil restoration, crop diversity and farmer managed

seed systems.

With African governments now implementing the Kampala CAADP agenda for the next decade, AFSA is calling for existing agricultural finance to be progressively redirected towards agroecology, farmer managed seed systems, soil health and diversified production. The report argues that the central question is not whether Africa should invest more in agriculture, but whether future finance will repeat a model that has failed to deliver its promised results.



Climate Negotiators and Civil Society Learn from Agroecology in Practice

Two day training connects UN climate negotiations with farmers’ experience in Ethiopia

From 5 to 6 September 2026, AFSA organised a two day capacity building programme in Ethiopia for climate policymakers, negotiators and civil society actors working on climate change, agriculture and agroecology. The training was designed to strengthen participants’ understanding of climate negotiation streams relevant to food systems and prepare them for more effective engagement towards COP31

and COP32.

The programme began with a field visit to the Huruta Agroecology Village in Oromia Region, where participants learned directly from communities about agroecology in practice. The visit provided a practical foundation for the policy discussions that followed and connected international negotiation issues with farmers’ lived experience.

On the second day,

African Group of Negotiators representatives Dr McLaren Mandaza of Zimbabwe and Angelina Mensah led sessions on agriculture under the UNFCCC, the Sharm el Sheikh Joint Work on Agriculture and Food Security and the Just Transition Work Programme. The training strengthened participants’ capacity to engage climate negotiations with more informed and evidence based positions on agroecology and food systems.



AFSA Pushes for Agroecology as Africa’s CAADP Agenda Moves into Implementation

Harare platform reveals new openings to influence national investment plans and agricultural performance indicators

From 15 to 18 September 2026, AFSA participated in the 22nd Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Partnership Platform in Harare, Zimbabwe. Convened by the African Union Commission and AUDA NEPAD, the meeting focused on how the Kampala Declaration and the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan 2026 to 2035 will be financed, implemented and measured across Africa.

AFSA was represented alongside partners from PELUM Zimbabwe, SCOPE Zimbabwe and the media, with the delegation focusing on the technical spaces where national and regional investment plans, indicators, Biennial Review systems and new Delivery Compacts are being developed. This engagement was considered important because what governments choose to measure will strongly influence what receives future funding and political attention.

The Platform confirmed that countries remain free to choose different pathways for implementing the Kampala Declaration, leaving space for governments and Regional



Economic Communities to adopt agroecology. Participants also learned that the final CAADP indicators had not yet been publicly released, giving AFSA and its members a further opportunity to advocate for measures that recognise agroecological

transformation.

AFSA will continue reviewing the emerging CAADP implementation architecture and provide members with analysis and proposed agroecology indicators for use in national and regional

investment processes. The Harare engagement demonstrated that the debate has shifted from whether agroecology deserves recognition to how meaningfully it will be reflected in Africa’s agricultural implementation systems.



Addis Ababa Convening Builds Common African Civil Society Position for COP31 and COP32

More than 130 participants from 33 countries agree priorities on food systems, climate finance, agroecology and just transition

From 7 to 9 September 2026, AFSA and Ethiopia’s Ministry of Planning and Development convened more than 130 participants from 33 countries in Addis Ababa for the Continental Convening on Strengthening African Civil Society Climate Action on Food Systems and Agriculture Towards COP31 and COP32. Participants included farmers, pastoralists, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, researchers, governments, faith organisations, climate negotiators and development partners..

Over three days, participants examined adaptation, just transition, nutrition and health, food systems and financial flows while also engaging directly with government representatives from several African countries.



The discussions sought to move African civil society beyond fragmented participation towards coordinated influence in the climate negotiations.

The meeting adopted the Addis Ababa African Civil Society Position Statement, *A Common African Voice for Food Sovereignty, Climate Resilience and Just Implementation*. It

calls for adaptation and food systems to remain central to climate action, accessible grant based finance, African led agroecology, seed sovereignty, territorial food economies, a rights based just transition and stronger accountability for results at community level.

Participants also strengthened

the Roadmap Towards COP32 around policy influence, national and regional coordination, knowledge building and public communication. The convening closed with a press conference calling for COP31 and COP32 to move from commitments towards implementation and from pledged finance towards real access for African communities



“The farmer waiting for rain does not experience climate change as an acronym. The woman who loses her produce because a road has been washed away does not call it an implementation gap. The pastoralist searching for water does not call it the Global Goal on Adaptation. And the family facing higher food prices does not call it a food-systems negotiation. They simply experience the consequences. Our responsibility is to make sure that what happens in the negotiating rooms eventually changes what happens on the farm, in the market, in the fishing community and around the family table.

DR. ANTWI-BOASIAKO AMOAH
Chair, African Group of Negotiators (AGN)

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Strengthening African civil society climate action on food systems and agriculture towards COP31 and COP32

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African Journalists Learn to Follow the Seed, the Science and the Money

AFSA media series equips 24 journalists from 15 countries to investigate the forces shaping African food systems

From 21 to 25 September 2026, AFSA brought together 24 journalists from 15 African countries for Finding the Story: A Media Series on African Food Systems. Held online under the My Food Is African campaign, the three session programme brought together reporters from national media, international outlets and freelance networks working in English and French.

The first session explored the ideas and policies behind agricultural development, examining the Green Revolution model and positioning agroecology as a science, a practice and a movement. The second focused on control over seed, including farmer managed seed systems, seed law and the growing continental policy debate. The final session trained participants to investigate agricultural finance by examining funding announcements from development banks, AGRA, governments and international institutions.

Journalists left with practical reporting tools, including questions for interrogating funding announcements, key project documents to request and public databases for tracing development finance.

Participants also shared challenges faced in reporting food systems, ranging from limited access to data to the cost of reaching rural communities.

AFSA is extending the training through a story fellowship that will provide selected journalists with field reporting support. Their stories are expected to be published around World Food Day, helping turn the training into stronger public interest journalism on agroecology, food sovereignty and agricultural finance.

AFSA Prepares African Network for Biodiversity Negotiations Ahead of COP17

Seed Working Group connects agroecology, biodiversity policy and national implementation

During the third quarter of 2026, AFSA's Seed Working Group began preparing its network and allies for the seventeenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, scheduled for 19 to 30 October in Armenia. AFSA identified the biodiversity negotiations as an important opportunity to strengthen agroecology within global policy and within National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

As part of the preparation, AFSA organised an information webinar for interested African participants to examine progress, challenges and opportunities in national biodiversity implementation.

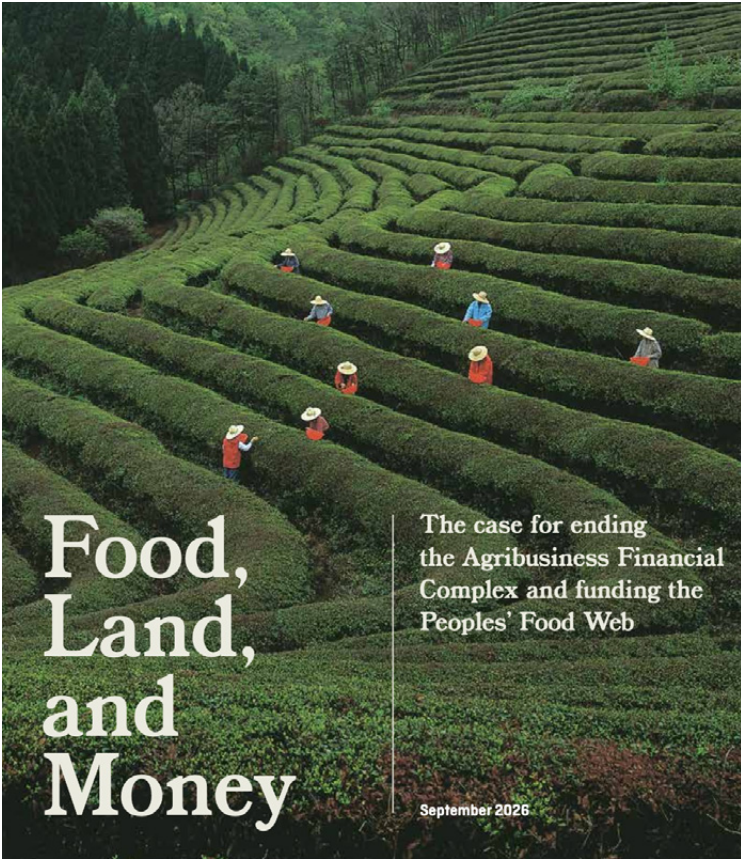
The discussion was designed to help members and allies identify priorities for transformative biodiversity action and understand how National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans can better support agroecology.

AFSA also prepared a five person delegation for COP17, continuing its strategy of linking international biodiversity processes with practical action at national level. The preparation reflects the organisation's wider effort to ensure that biodiversity policy recognises farmer managed seed systems, agroecological knowledge and community stewardship as central to the protection and sustainable use of Africa's biological resources.



AFSA Backs Report Exposing the Financial Power Behind Industrial Agribusiness

Food, Land & Money traces how investors, banks and corporations shape global food systems



During the third quarter of 2026, AFSA supported and endorsed [Food, Land & Money](#), a report by Friends of the Earth US examining how industrial agriculture is increasingly shaped by corporate and financial power. The report connects land dispossession, agrochemical dependence, deforestation and corporate concentration with the banks, asset managers, investors and public incentives that finance and sustain them.

The study identifies the Agrifood 100, the world's largest food and agriculture companies by revenue, showing that much of the sector's economic power is concentrated among companies controlling retail, wholesale and commodity trading rather than among farmers themselves. It also traces an overlapping network of asset managers and financial institutions, including Vanguard, BlackRock and State Street, that hold significant shares across the sector.

As an alternative, the report highlights the Peoples' Food Web, including small scale farmers, pastoralists, fishers, Indigenous Peoples, cooperatives and local food enterprises. It argues that these systems already nourish large sections of the global population but continue to receive a disproportionately small share of public finance, research and political support.

The report calls for harmful agribusiness financing to be reduced, speculative control over food and land to be challenged and public resources redirected towards agroecology, food sovereignty, community ownership, territorial markets, land reform and reparative justice. Its central message is that transforming food systems requires changing not only agricultural practice, but also who controls finance and decision making.

AFSA Mourns Sena Alouka, Founding Climate and Agroecology Working Group Chair

Pan African environmental leader leaves a legacy spanning youth activism, agroecology, climate justice and biodiversity

AFSA and its wider community mourned the sudden passing of Sena Alouka, Executive Director of Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement and founding Chair of AFSA's Climate and Agroecology Working Group. For more than two decades, Sena worked across environmental protection, climate action, biodiversity, food systems and African culture, while placing young people at the heart of his vision for change. AFSA Chair Reverend Thomas Tolbert Jallah described him as "a mentor, an inspiration and a guide" and one of the pillars on which AFSA was built, while General Coordinator Dr Million Belay remembered him as a driving force who helped establish AFSA's Climate and Agroecology Working Group and consistently pushed for the creation of a dedicated Youth Working Group.

Sena's journey as an environmental organiser began after a devastating fire struck the mountain above his childhood village of Kpélé Tsiko in Togo in 1999. From that experience, he founded Young Volunteers for the Environment, beginning with children raising tree seedlings in a small Togolese community and growing the initiative into a youth led environmental movement present in more than 30 countries. His influence extended across the continent and into global policy spaces. He helped establish the African

Youth Initiative on Climate Change after recognising the severe underrepresentation of Francophone Africans in international climate discussions and was closely associated with the emergence of YOUNGO, the official youth constituency within the United Nations climate process.

His leadership reached across institutions and movements. Sena served as facilitator of Climate Action Network International's Energy Working Group, strategic advisor to the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, trustee of the African Biodiversity Network, Global Coordinator of Ashoka Africa's ICON nutrition programme and patron of the Young Environmental Negotiators Academy. His organising contributed to major environmental policy battles in Togo, including opposition to coal and nuclear energy and the country's ban on glyphosate. Long before agroecology gained its present visibility, he championed it as knowledge rooted in African history and communities and worked for its recognition within national policy.

Those who worked with Sena remember an energetic organiser, storyteller and Pan Africanist whose greatest investment was in people, particularly generations of young African leaders. His passing leaves a profound

absence across AFSA and the movements he helped build, but also a living network of people, institutions and ideas carrying his work forward.

Sena had said that he wanted one sentence on his tombstone:

"This man lived fully and happily. He strongly believed he could transform the world, and he did."

For AFSA, that is not simply an epitaph. It is an account of the life he lived and the responsibility his generation now passes to those he inspired.



Battle for African Agriculture Podcast: Amplifying Voices for Food Sovereignty

Between July and September 2026, the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) continued its Battle for African Agriculture podcast, hosted by its

General Coordinator, Dr. Million Belay. During the quarter, the series brought together leading agroecology scholars, researchers, environmental advocates and grassroots

practitioners to explore how Africa can transform its food systems through ecological farming, farmer empowerment and food sovereignty. The conversations featured prominent voices including Steve Gliessman, Dr. Awegechew Teshome, Miguel Altieri, Peter Rosset, Wanjira Mathai, Edward Mukiibi and Mariam Babu, examining the scientific foundations of agroecology, its practical application and the social and political changes needed to advance it.

The discussions explored agroecology as both a scientific discipline and a movement for transforming food systems. Conversations with Steve Gliessman and Miguel Altieri examined its ecological foundations and the importance of biodiversity, traditional knowledge and farming systems that work with nature. Peter Rosset drew lessons from Cuba's experience with agroecological transformation, raising important questions about whether these approaches can be expanded across Africa. In a particularly inspiring conversation, Wanjira Mathai reflected on the life and enduring legacy of her mother, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Wangari Maathai, whose pioneering work through the Green Belt Movement connected

environmental restoration, women's empowerment and grassroots activism. Her story offered a powerful reminder of how one woman's determination to protect nature grew into a movement for environmental justice and community empowerment. The series also explored the realities of women in agriculture and trade, with Mariam Babu examining the challenges faced by women engaged in cross border trade, including insecurity, economic barriers and the struggle for recognition and greater participation in decisions affecting their livelihoods.

Through these conversations, the podcast continued to challenge the assumption that Africa's agricultural future must depend on industrial farming and externally prescribed solutions. By connecting scientific knowledge with practical experiences, policy debates and grassroots struggles, the series contributed to a deeper understanding of agroecology as a pathway towards resilient, equitable and sovereign food systems. It also strengthened AFSA's efforts to amplify diverse perspectives, stimulate critical public debate and demonstrate that meaningful agricultural transformation must be grounded in the knowledge, rights and aspirations of African communities.

AFSA

ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA

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with Dr. Million Belay

General Coordinator, AFSA

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Farmers, Scientists and Funders Chart Africa’s Path Towards Biofertilizers



The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) brought together 26 practitioners, researchers and development partners from eight countries for a Bio-inputs for Soil Health Strategy Workshop held from 28 September to 1 October 2026 at the Grow Biointensive Agriculture Centre of Kenya (G-BIACK) in Thika. Organized under AFSA’s Healthy Soil, Healthy Food initiative, the workshop explored how African farmers can reduce dependence on expensive imported chemical fertilizers by developing locally produced biofertilizers and strengthening

agroecological soil management. Participants included representatives of agroecology centres, universities, research institutions and funding partners, including Bread for the World and Broederlijk Delen. The gathering also laid the groundwork for Africa’s first continental conference dedicated to bio-inputs and soil health.

Experiences shared during the workshop demonstrated the growing potential of locally produced biofertilizers. In Burkina Faso, Bioprotect GIE produces approximately 500 tonnes of organic fertilizer monthly,

supporting around 4,000 farmers. In Kenya, BIOGI has reached about 600 farmer multipliers, while research conducted with Maseno University has shown promising improvements in crop growth and maize production. Participants also visited the Organic Agriculture Centre of Kenya (OACK) in Mwea, where locally available materials are transformed into certified granulated biofertilizers. They met farmers already transitioning away from chemical fertilizers and visited women farmers in Murang’a County who demonstrated successful agroecological production. Despite

these achievements, participants identified persistent challenges, including limited research data, inadequate laboratory facilities, difficult certification procedures and government subsidies that continue to favour synthetic fertilizers.

The workshop concluded with plans to organize the first Africa Bio-inputs and Soil Health Conference in November 2027, with Kenya identified as the preferred host country.

The proposed gathering will bring together 200 to 250 participants, with strong representation of women and farmers, to advance research, policy advocacy, investment and markets for bio-inputs. Participants also emphasized the importance of protecting farmers’ knowledge, developing solutions suited to local conditions and building stronger collaboration between researchers and farming communities. Reflecting on the practical evidence presented, AFSA General Coordinator Dr. Million Belay observed that the challenge facing agroecology is increasingly one of investment rather than a lack of evidence.

The planned conference represents an important step towards building an African agenda for healthy soils, locally driven innovation and reduced dependence on imported agricultural inputs.

Strengthening Agroecology Evidence for Policy Change in Africa

The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) participated in a five-day workshop on evidence, policy and decision-making processes held from 7 to 11 September 2026 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Convened by the Eastern and Southern Africa community of practice of the McKnight Foundation’s Global Collaboration for Resilient Food Systems, the workshop brought together approximately 30 researchers, farmer organizations, policymakers and agroecology practitioners from Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya and Malawi. AFSA was represented by Charles Tumuhe and Nicholas Omoding. The gathering examined how scientific research, farmers’ experiences and other forms of evidence can be communicated more effectively to influence agricultural policies and support agroecological food systems transformation.



A central discussion explored how the same research findings can produce different conclusions depending on how evidence is interpreted and presented. Participants examined approaches ranging from controlled scientific trials and farmer-led experiments to storytelling, photography and the Food and Agriculture Organization’s Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation. AFSA presented its Healthy Soil, Healthy Food community of practice as

an example of collaboration between farmers and researchers. Since 2023, the initiative has connected agroecology centres with universities, trained approximately 10,000 farmers and more than 500 farmer champions, and supported participatory research comparing locally produced soil inputs on maize and beans. The findings have contributed to the development of a county agroecology policy in Kenya. Discussions also challenged the tendency to assess agricultural transformation primarily through crop yields while overlooking questions of governance, equity and whose knowledge influences decisions.

The workshop concluded with a shared commitment to strengthen the quality, relevance and communication of agroecological evidence. Participants emphasized the need to recognize farmers’ lived experiences alongside scientific research, establish clear milestones for agroecological transitions and assess outcomes across markets, health, gender, finance and governance. Opportunities identified for AFSA included facilitating regional dialogue on seed and agroecology legislation and expanding communication in Kiswahili and other African languages. These efforts aim to ensure that evidence generated by farming communities informs public policy, attracts appropriate investment and supports the wider adoption of agroecology across Africa.

Urban Agroecology Takes Root as AFSA Launches New Learning Series

The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) has launched a monthly learning series on urban agroecology to explore how African cities can produce healthier food, create employment opportunities and build more sustainable food systems. Established under AFSA's Healthy Soil, Healthy Food programme, the initiative brings together practitioners and organizations to exchange knowledge and practical experiences in urban farming. Following consultations with members in July 2026, the community of practice identified five priority areas, including urban waste management, natural resources, markets and enterprises, food production and agroecology education. Its first online session, held on 17 September 2026, featured JERO Farm, an urban agroecology demonstration farm based in Entebbe, Uganda.

Founded in 2021 by Richard Mugisha and his family following a personal health challenge, JERO Farm has developed into a social enterprise demonstrating how limited urban spaces can support food production, livelihoods and community learning. The farm provides practical training, guided educational tours, agricultural consultancy and mentorship for young entrepreneurs.



To date, it has trained more than 1,500 women and young people in urban agroecology, established 55 extension farms, mentored over 100 young agripreneurs and provided employment opportunities for more than 20 youth groups. Its experience demonstrates how urban agriculture can contribute to healthier diets, local economic opportunities and greater community participation in food production.

The discussion also highlighted challenges facing urban farmers, including unpredictable rainfall, drought, pests, diseases and limited investment in agroecological enterprises. JERO Farm is responding by combining agroecological practices with hydroponic production and developing diversified income streams to sustain its activities. Looking ahead, the initiative aims to expand opportunities for young people, women and urban refugees. AFSA's monthly learning series will continue bringing together practical experiences from across the continent, with the next session scheduled for 16 October 2026, featuring organizations from Tanzania and Kenya. Through this platform, AFSA seeks to strengthen knowledge exchange, encourage locally adapted solutions and advance urban agroecology as an important component of Africa's food systems transformation.

