



Preamble

We, the Farmers' Organizations of West and Central Africa, express our satisfaction with the organization and successful holding of the Third Regional Farmers' Forum of West and Central Africa, which took place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 23 to 25 June 2026.

This edition was held at a time when the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sector remains a major strategic driver for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in our two regions, despite the emergence of other economic sectors and the persistence of numerous crises and constraints affecting its development.

The effects of climate change are increasingly impacting our farms, pastoral systems, fishing activities and rural communities, despite efforts undertaken in adaptation and mitigation. This climate pressure is compounded by multidimensional security challenges, regional and international geopolitical tensions, and persistent inflation affecting the activities of small-scale producers in production basins, pastoral areas and fishing zones.

At the same time, government investment resources and capacities, as well as official development assistance dedicated to the transformation of the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sector, are experiencing a general downward trend. This situation limits the sector's ability to fully realize its economic, social and environmental potential.

All these factors hinder the efforts undertaken by governments, farmers' organizations and technical and financial partners to promote sustainable, inclusive and resilient food systems capable of ensuring food security and contributing to the food sovereignty of our countries.

We positively acknowledge the results presented during the IFAD Regional Implementation Workshop and the Third Regional Farmers' Forum, which highlighted positive developments and significant achievements in the partnership between IFAD, governments and farmers' organizations, as well as in the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the implementation of IFAD-supported projects at different levels. Several strategic issues are now receiving

greater attention, particularly the key role of farmers' organizations in ensuring the sustainability of project achievements.

We welcome the joint organization of the Regional Implementation Workshop and the Farmers' Forum, which provides a privileged platform for sharing information, knowledge and experiences, fostering joint analysis, mutual capacity strengthening and enhanced collaboration at national and regional levels.

Despite these achievements, we recognize that significant room for improvement remains if the Farmers' Forum is to exert greater influence on interventions and contribute more effectively to reversing the current trend of food system fragility. This perspective requires greater recognition and appreciation of the role and expertise of farmers' organizations in the design, implementation and evaluation of projects and programmes, as well as in addressing issues of common interest such as climate resilience, environmental sustainability, financing and the economic models of farmers' organizations.

In this spirit, we adopt the following recommendations and commitments addressed to States, IFAD and Farmers' Organizations.

Recommendations to States

- Translate public policies promoting sustainable family farming, the agroecological transition and food sovereignty into increased budget allocations for investments in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sector, ensuring that such investments are accessible to producers and their organizations.
- Facilitate access for producers and farmers' organizations to climate finance by making relevant information available and organizing capacity-building sessions to enable effective collaboration with accredited agencies.
- Create an enabling framework for data protection in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sector and for the use of digital technologies for agricultural advisory services, climate information, e-commerce, access to finance, traceability, livestock monitoring and farm performance monitoring.
- Develop and/or operationalize, through projects and programmes, ambitious public policies promoting rural youth employment in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sector.
- Create an enabling institutional environment for Public-Private-Producer Partnerships (4Ps) by supporting the conditions necessary for quality assurance, traceability, and sustainable access to markets and finance.

Recommendations to IFAD

- Mobilize financial resources available within the budgets of each IFAD Country Team to contribute to the co-financing of initiatives led by Farmers' Organizations, enabling them to effectively contribute to the preparation of COSOPs and projects.

- Continue the joint effort to mobilize resources in support of Farmers' Organizations in carrying out their public-interest mandate, including policy dialogue, social cohesion, youth and women's engagement, and natural resource management.
- Promote the capitalization and sharing of experiences and knowledge generated by Farmers' Organizations in the formulation and implementation of projects and public policies on key issues such as territorial markets, agroecology, economic models, conflict management and resilience building.
- Strengthen the institutional capacities of Farmers' Organizations in strategic areas such as access to climate funds and rural finance, the use of digital technologies for agricultural advisory services, climate information, e-commerce, livestock monitoring and risk management.
- Recognize the role of Farmers' Organizations in fragile contexts and mobilize them for programme implementation in accordance with IFAD procedures.
- Capitalize on the results of the ongoing assessment of Farmers' Organizations' engagement in IFAD operations in order to jointly develop an engagement strategy with Farmers' Organizations.

Commitments of Farmers' Organizations

We adopt the following resolutions through our networks of Farmers' Organizations:

- Consolidate the gains achieved in the participation of Farmers' Organizations in IFAD processes by actively contributing to the preparation, design, implementation and evaluation of COSOPs, projects and programmes, including through the mobilization of our own resources to co-finance consultations and dialogue platforms.
- Fully participate in national and regional monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for projects and programmes by jointly organizing, with IFAD, governments and project management units, regular consultation and accountability platforms.
- Continue strengthening the democratic governance of our organizations through enhanced transparency, accountability, internal control mechanisms and governance monitoring tools.
- Promote generational renewal within our leadership structures and strengthen the participation, empowerment and leadership of women and youth in decision-making spaces.
- Strengthen peer learning and the sharing of experiences and innovations among Farmers' Organizations in order to enrich policy dialogue and contribute to the implementation of IFAD14 and national and regional public policies.
- Engage actively alongside IFAD in establishing a strategic platform for dialogue, reflection, learning and innovation that will enable our organizations and members to better anticipate, understand and integrate the major challenges transforming food systems, particularly agroecological, climate and digital transitions.

- Strengthen our contribution to social cohesion, conflict prevention, cross-border cooperation and the resilience of fragile territories.
- Develop transparent, balanced and mutually beneficial partnerships with the private sector, financial institutions, governments and technical and financial partners.

Recommendations to All Stakeholders

- Establish a regional FO–IFAD consultation and monitoring framework, facilitated by the IFAD technical team, to monitor agreed commitments and action plans and to periodically share updated information on IFAD planning in each country (COSOPs and new projects).
- Establish and facilitate a mechanism for monitoring the recommendations, commitments and resolutions arising from the Farmers’ Forum in order to ensure their effective implementation at national and regional levels.

Done in Abidjan, 25 June 2026.