THE ROLE OF SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

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I. Presentation of PAFO

PAFO (Panafrican Farmers Organization)

5 OPR (EAFF, PROPAC, ROPPA, SACAU, UMAGRI)

OPN

Cooperatives, unions, fédérations

GIC, OB, Associations
I. Presentation of PAFO – the Panafrican Farmers Organization

- Founding year: 2010
- 49 countries
- Vision: A dynamic, thriving and sustainable African agriculture which ensures food security and food sovereignty, and the economic, social and cultural development of Africa.
II. Concept of Sustainable Agriculture
II. Concept of Sustainable Agriculture

Basic principles of sustainable agriculture:
- Above all, feeds family and ensures income.
- In contrast to industrial agriculture, it permits to work in harmony with the environment respecting sustainable principles based on agro-ecological production.
- It creates sustainable employment.
- It systematically promotes diversification of production. And it provides an alternative to industrial monocultural systems that harm the environment.
II. Concept of Sustainable Agriculture
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Basic principles:

- It contributes to food production, the organisation of local markets for food products following a tiered approach. It contributes to the social economy and solidarity by promoting a better redistribution of resources generated.
- It promotes research in the production space and organises professional training and knowledge transfer around agricultural activities and life.
- The means of production are controlled by members of the farm.
- It is oriented towards achieving food sovereignty, respect for human dignity and the environment.
III. Role of smallholder farmers for food security

- **in the production of food**

  The small producer is a central player:
  - **agriculture**
  - production of cereals (millet, rice, corn, etc.)
  - production of roots and tubers (cassava, plantain, cocoyam, taro, yams, etc.)
  - production of seasonal fruits and market-garden produce
III. Role of smallholder farmers for food security
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- in the production of food

The small producer is a central player:

- **Breeding**
  - Poultry, cattle
  - Conventional and unconventional breeding

- **Fishing**
  - Artisanal fishery
  - Aquaculture
  - Fish
III. Role of smallholder farmers for food security

- at the stage of processing

The small producer transforms certain products into by-products in a traditional or professional manner with help of technical equipment.

(Example of manioc, seasonal fruit)

He/she contributes to improve the added value of the product.
III. Role of smallholder farmers for food security
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- **in market supply**
  - supply of food products:
    - local markets
    - national markets
    - cross-border markets

The small producer liaises with other players in the value chain or intermediaries.
III. Role of smallholder farmers for food security
IV. On the question of productivity

Productivity is closely linked to the availability of the following elements:
- availability of high-quality agricultural inputs
- vocational training for smallholder producers
- the question of financing for agriculture
- health (the fight against pandemics and HIV/AIDS)
- access to natural resources (land, water, energy)
- availability of technologies for adaptation to climate change
V. Significance of traditional knowledge

The small producer is guardian of endogenous knowledge acquired over a long time practicing agriculture.

Some areas of endogenous knowledge in production systems:
- adaptation to climate change
- the use of organic fertilizers
- soil regeneration
- intercropping
- conservation seed farms
VI. Role of innovation

This includes the Services of the Agricultural and Rural Council (SCR).

GFRAS (Global Forum for Rural Advisory Service) defines the SCR as: "various activities providing information and services needed and requested by producers and other rural stakeholders, to help them develop their own skills and technical practices, organizational and management knowledge to improve their livelihoods and well being ».
VI. Role of innovation
VI. Role of innovation

The Services of the Agricultural and Rural Council (SCR) contribute to:

- Inform rural actors
- Strengthen their capacities
VI. Role of innovation

The Services of the Agricultural and Rural Council (SCR) contribute to:

- Accompany the development and adoption of necessary adjustments for their projects,
- Improve performance and sustainability of their activities, and
- Respond to changes in their socio-economic and biophysical environment.
VII. Recommendations: Measures to enable small producers to fully play their role in sustainable agriculture

- Support farmers’ organisations and cooperatives to increase their professionalism and economic viability.

- Transfer certain support measures to agricultural organisations: develop a tailored system of direct financing; support basic self-managed funds of organisations and cooperatives that meet the real needs of producers.
VII. Recommendations: Measures to enable small producers to fully play their role in sustainable agriculture

- Create specific credit lines for microfinance organizations of small producers.
- Support vocational training centres for farmers and rural youth, adults and active farmers, train farmers in entrepreneurship and innovative technologies.
VII. Recommendations: Measures to enable small producers to fully play their role in sustainable agriculture

- Support farmers' organisations on agricultural inputs and modern facilities
- Support the economic activities of women, youth and minorities aiming at their empowerment through specific programs
- Enable small producers to access markets through support by cooperatives, collection of agricultural product, rural transport, storage facilities, cold chains, curing etc.
VII. Recommendations: Measures to enable small producers to fully play their role in sustainable agriculture

- Establish programs for capacity building of farmers’ organisations in the *agricultural and rural council* to improve access for farmers and facilitate their adoption by farmers' organisations.
- Facilitate access and land tenure security (education, training, advocacy and negotiation).
- Make campaigns against pandemics more effective (education, training, local information facilitators).
VII. Recommendations: Measures to enable small producers to fully play their role in sustainable agriculture

- Develop frameworks for dialogue and consultation in order to share the roles and responsibilities among stakeholders and increase the involvement of farmers’ organisations in decision making.
- Connect disjointed production areas.
VII. Recommendations: Measures to enable small producers to fully play their role in sustainable agriculture

- Develop a social security and rural welfare system.
- Recognize and value the peasant’s expertise.
- Encourage and support leadership of agricultural producers (set standards of compensation for leaders who are committed to defend small producers’ interests and who are forced to leave their farms).
Thank you for your attention!