



AKADEMIYA

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Press Release

New project launched today will use digital platforms and tools to enhance resilience and strengthen policy innovation.

Wednesday, February 22, KIGALI – AKADEMIYA2063 and the Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO) are hosting an event in Kigali to mark the launch of the Digitally Enabled Resilience and Nutrition Policy Innovations (DERPIn) Project.

The project will leverage advances in digital infrastructure, big data, machine learning, and artificial intelligence (AI) to identify innovative and lower-cost solutions to increase resilience of food systems and communities to climatic shocks and stressors. Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the DERPIn Project is supported through the Fund for the Promotion of Innovation in Agriculture (i4Ag) and implemented by AKADEMIYA2063 on behalf of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

“With DERPIn, AKADEMIYA2063 proposes the development of a suite of digital solutions to support policy innovations at the intersection of climate change and food and nutrition security in Africa,” said Dr. Ousmane Badiane, AKADEMIYA2063’s Executive Chairperson. “We are delighted to be implementing this project on behalf of GIZ and optimistic that our collaboration with PAFO will drive the creation of integrated, customizable, and context-specific products and services to guide action by food system actors across the project countries.”

Over three years and initially targeting five African countries - Benin, Ghana, Malawi, Uganda, and Senegal - the solutions proposed in this project will derive from participatory approaches that involve local stakeholders and beneficiaries in the content and format of services and products to ensure relevance and increase accessibility and use. Key target stakeholders range from government to private sector, and nonstate actors, in particular, smallholder farmers.

“The Digitally Enabled Resilience and Nutrition Policy Innovations (DERPIn) Project will facilitate the production and use of relevant data, analytics, and digital solutions to guide government planners and private sector operators, including smallholder farmers and their organizations, to craft adapted, gender-sensitive, and impactful policies and programs to advance food systems transformation and enhance resilience to shocks,” said Dr. Babafemi Oyewole, PAFO’s CEO. “The partnership between PAFO and AKADEMIYA2063 will also facilitate collaboration between the two institutions to improve the policy environment for the agricultural sector and build the capacity of

African farmers’ organizations to make evidence-based agriculture and investment decisions and to engage effectively in policy dialogue, mutual learning and accountability process under the CAADP,” he added.

The project responds directly to the broader African agenda laid out in the Malabo Declaration, the AU Common Position on Food System Transformation, the AU Climate Change Strategy, and the African Green Recovery Action Plan. In particular, it will harness the synergies across several lines of work at AKADEMIYA2063, drawing from the wealth of data, analytical evidence, and tools from concluded, ongoing, and new projects in the areas of growth, poverty reduction, nutrition, vulnerability, trade, gender, remote sensing, and artificial intelligence, notably through two core programs of AKADEMIYA2063: the [Malabo Montpellier Panel](#) and [Africa Agriculture Watch \(AAgWa\)](#).

About AKADEMIYA2063

AKADEMIYA2063 is an Africa-based non-profit research organization with headquarters in Kigali, Rwanda and a regional office in Dakar, Senegal. Inspired by the ambitions of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and grounded in the recognition of the central importance of strong knowledge and evidence-based systems, the vision of AKADEMIYA2063 is an Africa with the expertise we need for the Africa we want. This expertise must be responsive to the continent’s needs for data and analysis to ensure high-quality policy design and execution. Inclusive, evidence-informed policymaking is key to meeting the continent’s development aspirations, creating wealth, and improving livelihoods.

AKADEMIYA2063’s overall mission is to create, across Africa and led from its headquarters in Rwanda, state-of-the-art technical capacities to support the efforts by the Member States of the African Union to achieve the key goals of Agenda 2063 of transforming national economies to boost economic growth and prosperity.

Following from its vision and mission, the main goal of AKADEMIYA2063 is to help meet Africa's needs at the continental, regional and national levels in terms of data, analytics, and mutual learning for the effective implementation of Agenda 2063 and the realization of its outcomes by a critical mass of countries. AKADEMIYA2063 strives to meet its goals through programs organized under five strategic areas—policy innovation, knowledge systems, capacity creation and deployment, operational support, and data management, digital products, and technology—as well as innovative partnerships and outreach activities. For more information, visit www.akademiya2063.org.

About PAFO

The Pan-African Farmers’ Organization (PAFO) is a continental organization with a membership base composed of Regional Farmers Networks.

PAFO is the voice of more than 80 million African farmers integrated into nearly 70 national organizations, unions, federations, cooperatives, associations, etc. distributed in more than 45 countries on the continent, and united in five regional networks operating at the heart of African agriculture: Eastern African Farmers Federation (EAFF); Regional Platform of Farmers' Organizations of Central Africa (PROPAC); Network of farmers' and producers' organizations in West Africa (ROPPA); Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU); Maghreb and North African Union of Farmers (UMNAGRI).

PAFO has a fundamental coordinating function both with its member networks and with continental and international organizations. It is thus able to facilitate dialogue and cooperation with the various continental and international institutions, but also with financial and technical partners.

PAFO is recognized as the highest representative body of African farmers involved in crop, livestock, and fishery. The overarching objective of PAFO is to effectively engage members in advocacy with policymakers, and technical and financial partners, and promote their participation in the formulation and implementation of development policies and programs that affect agriculture and rural development in Africa.

PAFO also contributes to formulating projects and developing the necessary capacities to follow up on them. For more information, visit: <http://www.pafo-africa.org/>.

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