



Road map and program

2025 – 2028

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JAFOWA
Joint Action for Farmers'
Organisations in West Africa

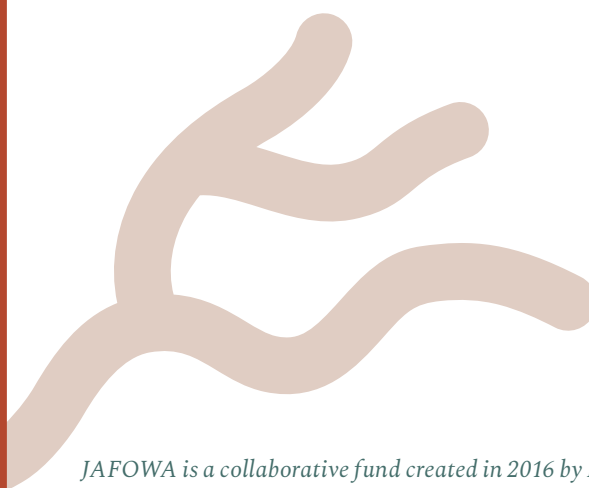
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Introduction

Launched in 2025, JAFOWA (<https://www.jafowa.org/>) works with the West African farmers' movement and its organizations to respond to the needs of family farms and issues related to their development.

In this way, JAFOWA endeavours to contribute to the transition towards sustainable food systems. It supports farmers' organizations (FOs) that are committed to the agroecological transition, strengthening their capacities, fostering multi-actor partnerships (FOs, local governments, research institutes, private sector, NGOs, government services), and encouraging advocacy.



JAFOWA is a collaborative fund created in 2016 by European and American foundations. The programme is run by a steering committee made up of foundation members. It is currently composed of Fondation de France, Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo, Fondazione Cariplo, Foundation for a Just Society, and Fondation Roi Baudouin. The committee defines strategic goals, makes grant allocations, directs the program, and seeks new partners.

JAFOWA is coordinated and implemented by programme managers under the administrative and legal auspices of the Network of European Foundations (NEF). NEF offers a space for cooperation, learning, and management of collaborative funds. It provides project management expertise, as well as support to operations and administration.

1. JAFOWA's vision and mission



Vision

Sustainable food systems rely on robust agroecological practices that respond to local realities and needs. Furthermore, they offer communities access to food products that are healthy and sustainable.

They also have a positive impact in regard to climate change. Sustainable food systems allow family farms to innovate and adapt to this change, and to reduce its effects by diversifying their activities.

Thus, these local food systems contribute in a significant way to both the resilience and modernization of family farms.

Mission

JAFOWA's mission is to support a dynamic, innovative, inclusive, and just farmers' movement in West Africa, one that will allow these farmers', livestock breeders', and fishermen's organizations to actively participate in establishing and managing high-quality local food systems that benefit communities in a sustainable manner.

The family farms that make up these organizations and this movement develop diverse activities that respond to changes in demand—increasingly urban—through the use of local agroecological principles and expertise. Family farms are also strengthened in order to become resilient and adapted to climate change.



Who is JAFOWA meant to support?

JAFOWA directly supports farmers' organizations (FOs) that have developed strong partnerships with other agroecology actors.

These FOs (non-profits, cooperatives, Economic Interest Groups, federations, FO networks, etc.) are run by agricultural producers and can be characterized as follows:

- They are already involved in the process of agroecological transition and can place themselves at various stages in the process below:
 - They have already developed agroecological practices and have learned from their experiences, including replacing chemical substances, crop rotation and/or association, fallowing, agroforestry, soil restoration, and preserving natural resources.
 - By using these techniques, they have already redefined agricultural systems on a local level, so they have a natural and positive impact on biodiversity and the preservation and regeneration of natural resources; and
 - They have strengthened the connection between sector actors (agroecology producers and their organizations, food processing enterprises, vendors, etc.) and consumers on a regional level, based on equitable sharing of added value.
- They sell their products primarily on the local market.
- They can have been created for a single crop or value chain, as long as they are committed to supporting and diversifying their members' activities.
- They are committed to advocacy for the agroecological transition on a local and/or national level through alliances.

2. Programme objectives



JAFOWA aims to achieve four types of objectives:

Environmental objectives: by intensifying the agroecological transition

- Preserve and contribute to restoring biodiversity.
- Preserve seed heritage, an essential element in terms of conservation and resilience in the face of climate change.
- Preserve and restore soil fertility (substituting chemical substances, agroforestry, local compost initiatives, etc.).
- Contribute to improved resource management (such as water and energy).

Social objectives: by strengthening FOs' capacities as social actors

- Contribute to promoting gender equality, encouraging the inclusion of women, especially through economic empowerment.
- Prioritize support for young people as they set up and strengthen their agroecological initiatives.

Economic objectives: by fighting poverty in family farms by creating adequate income

- Support the development of family farms' entrepreneurial aspect and contribute to their profitability, linking actions to improved revenue and increased wages.
- Help family farms diversify their activities.
- Establish and develop access to markets, favouring short food supply chains.
- Focus on setting up adequate financing methods.
- Encourage job creation, especially for young people.

Political objectives: by contributing to agroecological intensification, wherein FOs are major actors and advocate for enabling conditions around local sustainable food systems.

- Support FO platforms that advocate for an international framework that protects and fosters local and sustainable products and systems,
- Support FOs that prioritize advocacy related to land tenure security, seed conservation, job creation (with a focus on young people and women), institutional purchase of agroecology products, and access to finance for producers.

3. JAFOWA's theory of change and road map

To reach these objectives, JAFOWA has identified five areas of focus at the intersection of sustainable food systems and agroecological intensification:



Area 1: FO's and their partners are the cornerstones of sustainable food systems (SFS).

FOs promote the regional dimension of SFS and are attentive to their social, economic environmental, and cultural aspects.

By cultural aspect, JAFOWA means taking into account local knowledge of traditional production methods; customs and traditions related to recipes; the role these outputs play in communities; and the impact of their evolution over time.

These systems rely on agroecological practice. They also respond to local realities, in particular, developments in communities' desire to consume healthy, local, and sustainable products.

JAFOWA's contributions:

- Opting for actions on a regional level while taking care to preserve FOs diversity (size, structure, location) and respect for their strategies.
- Targeting agroecological zones facing common problems so experiences can be shared more effectively, giving priority to issues regarding property and water access.
- Contributing to the sustainable food systems discussion by taking different approaches in rural areas, small towns, and large urban centres—approaches which also take the entire value chain into account, as well as international food issues.
- Making non-specialization, versatility, and diversification of family farm activities a priority, as well as expanding the notion of modernization in family farms and support models; monitoring and capitalizing on these transformations.
- Systematically making the connection between agroecology and climate change issues and constraints; offering FOs and producers better access to climate information.
- Integrating downstream actions for farming sectors: processing, commercialization, marketing, etc., based on a better understanding of regional markets and consumer needs, especially for young people in urban areas.



Area 2: FOs rely on lasting multi-actor partnerships.

FOs engage in partnerships in order to scale up and/or innovate towards local sustainable food systems, developing collective thinking and actively participating in local consultation processes.

These partnerships with actors in the value chain, communities, research institutions, academia, and professional training programs, as well as local political actors, are effective, egalitarian, and lasting.

JAFOWA's contributions:

- Encouraging and facilitating partnerships that make the following issues a priority: modernizing family farms, promoting local expertise, territorialization of the agroecological transition and SFS, evolution of demand and consumer habits.
- Encouraging specific partnerships on issues such as the role of women and young people in agroecology.
- Defending and advocating for agroecology (frameworks and policy strategies, evolving contexts and group dynamics, etc.) and encouraging national and regional partnerships.



Area 3: In FOs and value chains, women actively participate in the intensification of the agroecological transition, supporting and reinforcing its economic, cultural, and environmental dimensions.

Women participate in FOs' governance and decision-making processes. To this end, their capacities, their economic autonomy, and their leadership skills are reinforced.

JAFOWA's contributions:

- Systematically taking gender into account when funding initiatives, including their social, economic, and environmental aspects.
- Monitoring of these issues (frameworks and policy strategies, evolving contexts and dynamics related to gender in food systems, etc.).
- Prioritizing secure access to land, technical and financial resources, and support for developing family farms and diversifying their activities (including non-agricultural activities).
- Checking on the reality of this empowerment in implemented projects through monitoring missions, follow-up evaluation processes, and if necessary, external expertise.
- Contributing to reducing hardship in agroecological work.



Area 4: FOs take young people's roles, needs, and expectations into account in their agroecological transition strategies.

Young people participate in FOs' governance and decision-making processes. To this end, their abilities, their economic autonomy, and their leadership skills are reinforced.

JAFOWA's contributions:

- Systematically taking young people into account when considering proposed initiatives, including their social, economic, and environmental aspects.
- Prioritizing young people's access to land, technical and financial resources, and support for developing their family farms and diversifying their activities.
- Contributing to reducing hardship in agroecological work.
- Monitoring of these issues (frameworks and policy strategies, evolving contexts and dynamics related young people in food systems, etc.).
- Facilitating their access to markets and financing, job creation.
- Prioritizing the entrepreneurial aspect of family farms, as well as methods that facilitate the measurement of the economic impact of projects on family farms and their economic model.
- Checking on the reality of this empowerment in implemented projects through monitoring missions, follow-up evaluation processes, and if necessary, external expertise.





Area 5: FOs develop pedagogical and advocacy actions, disseminate practices, and influence policy conducive to developing local sustainable and equitable food systems, and intensifying the agroecological transition.

Through a collective, multi-actor capitalization process, these pedagogical and advocacy actions target local and state authorities and their FO peers and partners, in order to change their way of looking at issues surrounding SFS and agroecology.

JAFOWA's contributions:

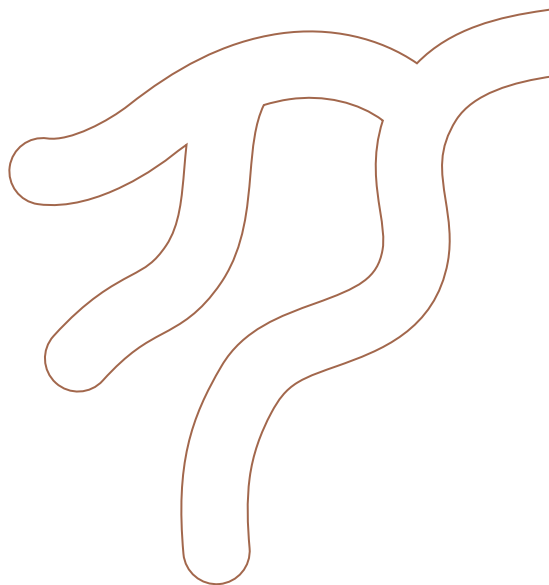
- Making sure that each funded project integrates advocacy and pedagogical activities into its programme.
- Being attentive to the role of capitalization in each project, as well as its usefulness for advocacy and pedagogy.
- Using the potential of collective and cross-organizational capitalization to fund advocacy.
- Financing specific FO advocacy initiatives, if necessary through collective targeted campaigns.

focus

JAFOWA has established and runs a monitoring and evaluation mechanism that feeds these pedagogical and advocacy actions, while allowing for adjustments to programme strategy and measuring its effects. For JAFOWA, it is essential to:

- Monitor and evaluate, with the project leaders, the effects of the projects and how JAFOWA has contributed to change, through the follow-up evaluation process and external expertise.
- Prioritize a learning agenda in connection with national and regional FO platforms and their policy agendas.
- Facilitate a community of practice and committed partners by organizing annual workshops to share knowledge, work on knowledge strategies, and enrich dialogue.

Key activities of the 2025 – 2028 programme



Monitoring six ongoing projects for 2024–2026 from the third call for proposals (CFP3), implemented by three FOs in Burkina Faso and three FOs in Senegal.

New calls for proposals:

- **Launch of “Call For Proposal 4 (CFP4)”** in March 2025; end of selection process and start of projects: from September 2025; end of projects: during 2028.
- **Preparation of a new “Call for Proposal 5 (CFP5)”** in 2026.

Capacity building:

- One **“Helping Hand”** call for capacity-building actions for FOs during each project cycle.
- **Administrative and financial capacity building:** since 2024 for CFP3 FOs, and starting at the end of 2025 for the CFP4.
- **Experience sharing and capitalization workshops:** in person, one time per year and per country; remotely once or twice per year.

Project monitoring and exchange with FOs and partners:

- JAFOWA team monitoring missions at project sites.
- **Meetings and participations at national and international events** organized by the FOs.

Feedback loop and evaluation process: CFP4 drew from the insights gathered from CFP3.

Assessment of regional advocacy: in 2025, end of project led by the Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPO), reflection on the way ahead and next steps.