

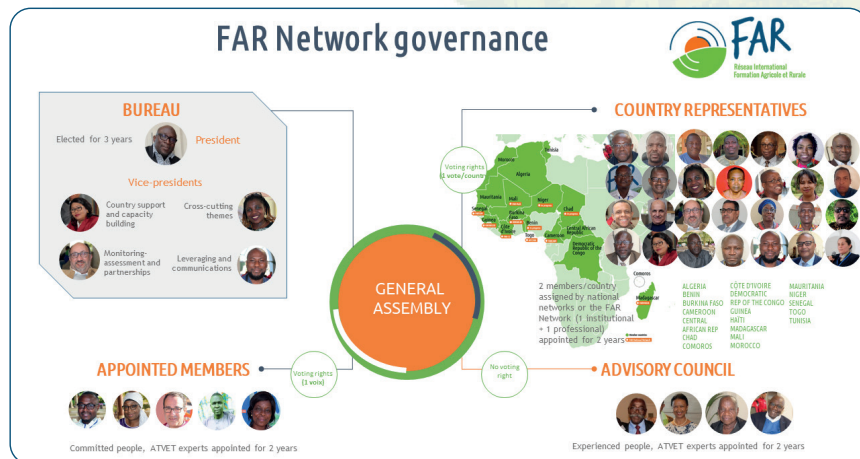
# Impact of the FAR Network



This summary highlights the outcomes and impacts achieved by the International Agricultural and Rural Training Network (FAR) over the 2012–2025 period based on the conclusions of a 2025 impact assessment report.

## INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATURITY

Since 2012, the FAR Network has consolidated its organization and gained maturity. The formulation of its statutes, internal regulations and a shared charter has strengthened its governance, including **19 member countries** and structured around **three constituents (country, designated and Advisory Board members)**.



This governance model now offers a well **balanced representation**, with a five-member Board (including two women) and a clear thematic share of missions.

The FAR Executive Management (DEX), based in Montpellier (France), includes a staff team managing key functions: country support, monitoring-

assessment, leveraging and communications. This progress has strengthened the reputation of the FAR Network as a structured, reliable and credible actor in the agricultural and rural training sphere.

Since 2020, the Network has taken full responsibility for its projects, while demonstrating greater financial and administrative management autonomy. The recent launch of a **change-oriented monitoring-evaluation system** (MES) (2023-2024), with streamlined tools and regular FAR stakeholder surveys, has led to a more strategic management approach.

**Co-funding has accounted for 7.9% of the total FAR budget** for its activities since 2011, while the remainder was funded by AFD—diversification is therefore still a major challenge.

## A BROAD GEOGRAPHICAL AND LINGUISTIC SCOPE

The Network has managed to broaden its geographical scope beyond French-speaking Africa.

It currently provides expertise in Spanish-speaking (Guinea-Bissau), Portuguese-speaking (Angola), English-speaking African (Nigeria, Liberia) and American (Costa Rica) settings.

The inclusion of the Comoros in 2024 and exploratory missions to South Africa and Burundi illustrate the broadening of FAR's linguistic and geographical horizons.



## STRUCTURING EFFECTS ON ITS PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS



### → GENDER

FAR's participatory development of a gender strategy since 2023, staging of an international seminar in Côte d'Ivoire, design of a gender self-assessment tool, creation of the FAR & Gender module on Campus AFD and production of a web documentary all reflect the Network's strong commitment to raise awareness, provide training and advocate for more inclusive systems.



### → AGROECOLOGY

Agroecology—a key priority to support the transition to sustainable farming systems—is gradually being mainstreamed into curricula (Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin) based on assessments, workshops and strategic support. It is included in 67% of FAR projects, involving centres, farmers' organizations, youth and NGOs. An international seminar in October 2025 focused on educational approaches to 'training on transitions and agroecology'.



### → YOUTH INTEGRATION

An international seminar in Cameroon paved the way for a discussion on youth support. The issue was further addressed in subsequent seminars (Montpellier 2014, 2016, Saly 2021), studies (IRAM 2018, MIFAR dissertations) and training sessions.



## LEVERAGING EFFECTS AND NATIONAL TRANSITIONS

**National Agricultural and Rural Training Strategies (SNFAR)** provide a lever for structuring agricultural training opportunities in line with development priorities. These strategies have been backed by the FAR Network since 2018 and formalized in several countries (Madagascar, Togo, Guinea, Senegal, Burkina Faso), with diverse impacts: **enhanced governance, inter-ministerial dialogue, recognition of FAR and training centre support**. While providing a structural framework, the effectiveness of SNFAR is highly dependent on political support, funding and between-actor dialogue.

## SUPPORT INITIATIVES – FAR PROJECTS

- **15 FAR Projects implemented** since 2022 from 210 received proposals
- €40,000 per project on average over 24 months
- 9 concerned countries
- 5,098 beneficiaries

FAR Projects contribute to **capacity building, while boosting the legitimacy of national networks and providing a local foothold**. The topics addressed—agroecology, gender and youth integration—reflect a broad cross-sectoral approach. These projects have involved a range of methods (field schools, technical guides, community radio, etc.), strengthened relations with local institutions and produced educational and leveraging tools.



## TRAINING FOR 8,000 RECIPIENTS

- **8 000 recipients** strengthened their expertise over the 2021–2024 period
- **13 international seminars**
- **9 thematic and technical workshops**
- **4 webinars**
- **15 FAR Projects**
- **4 MIFAR Master's degree courses**, with 88 graduates and currently enrolled students, 35% of whom are women, out of 485 accepted applications
- **Study trips**

Training and capacity-building initiatives have helped strengthen collective expertise, firmly establish practices in local areas and co-build tools tailored to local conditions. Yet these training dynamics are underestimated since the available data only concerns FAR Network initiatives, excluding training provided by national networks in each country.

The **MIFAR Master's programme** was launched in 2022 by the Network in partnership with UCAD (ENSETP) in Dakar (Senegal), ENA in Meknes (Morocco) and the Institut Agro in Montpellier and Dijon (France) with the aim of strengthening

engineering expertise in agricultural and rural training programmes for working professionals. MIFAR is structured around reflective and practical modules to train 'agents of change' capable of reshaping FAR initiatives in their countries. The first graduates have already achieved significant professional and personal breakthroughs.

## PRODUCTION OF COMMUNICATION AND LEVERAGING TOOLS

Over **200 resource materials** have been produced. These communication and leveraging tools are widely recognised for their relevance, quality and practical usefulness.

- **Guides** on setting up projects, FAR economics, gender self-assessment, FAR system assessment.
- **Teaching kits**: booklets, videos, webdocs.
- **Site Digital tools**: [www.reseau-far.com](http://www.reseau-far.com) website, FAR Carto.
- **Leveraging tools**: FAR Thema, Grain de Sel, etc.



## STRENGTHENING OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Since 2022, the Network has established formal links with **25 partners** to strengthen expertise, produce educational resources and develop engineering training:

- academic institutions: ENSETP, ENA, Institut Agro, ENAFA, IFOCAP
- cooperation institutions: ENABEL, AVSF/CE, WOHA, ECOWAS
- research institutions: CIRAD, COSTEA
- publishing institutions, including Inter-Réseaux
- other less formal partnerships have also helped strengthen the Network via strategic linkages with key actors such as AFDI, FERT, AVSF, GRET, ILO, MFR and the FARM Foundation





## RECOGNIZED AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL TRAINING EXPERTISE

The Network has had a pivotal role in the **preparation, appraisal, formulation and evaluation of large-scale AFD-funded projects in over 15 countries.**

FAR expert missions have fostered the development of national strategies, the dissemination of innovative educational practices and the networking of men and women stakeholders.

This expertise enhances the Network's institutional recognition, its regional and international outreach and the leveraging of multi-actor co-funding.

- **31 expert missions** at the request of AFD over the 2021–2024 period
- **900 days** involved
- **38 experts** leveraged by the Network
- **8 African countries** concerned, including Cameroon (7), Madagascar (6) and Senegal (5)
- **€10–50 M AFD** project funding



**The FAR Network has—throughout its 20 year history—become a key force in agricultural and rural training in Africa and beyond.** It has strengthened its governance, gained expertise in project management, fostered national initiatives (SNFAR, FAR Projects) and achieved progress on key issues such as gender, agroecology and youth integration.

FAR's actions have helped train **several thousands of men and women, produce recognised resources and influence public policymaking in member countries.** To build on these achievements, the Network will need to step up its efforts to diversify its funding, promote its

pool of experts, monitor and assess its activities and capitalize on its achievements. FAR is now firmly established as a key force in transforming training systems in support of sustainable rural development.

