

CONCEPT NOTE: WEBINAR ON CARBON CREDITS IN AFRICA AND THE ROLE OF COOPERATIVES

Theme: Unlocking Carbon Credit Opportunities in Africa: The Role of Cooperatives in Driving Climate Action and Sustainable Livelihoods

Organizers

This webinar is a joint initiative between the **International Cooperative Alliance – Africa (ICA Africa)** and **Fairtrade Africa (FTA)**, aimed at strengthening the capacity of cooperatives to engage in emerging climate finance opportunities.

Background

Africa is increasingly positioning itself within the global carbon market as a key player in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Carbon credits present an opportunity for communities to generate income while promoting environmental sustainability through activities such as afforestation, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and conservation.

Cooperatives, as people-centered enterprises, are uniquely positioned to aggregate smallholder efforts, mobilize communities, and scale climate-smart initiatives. However, many cooperatives lack awareness, technical capacity, and access to carbon markets.

Through this joint initiative, ICA Africa and Fairtrade Africa seek to bridge the knowledge gap by introducing carbon credit systems and highlighting practical pathways for cooperatives to participate and benefit.

Objectives

The webinar seeks to:

- Build awareness on carbon credits and their relevance in Africa
- Explain how carbon markets operate (compliance and voluntary markets)
- Highlight opportunities for cooperatives in carbon credit generation
- Share practical examples and success stories
- Provide guidance on how cooperatives can get started

Target Audience

- Cooperative leaders and members
- Cooperative federations and unions
- Fairtrade-certified producer organizations
- Development partners and NGOs
- Government agencies
- Climate finance and environmental experts

Expected Outcomes

- Increased understanding of carbon credits among cooperative stakeholders
- Identification of potential carbon credit opportunities for cooperatives
- Enhanced capacity to engage in climate-smart and carbon projects

Modality

- **Platform:** Virtual (Zoom)
- **Date:** Friday May 29, 2026
- **Duration:** 2 hours
- **Format:** Presentations, panel discussion, and Q&A
- **Moderator:** Mr. Paul Ayalo - Fairtrade Africa

Mr. Erick Obongo- ICA-Africa

Agenda

Time	Topic	Moderator / facilitator
3:00- 3:10 Pm	Session 1: Opening and Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks from ICA Africa • Remarks from Fairtrade Africa and Overview of webinar objective 	Dr. Rose Karimi ICA-Africa Regional Director Mr. Agapeters Kubasu, Head of Region- East and Central African Network
3:10 – 3:40 Pm	Session 2: Introduction to Carbon Credits and Carbon Markets and Opportunities in Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are carbon credits? • Types of carbon markets (compliance vs voluntary) • Global and African context • Key sectors: agriculture, forestry, energy, waste management • Emerging trends and opportunities • Policy and regulatory considerations 	Mr. Amos Wekesa Senior Carbon Finance and Climate Resilience Expert
3:40 – 4:10 Pm	Session 3: Role of Cooperatives in Carbon Markets and how Cooperatives can get Started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why cooperatives are well-positioned • Aggregation of smallholder farmers • Governance and accountability advantages • Steps to develop carbon projects • Partnerships and technical support • Accessing finance and certification 	Mr. Jelmer van de Mortel Chief Executive Officer ACORN & Ms. Mary Chege; Project Developer at Acorn
4:10- 4:30 Pm	Session 4: Case Studies / Practical Experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of successful cooperative carbon projects – Leade Case- Solidaridad • Lessons learned and challenges 	Ms. Sweeny Binsari, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Lead, Solidaridad
4:30 -4:55 Pm	Session 5: Panel Discussion & Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive discussion with participants 	All Participants

4:55- 5:00	<p>Session 6: Wrap-up and Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key takeaways • Closing remarks from organizers • Next steps and follow-up actions 	<p>Dr. Rose Karimi ICA-Africa Regional Director Mr. Agapeters Kubasu, Head of Region-Central African Network</p>
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