



# CONSTITUTIVE CHARTER

---

## PREAMBLE

The African agriculture faces a colossal challenge linked to its demographic growth. With 1.2 billion inhabitants in 2017, the continent is expected to reach around 2.5 billion in 2050. While one in six human beings lives in Africa today, more than one in three will live there within a century. The continent must imperatively feed its populations by leading a doubly green revolution where it will be necessary at the same time to **improve the technical and economic performances of the farming systems while preserving the natural resources including in particular soil, biodiversity and water.**

In front of the immensity of the task and despite the growing crises of all kinds, the continent has a number of advantages.

Thus, the health crisis linked to COVID 19 seems to reveal the resilience capacities of African and even Sahelian agriculture (*south-Mali and south-Burkina for example*). With the closure of borders, the decline in purchasing power in urban areas, severe disturbances on the international commodity market (*including rice in particular*) and considering the availability of agricultural labor generally unaffected by the virus and very little impacted by traffic restrictions, the strong demand for food products from cities has provided a formidable incentive to increase and sell local production.

More generally, it is worth remembering that 65% of the world's arable land is in Africa and that it remains the best place to feed the 9 billion humans projected for 2050. In addition, 600 million ha of uncultivated arable land are available in Africa, which offers it a significant growth potential.

## INITIATIVE AGROECOLOGIE AFRIQUE

Under these conditions, more than ever, agriculture is **one of the main levers of development on the continent** where nearly 70% of the population still lives in rural areas.

The modernization of this sector, especially **through agroecology, digital agriculture and social business**, must therefore become a priority again. It is an economic, social, environmental, security and democratic issue. And, private companies from both the north and the south must be involved.

**Aware that Africa represents an exceptional growth lever, African and European companies, employers organizations and institutions in the agriculture and livestock sectors have decided to join forces to form a team with complementary expertise and driven by the common desire to provide an appropriate response to this major challenge.**

Bolstered by this shared ambition, the signatories of this charter (the **“Charter”**) intend to jointly explore and develop value chains that specifically respond to African issues.

As co-development is at the heart of the ethics shared by all the signatories, a significant part of these activities will fall to local actors, thus promoting technology transfers and the appropriation of the know-how required for a sustainable establishment of agricultural and livestock production sectors considered by this Charter.

The objective of the signatories, through their commitment to deploy this approach in Africa, is to **participate in the promotion of a strategy combining social, environmental and economic development in the service of prosperity but also the preservation of biodiversity and more generally the stability of the continent.**

**CONSTITUTION OF A NEW PARTNERSHIP  
FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF AGROECOLOGY IN AFRICA**

Through their adhesion to the charter, the signatory companies and institutions are supporting a new state of mind based on partnership and balanced relations with the continent.

The coalition of actors will be an aggregator of entrepreneurial potential and talent that bridges Africa and Europe. It is different from other business federations or other business associations because its disruptive DNA gives a space for expression to small businesses as well as large groups, on both sides of the Mediterranean.

**The coalition is long-term oriented. It aims to be anchored in the European and African economic landscapes in order to embody a new form of economic partnership in agriculture.**

## OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Charter is to bring together the complementary skills of African actors invested in these sectors and Europeans recognized for their technical and financial expertise as well as their experience in issues related to African development, with the aim of:

- **Strengthening the commercial action of each** of the signatory on the African continent by creating a group effect gathered around a coherent set of activities without restrictive effect of competition with regard to third parties not parties to this charter;
- **Promoting agricultural excellence** by proposing a comprehensive approach serving an effective and sustainable development of the structuring sectors of livestock and agriculture;
- **Developing a close partnership** with African actors in the agricultural and livestock sectors to promote and strengthen family farms and their organization, within the framework of fair and sustainable agriculture;
- **Committing to participate in the achievement of the 2030 goals of the Great Green Wall Initiative.** The Sahelian band is identified as one of the global “hotspots” for climate change. In this specific region, it is absolutely essential to provide answers to the pressures on natural resources to meet the SDGs and to preserve biodiversity. The structuration of agricultural and livestock value chains encouraging the deployment of agroecological practices, and the creation of dignified and sustainable jobs, will constitute an important response for the adaptation of the populations of the region to climate change and mitigation of its effects.

## SCOPE OF ACTION

The areas of activity in which the Charter will be deployed are referred to in the Preamble and described more precisely in Annex 1 (*the “Segments”*). Each of these areas of activity is an essential link in the value chain.

## THE APPROACH

The overall approach that will be developed under the charter will include, at a minimum, a medium / long-term strategic plan, an organizational and technical plan, and a financial resource mobilization strategy and finally some mechanisms:

- **governance** of the initiative and managerial facilitation,
- **training and mapping** of skills,
- **quality monitoring / evaluation** and impact measurement.

A steering and monitoring committee for this initiative will be set up by the signatories, and regulations will be defined.

## THE 4 COMMITMENTS OF THE COALITION

- **Viability & economic sustainability:** the sectors promoted must be efficient and competitive in the long term
- **Respect for the environment and natural resources:** activities must be responsible and have a positive impact on their environment. In the Sahel, in consideration of climate issues, agricultural practices preserving biodiversity and all natural resources will be systematically highlighted.
- **Social equity & co-development:** structured value chains will ensure fair remuneration for producers.
- **Transparency:** The charter partners undertake to publish once a year a public document on all of their activities.

This movement is launched on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, during the **Great Green Wall Investment Forum** (*One planet summit for Biodiversity*) in the presence of:

- M. Emmanuel Macron, *President of the France*,
- M. Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani, *President of Mauritania*,
- HRH the Prince Charles of Wales.

Signed in \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ 2020