

PRESS RELEASE COMMISSIONER TMUSIIME RECEIVED PAN AFRICAN FARMERS ORGANISATION (PAFO)

Tuesday 29 April 2014 – Her Excellency Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture at the African Union Commission received today Mr. Bagna Djibo, the President of the Pan African Farmers' Organisation (PAFO). He was accompanied by Dr. Philip Kiriro, President of the East African Farmers' Federation (EAFF), Dr. Theo de Jager, President of the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), Mr. Salaheldeen of UMAGRI (North African farmers' Organisation), and Ms. Kinkodila TOMBO Doloies Hortense from PROPAC (Central African Farmers' Organisation). The meeting was also attended by officials of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture at the Commission.

Commissioner thanked the PAFO Delegation for responding to her invitation to attend the meetings of the Joint AU Conference of Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Rural Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture from 28 April to 2 May 2014. She also thanked PAFO for the continued role of mobilising and leading African farmers to boost African agriculture for socio-economic development.

The PAFO President on his part thanked the Commissioner for her availability to receive his delegation and for her continued commitment to work with and to support PAFO activities. He informed the Commissioner that PAFO and its five member organisations, ROPPA, PROPAC, SACAU, EAFF and UMAGRI, had grown stronger since the establishment of PAFO in 2010 with more youth and women getting on board. He assured that the PAFO members remained determined to the cause of transforming African agriculture and called for continued collaboration and support from AUC to be involved more actively in AU activities especially during the 2014 AU Year of Agriculture and Food Security. He also invited the Commission to partner with PAFO in organising the International Year of Family Farming in Malawi and the PAFO General Assembly in July 2014. Other members of PAFO delegation also thanked the Commission for involving them in the Governing Council of the African Fertiliser Financing Mechanism and the Partnership Committee of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). The delegation requested to have a meeting with the Commissioner at least twice a year.

The Commissioner welcomed the ideas and recommendations made by the PAFO delegation and assured them of her availability for continued consultation and cooperation in taking forward Africa's common agenda for agricultural transformation. The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere.