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SHIWAKUTA–AFSA COLLABORATION IN ADVANCING AGROECOLOGY AND
FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA
2025



Brief Report on Strategic Engagements and Early Results (2024–2025)

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1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Shirikisho la Vyama vya Wakulima Wadogo Tanzania (SHIWAKUTA) expresses its deep appreciation to the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) for the leadership, solidarity, and principled commitment that have made this collaboration meaningful and impactful. This report reflects a shared journey grounded in common values and a collective determination to advance agroecology and food sovereignty across Africa.

SHIWAKUTA sincerely thanks the AFSA Board of Directors for their strategic guidance, political stewardship, and continued dedication to maintaining AFSA as a people-led, values-driven continental platform. We are particularly grateful to our senior AFSA members whose confidence and support enabled SHIWAKUTA's admission into the Alliance, affirming the importance of Tanzania's smallholder farmer movement within the continental food sovereignty agenda.

Our appreciation is equally extended to the AFSA General Coordinator, Dr. Million Belay, and the committed teams of the AFSA Secretariat in Kampala and Dakar. Their professionalism, coordination, and responsiveness have been instrumental in facilitating SHIWAKUTA's meaningful participation in continental governance processes, advocacy platforms, research initiatives, and capacity-building efforts. Their support has strengthened SHIWAKUTA's institutional confidence, visibility, and effectiveness as a nationally rooted yet continentally connected actor.

SHIWAKUTA also extends heartfelt gratitude to all Development Partners supporting AFSA. As an AFSA member, SHIWAKUTA stands firmly to testify that partner resources are being directed to the right place. AFSA has consistently demonstrated accountability to its members by working closely with national platforms to serve family farmers across Africa, including women and youth, through advocacy, movement building, research, and enterprise support. The results presented in this report are a reflection of this responsible and impactful investment.

SHIWAKUTA reaffirms its commitment to upholding AFSA's philosophy in defending agroecology and food sovereignty. The Federation pledges to actively collaborate with fellow AFSA members through thematic Working Groups, joint advocacy initiatives, and shared learning processes to advance collective agendas in the interests of African smallholder farmers.

Looking ahead to 2026, SHIWAKUTA expresses strong optimism for deeper collaboration within AFSA and calls upon Development Partners to continue and strengthen their support to the Alliance. Such support remains critical to sustaining a credible, people-centered continental movement capable of transforming Africa's food systems in an equitable, resilient, and just manner.



Richard Masandika
SHIWAKUTA Coordinator

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents a consolidated account of strategic engagements and early results achieved through the SHIWAKUTA–AFSA collaboration during the period late 2024 to 2025. It captures how structured participation in continental advocacy platforms, research-driven processes, and capacity-building initiatives translated into tangible outcomes that strengthen agroecology and food sovereignty at national, regional, and continental levels.

During the reporting period, the collaboration focused on youth leadership, financial justice, cross-border trade and territorial markets, agroecological entrepreneurship, and the governance of emerging technologies in agriculture. Key engagements included participation in the African Youth Forum on Food Systems, continental convenings on redirecting agricultural finance toward agroecology, regional advocacy within the East African Community on trade and market integration, and pan-African dialogues on biodigital technologies. These platforms enabled smallholder farmer perspectives - particularly those of women and youth - to be reflected in policy and movement-building spaces.

Research and evidence generation formed a central pillar of the collaboration. Regional and national studies on agroecological cross-border trade and territorial markets in Tanzania informed advocacy, policy dialogue, and capacity-building interventions. The findings guided and national workshops, multi-stakeholder dialogues, and field-based learning regional exchanges, translating evidence into practical advocacy messages addressing regulatory barriers, non-tariff obstacles, and market access constraints.

The collaboration also delivered targeted capacity-building interventions to strengthen agroecological enterprises and territorial market actors. These included Training of Trainers on enterprise sustainability, national workshops for agroecological entrepreneurs and SMEs, and technical trainings on value addition, standards compliance, branding, and regional market access. Participants enhanced their technical, organizational, and advocacy capacities, reinforcing agroecology as a resilient and viable economic pathway.

Collectively, these engagements produced measurable early results. Since the inception of the collaboration, approximately 350 individuals have been reached directly through trainings, policy dialogues, research dissemination forums, advocacy meetings, and media engagements. Participants included smallholder farmers, government officials, researchers, media practitioners, traders, entrepreneurs, and staff from member associations, with women and youth accounting for about 60% of those reached. Beyond direct participation, thousands of additional people were reached indirectly through media coverage, including radio and television programmes, news features, and social media platforms that amplified key advocacy messages and outcomes.

Overall, the SHIWAKUTA–AFSA collaboration demonstrates the strategic value of coordinated, research-informed, and inclusive engagement that links grassroots realities with continental advocacy processes. The results highlight how alliance-based action can strengthen territorial markets, amplify farmer voices, and advance agroecology and food sovereignty as practical pathways for transforming African food systems.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The Shirikisho la Vyama vya Wakulima Wadogo Tanzania (SHIWAKUTA) is the national apex organization representing smallholder farmers' associations across the United Republic of Tanzania. As a non-political and non-profit federation, SHIWAKUTA provides a unified platform for farmers, pastoralists, and fisherfolk, with the overarching goal of improving their socio-economic wellbeing and strengthening their collective voice in agricultural and food systems governance.

SHIWAKUTA's mandate focuses on advancing agroecology, food sovereignty, farmers' rights, and inclusive agricultural development, while strengthening the organizational, technical, and advocacy capacities of its members. Through coordinated action, policy engagement, and strategic partnerships, the Federation supports smallholder producers to influence decision-making processes from local to continental levels. Agroecology is a core pillar of SHIWAKUTA's programming, reflecting its commitment to environmentally sustainable, climate-resilient, culturally appropriate, and farmer-led food systems that protect livelihoods and natural resources.

The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) is a continent-wide Network of Networks and a leading people-led platform promoting agroecology and food sovereignty across Africa. AFSA brings together a broad constituency, including smallholder farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, Indigenous Peoples, women and youth movements, faith-based institutions, civil society organizations, researchers, activists, and consumer groups. United by shared values, AFSA advocates for a transition away from industrial, extractive, and corporate-controlled food systems toward regenerative, socially just, and culturally rooted African food systems.

AFSA envisions an Africa in which communities are empowered to define, govern, and sustain their own food systems, and where citizens actively shape food governance at national, continental, and global levels. Through research, advocacy, movement building, and strategic support to national platforms, AFSA advances agroecology, African Agroecological Entrepreneurship (AAE), and Territorial Markets (TMs) as equitable and sustainable pathways for inclusive economic development.

In mid 2024, SHIWAKUTA formally joined AFSA, aligning Tanzania's organized smallholder farmer movement with a strong continental platform committed to food systems transformation. This milestone marked a strategic step in deepening Tanzania's participation in Africa-wide efforts to advance agroecology and food sovereignty.

3.2 OVERVIEW OF THE SHIWAKUTA–AFSA COLLABORATION

Since its formal affiliation with AFSA, SHIWAKUTA has actively engaged in a wide range of continental and regional processes, including constitutional and governance meetings, strategic convenings, thematic workshops, capacity-building trainings, and coordinated advocacy initiatives. These engagements have enabled SHIWAKUTA to both contribute Tanzanian grassroots perspectives to continental dialogues and benefit from shared learning, collective strategies, and cross-country solidarity aimed at transforming African food systems.

The SHIWAKUTA–AFSA collaboration is grounded in shared values and strategic objectives, notably the promotion of food sovereignty, agroecology, ecological sustainability, social justice, and democratic governance of food systems. Through this partnership, SHIWAKUTA has strengthened its role as a nationally rooted yet continentally connected advocacy actor, enhancing its capacity to influence policy debates, mobilize its membership, and advance agroecological alternatives within Tanzania.

At the same time, AFSA’s collaboration with SHIWAKUTA has reinforced the Alliance’s grounding in national and grassroots realities, ensuring that continental advocacy remains responsive to the lived experiences, priorities, and innovations of smallholder producers. The partnership thus represents a mutually reinforcing relationship that links local action to continental movement building, amplifies farmer-led voices in policy spaces, and contributes to the broader struggle for equitable, resilient, and people-centered African food systems.

1. RATIONALE OF THE REPORT

The collaboration between SHIWAKUTA and AFSA represents a strategic tie between nationally rooted smallholder movements and a continent-wide platform advancing people-led agroecology and food sovereignty. Following SHIWAKUTA’s formal affiliation with AFSA in mid 2024, the need emerged to systematically document, analyze, and communicate the early results, strategic engagements, and advocacy contributions arising from this partnership.

This report is therefore intended to provide a consolidated institutional account of SHIWAKUTA’s engagement within AFSA from mid 2024 to 2025, capturing how participation in continental platforms, governance processes, thematic convenings, and advocacy initiatives has strengthened national and continental efforts to transform food systems. By synthesizing experiences, actions, and emerging outcomes, the report demonstrates how national farmer organizations can leverage continental solidarity to amplify their voices, enhance policy influence, and advance agroecological alternatives.

At the same time, the report responds to the growing urgency of addressing structural challenges confronting African food systems, including the dominance of industrial and extractive agricultural models, inequitable financial and investment flows, restrictive trade and market regimes, and the expanding influence of poorly regulate digital technologies in agriculture. In this context, the SHIWAKUTA–AFSA collaboration is positioned as a practical example of coordinated, values-driven advocacy that links grassroots realities with continental policy spaces, while also serving as a learning and accountability tool for SHIWAKUTA, AFSA, partners, and supporters seeking evidence-based insights into the role of movement-based alliances in advancing people-centered food systems transformation.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE REPORT

The specific objectives of this report are to:

- 1) Document SHIWAKUTA's institutional engagement within AFSA since joining the continental platform.
- 2) Highlight key advocacy themes, processes, and strategic interventions undertaken through the collaboration.
- 3) Assess the emerging results and added value of SHIWAKUTA's participation in continental agroecology and food sovereignty advocacy.
- 4) Provide a reference document to inform future planning, learning, partnerships, and resource mobilization efforts.

5. MAIN REPORT: STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS, ADVOCACY ACTIONS, AND EARLY RESULTS OF SHIWAKUTA–AFSA COLLABORATION (2024–2025)

5.1. PREAMBLE

Since its formal affiliation with the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), SHIWAKUTA has strategically engaged in continental platforms that advance youth leadership, policy advocacy, and financial justice within agroecology and food sovereignty movements. These engagements have strengthened SHIWAKUTA's visibility at the continental level while contributing Tanzanian smallholder and youth perspectives to Africa-wide advocacy processes. The period 2024–2025 marks an important foundational phase, characterized by active participation, learning, alliance-building, and the generation of early advocacy outcomes.

SHIWAKUTA's engagement with AFSA represents a deliberate effort to situate Tanzania's smallholder farmers within a broader continental movement advocating for systemic change in Africa's food systems.

5.2. KEY AREAS OF ENGAGEMENT AND EARLY RESULTS (2024–2025)

Since becoming a member of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), SHIWAKUTA has actively engaged in multiple continentals, regional, and national advocacy, policy, and movement-building initiatives. These engagements span youth leadership, financial justice, regional trade and markets, policy dialogue, emerging technologies, and alliance strengthening. Collectively, they demonstrate SHIWAKUTA's growing integration into continental food sovereignty processes and its contribution to shaping agroecological priorities at national, regional, and continental levels.

The period 2024–2025 represents a foundational phase in the SHIWAKUTA–AFSA collaboration, characterized by active participation in structured convenings, thematic initiatives, and policy-oriented platforms. Through these spaces, SHIWAKUTA has both contributed Tanzanian smallholder and youth perspectives to continental debates and

strengthened its own institutional capacity for advocacy, coordination, and strategic engagement.

5.2.1. Youth Engagement and Leadership in Food Systems Transformation

As part of its commitment to youth inclusion and intergenerational equity in agriculture, SHIWAKUTA participated in the African Youth Forum on Food Systems, convened by AFSA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 14–16 October 2024. SHIWAKUTA was represented by one youth delegate among approximately 300 in-person youth participants from across Africa, alongside more than 10,000 participants who joined virtually. The forum provided an important platform for young people to articulate shared challenges and collective solutions for transforming Africa’s food systems through agroecology and food sovereignty.

Discussions during the forum focused on barriers facing youth in agriculture, including limited access to land, finance, markets, and decision-making spaces, as well as the disproportionate impacts of climate change on young farmers. SHIWAKUTA’s participation ensured that the experiences and priorities of Tanzanian smallholder farmers and rural youth were reflected in these continental deliberations, reinforcing the central role of youth as agents of food systems transformation.

Key recommendations emerging from the forum included calls for increased investment in agroecology to support smallholder farmers and youth-led enterprises, the development of climate-resilient food systems, and the protection of land and resource rights for young people, with particular emphasis on women and marginalized groups. These outcomes have strengthened SHIWAKUTA’s alignment with AFSA’s continental youth agenda and informed its national advocacy on youth participation, agroecology, and food sovereignty.



SHIWAKUTA participated in the African Youth Forum on Food Systems, convened by AFSA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 14–16 October 2024.

5.2.2. Continental Advocacy on Financial Justice

SHIWAKUTA participated in the three-day continental convening titled “Shifting Financial Power: Defunding Industrial Agriculture, Redirecting Funding to Agroecology,” held in Nairobi in March 2025. The gathering brought together farmer organizations, civil society actors, researchers, and policy advocates to examine how financial systems and investment priorities

continue to favour industrial agriculture at the expense of smallholder-led agroecological alternatives.

Through this engagement, SHIWAKUTA contributed to collective analyses on public expenditure, donor funding, private investment, and the role of financial institutions in shaping agricultural development pathways. A key outcome was the development of a continental advocacy roadmap on financial justice, aimed at redirecting financial flows toward agroecology and farmer-centered food systems. This process strengthened SHIWAKUTA's advocacy capacity and reinforced its commitment to equitable and sustainable agricultural financing.

5.2.3. Organise and Participate National and Regional - Trade and Market Advocacy

Since joining AFSA, SHIWAKUTA has actively engaged in initiatives to strengthen cross-border trade and territorial markets for agroecological products within the East African Community (EAC). These efforts, informed by AFSA's research on Cross-Border Trade and Territorial Markets, addressed structural and regulatory barriers that limit smallholder participation in regional markets. Through national workshops, advocacy meetings with regional legislators, and multi-stakeholder conferences, SHIWAKUTA promoted enabling policies, deepened understanding of regional integration, and positioned Tanzanian smallholders as key actors in agroecological trade. Field visits and interactive engagements with farmers, traders, and market actors provided practical insights into market dynamics, challenges, and opportunities for sustainable and inclusive value chains.



SHIWAKUTA joined other AFSA members and stakeholders in the two-day Study Validation Workshop on Agroecological Produce Cross-Border Trade EAC organized by AFSA in Nairobi, Kenya.

These activities have also fostered cross-learning, collaboration, and innovation among producers, entrepreneurs, and policymakers, translating evidence into actionable advocacy

strategies that target non-tariff barriers, infrastructure gaps, and limited market information. The table below highlights key events, dates, and outcomes, illustrating SHIWAKUTA’s strategic steps to strengthen territorial markets and advance fair, sustainable cross-border trade for agroecological products.

Date	Event	Key Highlights
14-15 August 2025	National Advocacy Workshop on Cross-Border Trade and Territorial Markets (Arusha, Tanzania)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SHIWAKUTA organized a workshop with field visits under AFSA’s initiative, reflecting on trade barriers, regulatory challenges, and opportunities for small-scale producers. - Advocacy focused on enabling policies for territorial markets, fair cross-border trade, and sustainable agroecological value chains.
15–16 October 2025	AFSA–EALA Advocacy Meeting with the Committees on Agriculture, and on Industry and Trade (EAC HQ, Arusha)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The meeting was organized and led by AFSA, with SHIWAKUTA joining AFSA members from Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda as part of a joint AFSA delegation. - The delegation engaged EALA committee members to advocate for harmonized EAC policies that support agroecology, protect smallholder farmers, and strengthen regional market integration.
27–31 October 2025	Regional Multi-Stakeholder Conference on Advancing Agroecological Trade (Jinja, Uganda)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SHIWAKUTA participated in a four-day conference with 150+ participants from 8 EAC countries. - Activities included visits to the Agroecological Co-Creation Village and Busia Main Market to observe practices and cross-border trade dynamics. - Discussions highlighted barriers such as non-tariff barriers, infrastructure gaps, and limited market information, while showcasing resilience, innovation, and cooperation among local traders.

5.2.4. Engagement on Emerging Technologies

In October 2025, SHIWAKUTA actively participated in the First Pan-African Convening on the Future of Biodigital Technologies in Food and Agriculture, held from 2–4 October in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Convened by AFSA, AfriTAP, and the ETC Group, the gathering brought together over 130 participants from 33 African countries, including farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, women, youth, researchers, and policymakers. The convening provided a critical platform to assess the rapid introduction of digital and biodigital technologies in agriculture, and their potential impacts on food sovereignty, ecological sustainability, and farmers’ rights.

SHIWAKUTA engaged in discussions examining risks related to data ownership, corporate control, and the marginalization of traditional knowledge systems. The engagement

contributed to a shared continental position emphasizing the need for farmer-centered technology governance frameworks that support agroecology and protect food sovereignty.

5.2.5. Engagement on Agroecological Entrepreneurship and Territorial Markets

Between June and August 2025, SHIWAKUTA, with support from AFSA, conducted a national-level study on agroecological cross-border trade and territorial markets in Tanzania. The study assessed market functionality, vendor participation, gender and youth inclusion, product diversity, and governance structures. It identified key opportunities, including growing demand for agroecological products and active engagement of smallholder farmers, as well as persistent challenges such as infrastructure gaps, high certification costs, non-tariff barriers, and weak standards harmonization. The findings provided essential evidence to inform policy advocacy, capacity-building initiatives, and strategies for resilient, inclusive, and agroecologically-driven markets.

Based on the study, SHIWAKUTA with support from AFSA, organized a two-day capacity-building workshop for Agroecological Entrepreneurs (AEEs) and Territorial Market actors on 17–18 October 2025 in Arusha. Participants were selected from those identified during the June–August 2025 study, representing diverse agroecological value chains such as honey, moringa, spices, cereals, herbal products, and traditional foods. Through technical training, policy dialogue, peer learning, and field visits, participants strengthened their skills in enterprise management, product quality, market access, and advocacy for inclusive agroecological policies.



SME’s training workshops in Arusha (left) – and in Dodoma (right)

Further consolidating these efforts, SHIWAKUTA conducted a one-day Capacity Building Training for Agroecological SMEs and Territorial Market actors on 17 December 2025 at Dodoma, again with AFSA’s support. Forty participants, drawn from the study and workshop pools, including SMEs, farmer organizations, and women- and youth-led initiatives, engaged in sessions on standards compliance, value addition, branding, packaging, and EAC market access. Practical exercises and group discussions enabled participants to identify challenges, develop enterprise improvement plans, and strengthen collaborative networks, reinforcing agroecology as a climate-resilient, inclusive, and economically viable approach to food systems.

Collectively, these initiatives demonstrate tangible results of SHIWAKUTA–AFSA collaboration (2025): enhanced enterprise capacities, practical strategies for market access and value addition, strengthened networks and institutional linkages, and reinforced advocacy for agroecological entrepreneurship and territorial market development. Smallholder farmers, women, and youth are now better equipped to influence and shape resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems in Tanzania and across the EAC, positioning territorial markets as key drivers of agroecological transformation and food sovereignty.

5.2.6. Training of Trainers on Sustainability of Agroecological Enterprises

From 17–20 June 2025, SHIWAKUTA participated in the Training of Trainers (ToT) on Sustainability of Agroecological Enterprises, held at Country Lake Resort, Garuga, Uganda, and organized by the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA). The continental training brought together trainers, agroecology practitioners, enterprise developers, and community leaders from eight African countries under the African Agroecology Enterprise (AAE) Project. The ToT aimed to strengthen Agroecological Enterprises (AAEs) and Territorial Markets (TMs) by equipping national facilitators with skills in systems-based enterprise development, financial literacy, business modelling, marketing, branding, certification systems, and mentorship, using participatory learning, practical exercises, pitching sessions, and exposure visits.

SHIWAKUTA was represented by five delegates, comprising three farmers from member organizations (MVIWAARUSHA, MVIWAKA, and CHAWANAKO) and two staff members. Participation strengthened SHIWAKUTA’s institutional and facilitator capacity to cascade training, mentorship, and business development support to agroecological enterprises at national and territorial levels. The ToT resulted in improved competencies in sustainable venture building, financial management, and stewardship-oriented business models, and directly informed SHIWAKUTA’s subsequent national trainings, coaching, and mentorship programmes. This engagement clearly demonstrates tangible results of SHIWAKUTA–AFSA collaboration in building human capital, strengthening agroecological enterprises, and advancing food sovereignty–driven market transformation in Tanzania.

5.2.7. AFSA Support to SHIWAKUTA’s Strategic Participation in the National Farmers’ Exhibition (Nanenane)

With strategic, technical, and financial support from the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), SHIWAKUTA participated effectively in the 2025 National Farmers’ Exhibition (Nanenane), held annually from 1–8 August in Dodoma. Notably, unlike most other engagements coordinated through AFSA’s Kampala Office, the planning, coordination, and support for SHIWAKUTA’s participation in Nanenane were undertaken in close collaboration with AFSA’s Dakar, Senegal Office. This cross-office cooperation reflects AFSA’s flexible and decentralized support model, enabling tailored assistance aligned with national advocacy opportunities.

AFSA’s support enabled SHIWAKUTA to facilitate a strong and diverse delegation of 13 exhibitors, representing different ecological zones of Tanzania and a wide range of agroecological production systems. Participants included smallholder farmers, processors,

and agroecological entrepreneurs engaged in seed conservation, cereals, spices, horticulture, medicinal plants, bio-inputs, and value-added products. This diversity allowed SHIWAKUTA to present agroecology as a context-specific, adaptable, and nationally relevant approach capable of responding to varied ecological, climatic, and socio-economic conditions.



During the exhibition, SHIWAKUTA transformed its booth into a living agroecology classroom and advocacy hub, showcasing farmer-led innovations, indigenous seeds, and climate-resilient practices. Through interactive demonstrations and farmer-to-farmer exchanges, agroecology was elevated from the margins to the mainstream, reinforcing its viability as a sustainable and scalable alternative for national food systems transformation. This approach echoed AFSA's continental framing of agroecology as a movement grounded in social justice, cultural identity, and ecological stewardship.

Critically, SHIWAKUTA used the Nanenane platform to amplify key policy and advocacy messages aligned with AFSA's continental agenda. These included raising national awareness on seed sovereignty and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), discussing the implications of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) for smallholder farmers, and calling for enabling national legislation - particularly the National Plant Genetic Resources (NPGR) Act. By engaging policymakers, development partners, researchers, media, and the public, SHIWAKUTA strengthened its position as a national advocacy actor linking farmer realities with continental and global food governance debates.

5.2.8. Participation in AFSA Constitutional and Governance Processes

In March 2025, SHIWAKUTA participated in its first AFSA governance meeting since its formal admission as a member of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA). This participation took place during the Extraordinary General Meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya, which was convened to review and approve proposed amendments to the AFSA Constitution. The meeting marked an important milestone in SHIWAKUTA's institutional integration into the continental alliance, providing an opportunity to engage directly in deliberations aimed at strengthening democratic governance, accountability, and inclusivity within AFSA.

Building on this initial engagement, SHIWAKUTA further participated in the Ordinary Annual General Meeting (AGM) of AFSA held on 5 October 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The AGM reviewed the Alliance's overall progress, including programmatic achievements, financial performance, and strategic priorities. SHIWAKUTA's participation reinforced its commitment

to collective continental advocacy for agroecology and food sovereignty, while strengthening coordination and solidarity among AFSA member organizations.

A key outcome of the October 2025 AGM was the election of the AFSA Board of Directors for the subsequent three-year term. Through its participation in both constitutional reform processes and leadership elections, SHIWAKUTA actively contributed to strengthening accountable, democratic, and farmer-centered governance within AFSA. These engagements demonstrate concrete results of SHIWAKUTA–AFSA collaboration, positioning SHIWAKUTA as an emerging and committed actor within the continental food sovereignty movement.

5.2.9. Strengthening Media Engagement for Agroecological Cross-Border Trade and Territorial Markets

Between October and December 2025, SHIWAKUTA, with strategic, technical, and financial support from AFSA, implemented an initiative to strengthen media engagement on agroecological cross-border trade and territorial markets in Tanzania. The initiative sought to increase visibility, public recognition, and policy attention for agroecological trade systems, while amplifying the roles of smallholder farmers, particularly women and youth, in advancing resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems in Tanzania and across the EAC.

The initiative applied a multi-platform media strategy, combining journalist capacity-building, television and radio programming, and field-based reporting. Twenty-five journalists and editors were trained to enhance accurate, research-informed reporting on agroecology and territorial trade. National television discussions aired on *“Malumbano ya Hoja”* (ITV) and complementary radio broadcasts on Radio Safina transmitting AFSA-supported research into accessible public dialogue, reaching both urban and rural audiences and highlighting the realities and contributions of smallholder producers and traders.

Field visits to Kilombero Market, agroecology farms, and farmer organizations in Arusha and Karatu provided first-hand exposure to agroecological value chains and territorial market dynamics. These engagements strengthened media understanding of farmer-led innovation, collective action, and local market systems. Overall, the initiative enhanced public awareness, strengthened media capacity, and elevated grassroots voices, demonstrating tangible results of SHIWAKUTA–AFSA collaboration in advancing evidence-based policy dialogue, food sovereignty, and agroecology-driven cross-border trade and territorial markets.



Support for media engagement on agroecological cross-border trade and territorial markets is one of the outcomes from SHIWAKUTA-AFSA collaboration

5.2.10.INDIRECT OUTCOMES: Movement Strengthening, Alliance Building, and Accelerated Institutional Growth

While not a standalone activity, the SHIWAKUTA–AFSA collaboration has generated significant indirect outcomes that have substantially strengthened SHIWAKUTA’s institutional standing and accelerated its organizational growth. Continuous engagement in AFSA-led continental, regional, and national processes has elevated SHIWAKUTA’s visibility and legitimacy, positioning it as a credible national voice on agroecology and food sovereignty within policy and development circles.

Through repeated interaction with government policymakers, duty bearers, researchers, regional institutions, development partners, and civil society actors - often invited to and participating in strategic workshops, policy dialogues, and convenings both inside and outside Tanzania - SHIWAKUTA has built strong working relationships based on trust, technical competence, and shared agendas. These interactions, though indirect in nature, have significantly enhanced SHIWAKUTA’s recognition and standing among key stakeholders.

As a result, SHIWAKUTA has experienced accelerated institutional growth, reflected in improved access to decision-makers, faster responsiveness from public institutions, and increased demand for SHIWAKUTA’s participation in policy processes and multi-stakeholder platforms. This strengthened position has made it easier for SHIWAKUTA to mobilize alliances, influence policy debates, and scale its advocacy and programmatic work, demonstrating how indirect outcomes of continental collaboration can yield profound and lasting positive impact.

5.3. CROSS-CUTTING EARLY RESULTS AND STRATEGIC VALUE OF THE SHIWAKUTA–AFSA COLLABORATION

The period 2024–2025 demonstrates that the SHIWAKUTA–AFSA collaboration has generated early yet substantive results across advocacy, movement building, enterprise development, and institutional strengthening. Through structured participation in continental platforms, evidence-based advocacy, and strategic national engagements, SHIWAKUTA has consolidated its role as a key national actor within Africa’s broader food sovereignty movement.

Beyond individual activities, the collaboration has delivered strategic value by enhancing SHIWAKUTA’s advocacy consistency, technical confidence, and policy relevance. Continental exposure has sharpened SHIWAKUTA’s positioning on critical issues such as agroecology, seed sovereignty, financial justice, territorial markets, and youth and women inclusion, enabling the Federation to articulate these agendas more effectively within Tanzania’s policy landscape.

Collectively, these outcomes illustrate how continental solidarity, when attached in national realities, can strengthen farmer organizations, expand policy influence, and build durable alliances. The SHIWAKUTA–AFSA partnership has therefore laid a strong foundation for

deeper impact, scaling of agroecological alternatives, and sustained transformation of food systems in Tanzania and beyond.

5.4. SYNTHESIS OF KEY RESULTS AND STRATEGIC VALUE ADDITION

The SHIWAKUTA–AFSA collaboration has generated measurable early results that extend beyond individual activities to deliver clear strategic value during the 2024–2025 period. Through sustained participation in AFSA-led continental advocacy platforms, research-informed processes, and capacity development initiatives, SHIWAKUTA has strengthened its institutional standing, advocacy effectiveness, and constituency reach at national and regional levels.

Key results and strategic value indicators include:

- a) Enhanced institutional visibility and legitimacy (institutional positioning):** Regular participation in AFSA-led continental and regional convenings has increased SHIWAKUTA’s recognition by policymakers, regional institutions, civil society actors, and development partners as a legitimate national voice for Tanzanian smallholder producers and agroecology.
- b) Strengthened advocacy positioning (policy influence):** Engagement in evidence-based advocacy on agroecology, food sovereignty, financial justice, territorial markets, youth inclusion, and emerging technologies—grounded in AFSA research—has strengthened SHIWAKUTA’s policy narratives, credibility, and negotiation capacity in national and regional policy spaces.
- c) Accelerated organizational growth (institutional development):** AFSA’s convening power, research outputs, and political legitimacy have acted as high-impact direct and indirect enablers of SHIWAKUTA’s rapid organizational growth, expanding its influence, partnerships, and strategic confidence without heavy reliance on project-based funding.
- d) Improved member-level outcomes (constituency value):** SHIWAKUTA members - including farmers, agroecological entrepreneurs, women, and youth - have accessed improved skills, networks, visibility, and market opportunities, strengthening the organization’s relevance and accountability to its grassroots base.
- e) Direct outreach and stakeholder reach (quantitative result):** Since the start of the SHIWAKUTA–AFSA collaboration, about 350 individuals have been reached directly through trainings, policy dialogues, research dissemination forums, advocacy meetings, and media interactions. Participants include smallholder farmers, government staff, researchers, media professionals, traders, entrepreneurs, and SHIWAKUTA staff from headquarters and member associations, with women and youth comprising around 60% of those engaged. Beyond direct interactions, thousands more have been reached indirectly through radio, television, news coverage, and social media, amplifying the visibility and impact of the collaboration’s advocacy across broader audiences.

- f) **Inclusive participation of women and youth (equity and inclusion):** Women and youth represent an estimated 60% of all directly reached participants, demonstrating intentional integration of gender and youth inclusion as cross-cutting indicators of impact across advocacy, capacity building, and market-related engagements.

5.5. EMERGING INSTITUTIONAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The collaboration has catalyzed a qualitative shift in SHIWAKUTA's institutional role within Tanzania's food systems governance landscape. Rather than operating merely as a coordination platform, SHIWAKUTA is increasingly positioned as a strategic policy and advocacy actor engaging across national, regional, and continental spaces.

Key emerging implications include:

- i. **Stronger engagement with policymakers and duty bearers:** SHIWAKUTA's association with AFSA has enhanced its credibility in dialogues with government institutions, regional bodies such as the EAC, and other policy-influencing actors.
- ii. **Policy reframing of agroecology:** Agroecology is increasingly articulated not only as a production approach but as an integrated socio-economic and ecological framework linked to entrepreneurship, trade, climate resilience, and food sovereignty.
- iii. **Evidence-informed policy influence:** Research on cross-border trade, territorial markets, and agroecological enterprises has strengthened SHIWAKUTA's ability to advocate for practical, implementable policy reforms grounded in smallholder realities.
- iv. **Improved alignment across scales:** The collaboration has enhanced coherence between local experiences, national advocacy priorities, and continental policy agendas.

5.6. KEY LESSONS LEARNED AND STRATEGIC INSIGHTS

The 2024–2025 engagement period provides valuable insights into how national farmer organizations can effectively leverage continental alliances to drive food systems transformation.

Key lessons include:

- 1) **Continental solidarity amplifies national impact:** Coordinated advocacy through AFSA platforms significantly enhances the reach, legitimacy, and policy influence of national movements.
- 2) **Indirect interventions can yield transformative results:** Access to continental knowledge, networks, and advocacy spaces has proven as impactful as direct financial support in strengthening institutional capacity.
- 3) **Research is a critical advocacy enabler:** Evidence-based approaches have enhanced credibility with policymakers and strengthened the coherence of advocacy messages.
- 4) **Integrated approaches are most effective:** Linking advocacy, capacity building, youth leadership, and market development has produced more durable and inclusive outcomes.

- 5) **Territorial markets offer practical entry points for food sovereignty:** Market-focused interventions translate agroecological principles into tangible economic and policy gains, particularly for women and youth.

5.7. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

The SHIWAKUTA–AFSA collaboration represents a strategic and values-driven partnership that effectively links grassroots realities in Tanzania with continental movements for agroecology and food sovereignty. Within a relatively short period, the collaboration has produced tangible institutional, advocacy, and capacity-development outcomes, strengthening SHIWAKUTA’s position as a fast-growing and influential actor in food systems governance.

Looking ahead, consolidating these gains will require deeper and more structured engagement with national and regional policymakers, particularly on trade, investment, and technology governance affecting smallholder producers. Continued investment in agroecological entrepreneurship, territorial markets, and youth leadership will be essential to translating advocacy outcomes into sustained livelihood improvements and resilient food systems.

Finally, strengthening learning, monitoring, and documentation mechanisms will be critical to sustaining momentum and enhancing accountability. By deepening strategic alignment with AFSA and other movement-based allies, SHIWAKUTA is well positioned to further advance people-centered, climate-resilient, and socially just food systems in Tanzania and across Africa.