



TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

**FOR ADVANCING
PROFESSIONAL FARMER
ORGANIZATIONS**

AGREEING ON GLOBAL GUIDELINES FOR ADVANCING PROFESSIONAL FARMER ORGANIZATIONS

The AMEA Network, together with the Dutch National Standardization Bureau (NEN), has developed the “Professional Farmer Organizations Guidelines”. This document provides a common language for all stakeholders in the agricultural sector on the key characteristics of a professional farmer organization. This began as an International Workshop Agreement (known as the IWA 29) and in 2022, after three years of testing, AMEA began the process to transition the IWA 29 into a full ISO International Standard. The transition process is expected to be finalized by the end of 2023. Anyone interested in the professionalization of farmer organizations is invited to join this process.



IWA29 promotion material created by Rikolto Latin America (2021)

You can learn more about the IWA 29 and our Global Guidelines on our website. You can also access an overview of the IWA 29 and our IWA 29 FAQs through the Global Guidelines webpage.

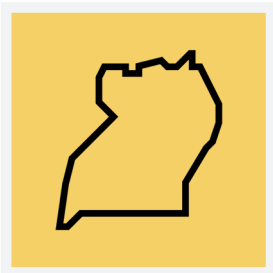
WHY AN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD?

Professional farmer organizations are more likely to have better business opportunities, greater sustainability, and deliver more benefits to their members. The guidelines can be used to guide farmer organization development and can be used as a tool to inform and support different actors on how to increase the professionalism of farmer organizations.

This guide can be used to:

- Support farmer organization members and staff (where applicable) to supervise and hold their organization and leadership accountable, and guide staff to execute their day-to-day responsibilities
- Align expectations and build confidence of buyers, suppliers, investors, and others doing business with farmer organizations
- Harmonize the expectations and actions of providers of training, assessment, advisory, and other organizational and business development services
- Align the vision and interventions of stakeholders, including government, nongovernmental organizations, civil society organizations, service providers, donors, investors, and capacity-builders in their efforts to professionalize farmer organizations
- Transform the agrifood sector by bringing stakeholders together to collaborate for systems-level change

THE GLOBAL GUIDELINES IN ACTION



UGANDA

The Ugandan Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries has developed a set of guidelines for professional farmer organizations, based on the IWA29, to guide implementation of their flagship Parish Development Model.



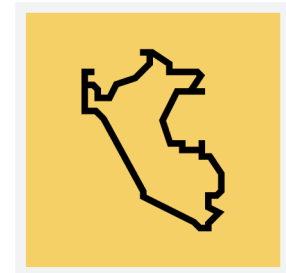
KENYA

AMEA members collaborated to provide input to the National Taskforce for the draft Cooperative Bill in November 2021. This included integrating the use of standards, such as IWA29, to drive improvements in performance



HONDURAS

The National Standardization Body of Honduras (OHN) is working with stakeholders from the government, academia, private sector and civil society to promote the use of the IWA29 in the country.



PERU

Our Local Network in Peru and other partners are working with ISO to distribute the IWA 29 in South America and communicate the benefits and usefulness of the IWA 29 to ISO DEVCO (Developing Countries) members.

STEPS TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

2017

AMEA initiates International Workshop Agreement (IWA) 29 process

2018

Eight regional workshops in five continents to collect stakeholder input

NOV 2018

NEN hosts an official International Workshop event to finalize the IWA 29

2019

ISO publishes the IWA 29

2019 - 2020

AMEA promotes and tests the IWA 29

2021

Systematic Review process

2022 - 2023

Transition to an International Standard

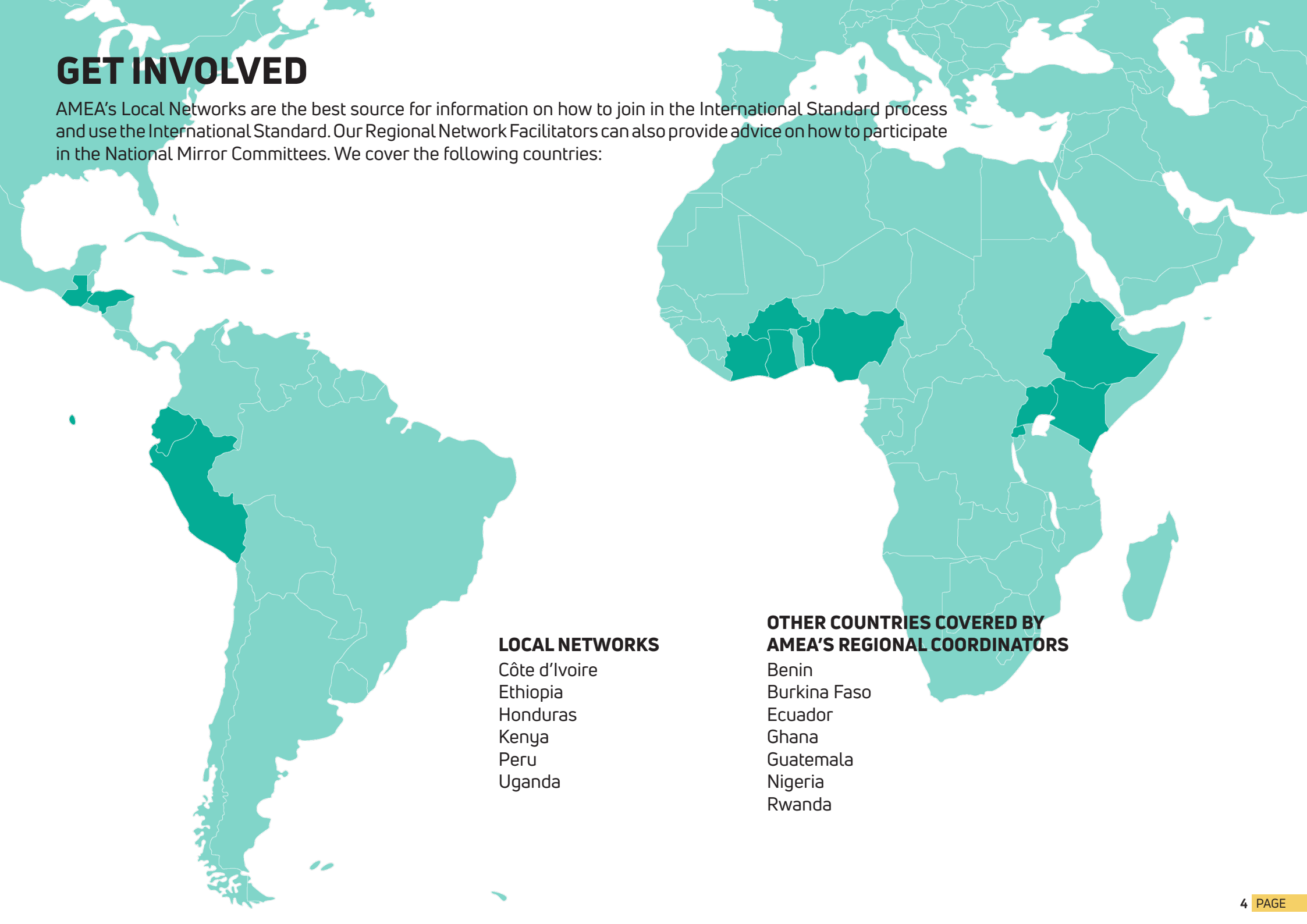
2022 ONWARD

AMEA continues to promote and encourage use of the Guidelines

- Circulation of the International Standard Proposal
- Formation of National Mirror Committees (for voting, feedback and stakeholder engagement)
- Two rounds of voting on the draft international Standard
- Rounds of feedback and incorporation of feedback (between voting rounds)
- Publication and Dissemination of International Standard

GET INVOLVED

AMEA's Local Networks are the best source for information on how to join in the International Standard process and use the International Standard. Our Regional Network Facilitators can also provide advice on how to participate in the National Mirror Committees. We cover the following countries:



LOCAL NETWORKS

- Côte d'Ivoire
- Ethiopia
- Honduras
- Kenya
- Peru
- Uganda

OTHER COUNTRIES COVERED BY AMEA'S REGIONAL COORDINATORS

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Ecuador
- Ghana
- Guatemala
- Nigeria
- Rwanda

REGIONAL NETWORK FACILITATORS

Contact our Regional Network Facilitators to see how you can get involved in the International Standard process

WEST AFRICA



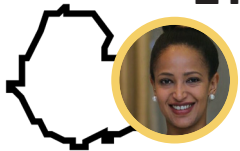
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