

**Online**

# The **Voluntary Code of Conduct** for plastics in agriculture:

*African experiences and the way forward*



 **2 July 2026** ●  
11:00–12:30 (GMT) / 13:00–14:30 (CEST)

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African experiences and the way forward**  
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## Context

Every year, approximately 13.4 million tonnes of plastics are widely used in agriculture. Greenhouse covers, mulching films, drip irrigation systems, and polymer-coated fertilizers support farmers to improve efficiency and boost crop yields. However, the growing use of agricultural plastics generates significant environmental challenges, accumulating in soil and waterways and increasing plastic pollution and microplastic contamination.

To address these challenges, the FAO Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment (OCB) developed the [Provisional Voluntary Code of Conduct on the Sustainable Use and Management of Plastics in Agriculture \(VCoC\)](#), which provides recommendations for governments and other stakeholders.

In this regional exchange, participants will share experiences, deepen understanding, and explore pathways towards the sustainable use of plastics in African agrifood systems.

This regional knowledge exchange aims to:

- Present existing experiences and knowledge related to implementing the VCoC
- Explore opportunities for collaboration and implementation of the VCoC
- Enhance awareness and understanding of how plastics are used in agriculture across Africa
- Establish networks among participants for future cooperation
- Collect feedback to inform future updates to, and guidance related to, the VCoC
- Identify opportunities for follow-up technical support and partnerships

**Agenda** (This webinar will offer simultaneous interpretation in English and French)

Time	Programme	Speakers
11:00 GMT (13:00 CEST)	Opening remarks	<b>Mr Ayman Omer</b> <i>Deputy Regional Representative, FAORAF</i>
11:10 GMT (13:10 CEST)	Introduction of the VCoC	<b>Mr Lev Neretin</b> <i>Environment Lead, FAOHQ</i>
11:20 GMT (13:20 CEST)	○ Fertilizer plastic bags study: awareness of plastic misuse, impacts and current practices of fertilizer value chain players in Africa	<b>Mr Killian Banda</b> <i>Senior Specialist Market Development and Intelligence The African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP)</i>
	○ EPR solutions to agriplastics in Kenya under the FARM project	<b>Ms Annastacia Vyalu</b> <i>Senior Compliance Officer, EPR and Circular Economy lead National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)</i>
	○ Agriculture without plastics: Highlighting Ghana's emerging coconut-based pathway for plastic substitution	<b>Dr Ebenezer Laryea</b> <i>Associate Professor Aston University</i>
	○ Biodegradable fishing gear: sustainable solutions for a thriving ocean future	<b>Ms Emma Algotsson</b> <i>CEO, Catchgreen</i>
12:00 GMT (14:00 CEST)	Breakout rooms	Facilitated by <b>Edward Kilawe</b> (English) and by <b>Pierre de Lépinau</b> (French)
12:25 GMT (14:25 CEST)	Closing remarks	<b>Mr Meshack Malo</b> <i>Deputy Regional Representative, FAORAF</i>

**Modality of breakout rooms:**

The breakout rooms are designed to facilitate discussion and peer exchange on three key areas:

- i) **Knowledge sharing:** Exchange best practices and challenges related to the sustainable use and management of plastics in agriculture and discuss their applicability in other countries in the region.
- i) **Policies and strategies:** Share good practices and challenges encountered in establishing or revising policies and strategies in alignment with the VCoC and discuss practical solutions to address these challenges.
- ii) **Resource mobilization:** Share experiences in resource mobilization for objectives aligned with the VCoC and discuss potential funding sources and mechanisms to promote the sustainable use and management of plastics in agriculture.