

# Bimonthly Updates

Ethiopian Sustainable Food Systems and Agroecology Consortium Bimonthly Newsletter



## TOP NEWS OF THE ISSUE

# Welcome to the First Volume, First Issue!

- **ESFSAC Launching Event:** Highlights from the Consortium’s launch
- **“My Food Is African” Guidelines:** Overview of the new guideline
- **1000Youth Summit & Addis Declaration:** Key takeaways from the Summit
- **Ethiopia at COP 29:** Ethiopia’s role in global climate talks
- **YALTA Phase II:** Focus on youth empowerment in agroecology
- **Support for Youth in Agroecology :** Our new initiatives and success stories
- **Upcoming Events:** Key events related to food systems and agroecology

## About our newsletter: ESFSAC Insights

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Ethiopian Sustainable Food Systems and Agroecology Consortium (ESFSAC) bimonthly Newsletter. This newsletter will share updates on key initiatives, events, and Ethiopia’s role in sustainable agriculture and agroecology, with a focus on youth empowerment and global climate discussions. Stay tuned for insights into our progress and upcoming opportunities to get involved.



Ethiopian Sustainable Food Systems and Agroecology Consortium (ESFSAC)

## ESFSAC Launching Event

The Ethiopian Sustainable Food Systems and Agroecology Consortium (ESFSAC) was officially launched on 15 February 2024, with the goal of promoting agroecology and people-centered food systems in Ethiopia. The launching event brought together key stakeholders including government representatives, civil society organizations (CSOs), and research and academic institutions, all emphasizing the importance of collaboration for advancing sustainable food systems.

During the event, experts shared their insights on the role of agroecology in strengthening food security and improving local agroecosystems. The consortium, founded by strong partners and renowned professionals in the field, is positioned to play a pivotal role in shaping Ethiopia's agricultural landscape.



The event also served as an invitation for new like-minded partners to collaborate with the consortium and explore ways of working together to promote sustainable and resilient food systems.

For more information, visit the Consortium's website at: [www.Esfsac-ethiopia.org](http://www.Esfsac-ethiopia.org)

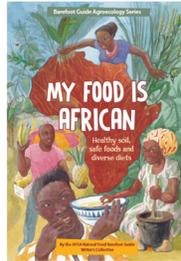
## Launching My Food is African Barefoot Guide

The guide, published by the Alliance for Food Sovereignty Africa (AFSA), is a collection of stories from barefoot writers across Africa to promote healthy soils, safe food and diverse diets.

Read more at: <https://afsafrica.org>

The launch of the "My Food is African" BareFoot Guide marks an exciting step forward in promoting indigenous African foods as the cornerstone of a sustainable food system. These guidelines are more than just a framework, they are a call to action for everyone from farmers to nutritionists to embrace traditional foods in modern agriculture. By tapping into the wisdom of indigenous food practices, Ethiopia can boost public health, fight malnutrition, and strengthen food security. The event sparked rich discussions on how to integrate local food systems into the broader agricultural policy, with experts stressing that this approach is key to building a resilient and healthy food future for Ethiopia.

The Barefoot Guide launching event, held on October 26, 2024, is part of the Transforming African Food Systems (TAFS) Project executed under the larger continent-wide movement "My Food is African". It was organized in collaboration with the Women Can Do It! (WCDI) and brought together School community from Keftegna 23 and Ayer Tena Secondary High Schools.



EAT → LOCAL FOODS STAY HEALTHY



## UPDATE ON COP 29 AND ETHIOPIA'S PARTICIPATION

Ethiopia marked a significant moment in the global climate change dialogue at the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, which began on November 11, 2024. The country's official participation was highlighted by the opening of the Ethiopian Pavilion by President Taye Atske Selassie.

Over the course of the conference, Ethiopia showcased its Green Legacy initiative, a monumental effort that has seen the planting of 40 billion trees, as well as its climate-resilient agricultural projects, including the heat-resistant wheat project and investments in renewable energy. These efforts reflect Ethiopia's strong commitment to sustainable development and climate resilience, reinforcing its pledge to fight climate change through practical and people-centered solutions.

Ethiopia's involvement at COP29 also emphasized the critical importance of agroecology as a core strategy for addressing climate change and ensuring food security. The country advocated for policies that support climate-smart agriculture, highlighting the role of sustainable food systems in combating climate challenges while safeguarding the health and nutrition of populations.

Ethiopia's participation at COP29 reinforces its vision of a sustainable food future and strengthens its commitment to international climate agreements.

For further details on Ethiopia's position at COP29, read the national statement by President Atske Selassie, please visit the full statement here: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/ETHIOPIA\\_cop29comp19cmstf\\_HLS\\_ENG.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/ETHIOPIA_cop29comp19cmstf_HLS_ENG.pdf)

## YALTA Phase II is coming

The YALTA II Inception Meeting held in Nairobi Kenya from 10th - 13th of November 2024 was a pivotal moment for empowering Ethiopian youth in agroecology and sustainable agriculture. This initiative is designed to equip young people with the knowledge, entrepreneurial skills, and financial resources they need to lead change in Ethiopia's agricultural sector.



The meeting brought together key stakeholders, including youth organizations, government representatives, and NGOs, to discuss actionable steps toward creating more opportunities for youth in the agricultural space. The meeting generated new recommendations, including increased funding for youth-led agroecology projects and stronger policy support for young entrepreneurs, paving the way for a youth-driven agricultural transformation.

The YALTA Phase II program will be implemented in four African countries including Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda.

## 1000 YOUTH SUMMIT AND ADDIS DECLARATION



The opening ceremony of the summit. Photo: AFSA media team

The summit's key objectives included promoting agroecology to address the climate crisis, enhance food security, and ensure equitable access to resources. The youth called for increased investment in agroecology, gender equality, and digital inclusion to empower marginalized groups and strengthen local food systems. They also urged political dialogue and support for farmer-managed seed systems and sustainable farming technologies.

In conclusion, the youth declared their dedication to transforming food systems for a healthier, more resilient Africa, demanding action from all sectors. Their leadership, innovation, and connection to Africa's cultural heritage are crucial in ensuring the future of food sovereignty and sustainable agriculture across the continent.

Read more at: [www.afsafrica.org/addis-ababa-declaration-first-thousand-african-youth-summit-on-food-systems-and-agroecology/](http://www.afsafrica.org/addis-ababa-declaration-first-thousand-african-youth-summit-on-food-systems-and-agroecology/)

The First Thousand African Youth Summit on Food Systems and Agroecology took place from October 14-16, 2024, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, bringing together over 300 youth leaders in person and more than 1,000 virtually from 47 African countries. Organized by African Youth United for Agroecology, the summit focused on transforming Africa's food systems by embracing agroecology as a sustainable solution to the continent's pressing food and climate crises. The youth showed commitment to advocate for food sovereignty, climate action, and social justice, highlighting the need for governments and businesses to support small-scale farmers and foster youth-driven agroecological entrepreneurship.



The AFSA Youth Summit on Agroecology was more than just a meeting; it was a landmark gathering that inspired, educated, and empowered Africa's young leaders to take a stand for sustainable food systems.

Million Belay  
Coordinator at Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa



Closing ceremony of the summit. Photo: AFSA media team

## SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIAN YOUTH IN AGROECOLOGY



Restemariam Lakew, nutrition expert, food scientist and founder of Let's Grow! National Consulting and Co-Founder of Better Foods

Ethiopia is committed to supporting its youth in the agroecology sector, and new initiatives are making a real impact! From scholarships and training programs to funding opportunities for youth-led projects, these initiatives are empowering the next generation of agricultural leaders.

Through partnerships between the government, NGOs, and international organizations, Ethiopian youth are gaining the skills and knowledge needed to drive sustainable agriculture. Inspiring success stories are already emerging from youth-led agroecology projects, showcasing how young people are improving soil health, creating sustainable food systems, and leading the charge towards a greener future.

### UPCOMING EVENT

Get ready for a series of exciting upcoming events that will bring together experts, policy makers, and stakeholders to advance sustainable food systems in Ethiopia.

- Event Title: Food Fair and Advocacy Event on Sustainable Food Systems and Agroecology
- Date of Event: TBD
- Organizer: Ethiopian Sustainable Food Systems and Agroecology Consortium

This event will create opportunities to discuss and collaborate on shaping the future of Ethiopia's food system.

We are excited to invite you to be featured in our special New Year 2025 issue of ESFSAC Insights, coming out in January. If you have any projects, achievements, or announcements you'd like to share, please send us your content by mid-January. This is a wonderful opportunity to start the year by showcasing your work. For submissions or inquiries, feel free to contact us or email your content to: [tsegayebayush14@gmail.com](mailto:tsegayebayush14@gmail.com) / [senagatahuh@gmail.com](mailto:senagatahuh@gmail.com) / [lensagirma146@gmail.com](mailto:lensagirma146@gmail.com). We look forward to featuring your highlights in our January issue!

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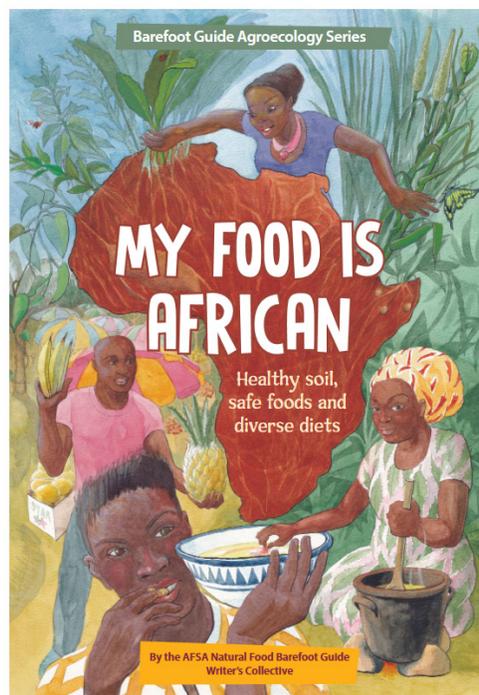
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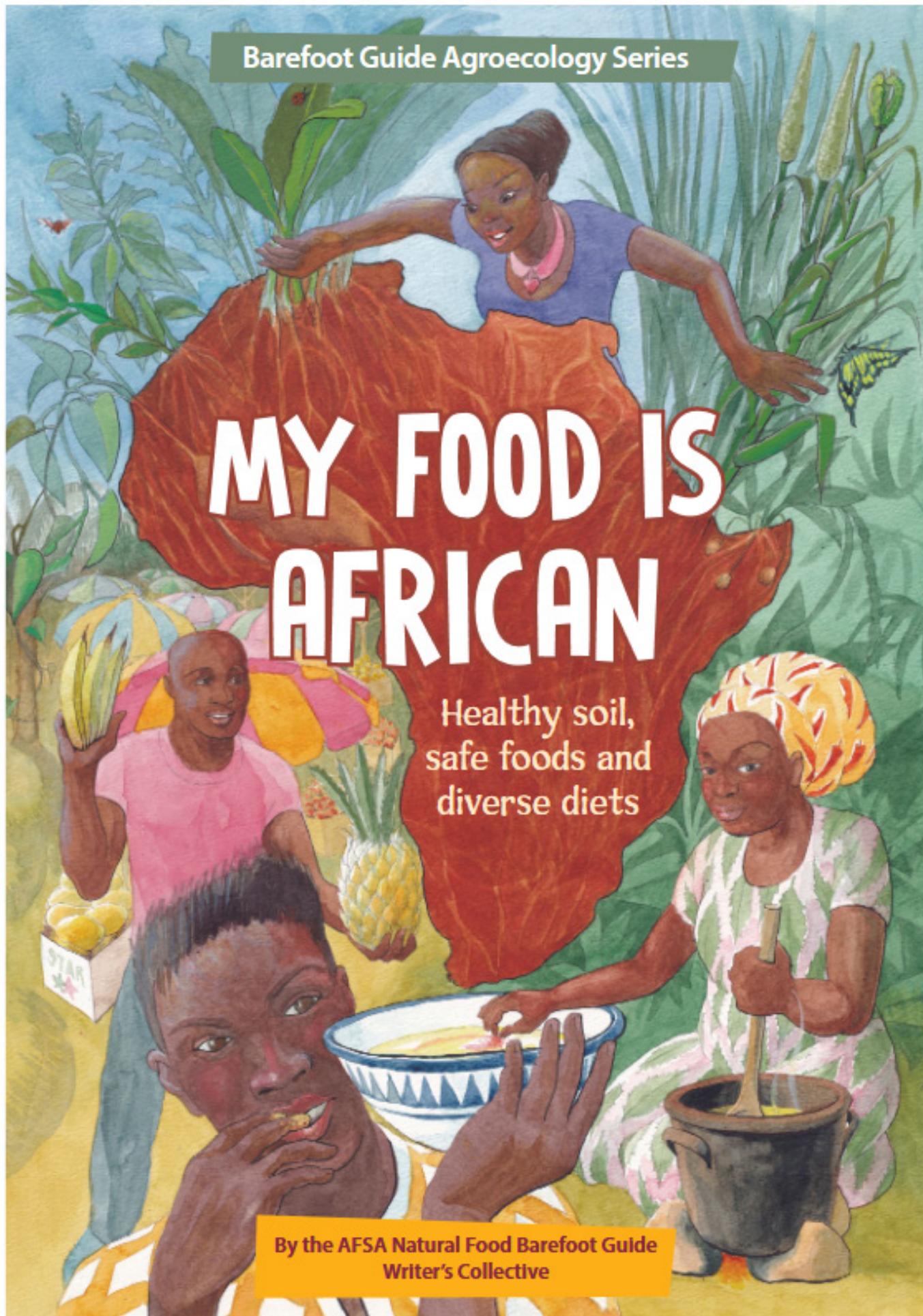
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Barefoot Guide Agroecology Series

# MY FOOD IS AFRICAN

Healthy soil,  
safe foods and  
diverse diets

By the AFSA Natural Food Barefoot Guide  
Writer's Collective





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ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA



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