

Nancy, February 3, 2025

## Partnership

# ICN Business School and PAWALP join forces to strengthen women's leadership in the Pan-African agro-industry

ICN Business School is partnering with the Pan-African Women's Agro-Leadership Program (PAWALP), a non-governmental organization dedicated to empowering women in Africa's agro-industry. As part of this partnership, the school will contribute to the co-development and optimization of management training modules offered by the association, as well as facilitate connections between PAWALP and other partners, particularly in the agricultural sector. In return, PAWALP will support ICN in data collection for research projects and in designing case studies for students.



Founded in 2023, PAWALP aims to provide women with the tools and resources they need to succeed in Africa's agro-industry, a sector where their role is increasingly crucial. By working towards the economic empowerment of women, the association seeks to promote gender equality and improve food security on the continent. Present in **6 French-speaking countries** (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, and Togo), the association currently has nearly **420,000 active members**.

In addition to offering free training for women, PAWALP engages in advocacy with public decision-makers, international organizations, and financial institutions to strengthen women's integration into the agro-industry and promote inclusive policies.

### Establishing targeted and high-quality training

Having been in contact with PAWALP since 2024, ICN Business School was eager to contribute to this meaningful initiative. Following the signing of the partnership on January 23, a team of faculty researchers from the school is now working on the association's professional training and workshop catalog. Their objective: to enhance the training modules by incorporating the school's academic and technical expertise. ICN teams will help PAWALP refine key messages and tailor them to their audiences, taking into account cultural specificities, local needs, and the socio-economic dynamics of each region.

This privileged relationship with PAWALP will also raise awareness among ICN Business School students about the role of women in Africa's agro-industry. As part of various programs, students will be invited to work on case studies provided by PAWALP.

Furthermore, PAWALP will support ICN faculty researchers in research projects, including one initiated a year ago by a team of ICN and international researchers, focusing on migrant women entrepreneurs in developing countries.

ICN Business School and PAWALP are committed to strengthening their partnership in the future and plan to organize joint initiatives on March 8, in celebration of International Women's Rights Day.

**COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE**



*"It is highly motivating to work with such a widely recognized association, dedicated to a traditionally marginalized group—women in the agricultural sector in African countries. Under the leadership of Leonne Doris JAZE, PAWALP provides faculty, researchers, and students in both initial and continuing education with a rich and valuable learning space. We will learn as much from them as they will learn from us."*

- Krista FINSTAD-MILION, Professor and Head of the Human Resources and Organizational Behavior Department at ICN Business School.

*"This partnership with ICN Business School marks a key milestone for PAWALP, as it enables us to strengthen our initiatives in support of women and cooperatives in the agro-industry. Thanks to the school's academic expertise, we will develop tailored and sustainable solutions that will contribute to transforming the African agro-industrial ecosystem."*

- Leonne Doris JAZE, Founding President of PAWALP.



### A PROPOS D'ICN BUSINESS SCHOOL :

Tripl-accredited (AACSB, AMBA, EQUIS) and a member of the CDEFM within the Conférence des Grandes Écoles, ICN Business School trains students and professionals to foster innovation through creativity within businesses. The school offers an #ArtTechnologyManagement pedagogy across its three campuses. The ICN community is driven by three core values: openness, commitment, and teamwork. ICN Business School also boasts:

- 3,300 students, 38% of whom are international;
- 89 permanent professors and 27 affiliated faculty members;
- 3 campuses: Nancy, Paris La Défense (France), and Berlin (Germany);
- 10 international representative offices in China, Russia, Senegal, India, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, Taiwan, Vietnam, and the Middle East;
- Nearly 130 partner universities worldwide;
- 30 student associations;
- 150 corporate partners;
- 23,000 graduates.

Founded in 1905 within the university, ICN became a private institution in 2003 under the name ICN Business School. It is a state-recognized private higher education institution with EESPIG certification. The school awards a Bachelor's degree (Bac+3) and a Master's degree (Bac+5) for its Grande École program.

### À PROPOS DE PAWALP :

The Pan-African Women's Agro-Leadership Program (PAWALP) is a non-governmental organization founded in 2023, dedicated to the economic empowerment of women and the strengthening of agro-industrial cooperatives in Africa.

PAWALP operates under an integrated strategy that promotes the inclusion and performance of women and cooperatives through four key strategic pillars:

1. **Digital Transformation:** Equipping cooperatives and women with digital solutions to improve productivity and management.
2. **Organizational Structuring:** Supporting women's cooperatives in establishing strong and resilient structures.
3. **Skills Development:** Providing tailored training to help women develop technical and entrepreneurial expertise.
4. **Market Access Facilitation:** Encouraging collective strategies and digital initiatives to connect cooperatives with local and international markets.

Present in six French-speaking African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, and Togo), PAWALP brings together a dynamic network of female leaders and agricultural cooperatives actively contributing to the economic and social transformation of the continent. To date, the association supports more than 800 member cooperatives in improving their structuring and competitiveness and collaborates with 18 partner ministries.

## Contact

**Margot MOINARD**

margot.moinard@icn-artem.com

06.35.43.43.44

[icn-artem.com](http://icn-artem.com)