

# DECADE OF FAMILY FARMING

Feeding the world, caring for the earth



SUMMARY

## CONCEPT DOCUMENT



**IYFF+10**  
GLOBAL ACTION  
FOR FAMILY FARMING



**COSTA RICA**  
GOBIERNO DE LA REPÚBLICA



**WORLD RURAL FORUM**  
FORO RURAL MUNDIAL  
FORUM RURAL MONDIAL  
MUNDUKO LANDAGUNEA

## CONCEPT DOCUMENT

### DECADE OF FAMILY FARMING

#### **1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

Family farming produces between 70 and 80% of food globally, playing a vital role in achieving food and nutritional security, as well as rural employment, income creation, and the appropriate management of its natural resources, including land and water. Developing family farming could allow rural youth to have opportunities of well-being, develop projects of dignified livelihood, which ensures that the country has the human capital it needs to sustain agricultural production. These objectives are fundamental pillars for achieving social peace and for developing peaceful, resilient and sustainable societies.

In December of 2011, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF). During the International Year of Family Farming, the UN and its agencies emphasized the potential of family farmers. The FAO declared that family farmers are an important part of the solution to a world free of hunger and poverty. It also stressed that there is plenty of evidence to show how **poor family farmers can quickly grow their production potential in an environment where favorable policies are effectively implemented**. This commitment to the growth of family farming and its contribution to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals is the key to the request for the Decade of Family Farming.

After IYFF-2014 and its encouraging results, these efforts should be continued. IYFF-2014's success is the best possible guarantee of foreseeing a very useful Decade for family farmers around the world.

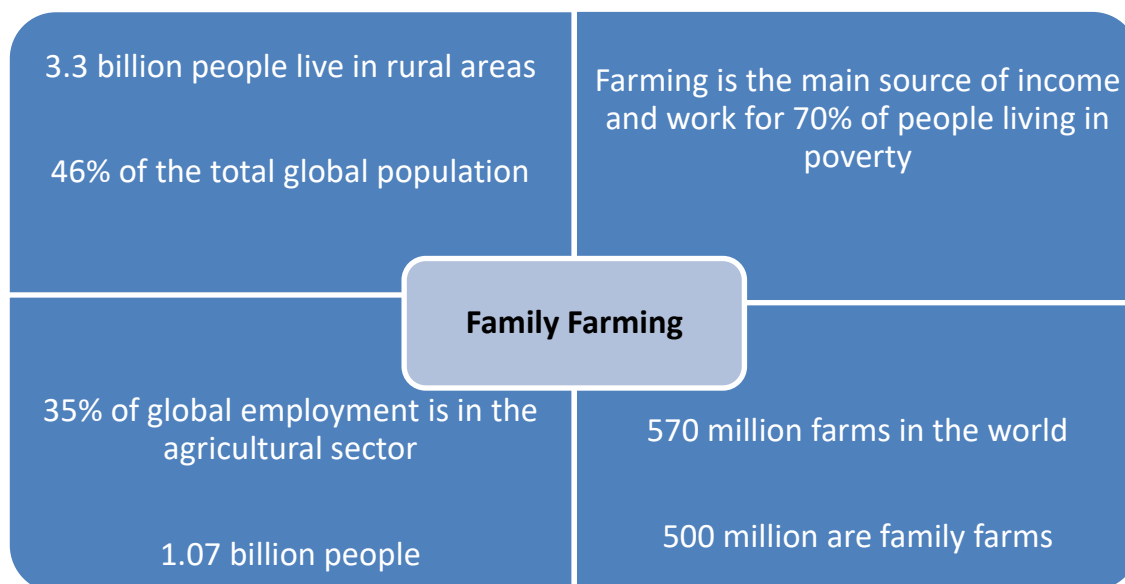
The International Steering Committee for the International Year of Family Farming, launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO, in 2014, adopted the following definition of family farming:

*Family farming (which includes all family-based agricultural activities) is a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominately reliant on family labour, both women's and men's. The family and the farm are linked, coevolve and combine economic, environmental, reproductive, social and cultural functions. (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - FAO -, 2013)*

Therefore, family farming is much more than an agrarian economic model: it is the foundation for sustainable food production, environmental management of rural and marine

areas and their biodiversity, the source of significant cultural elements for each people, and ultimately, a fundamental pillar of countries' overall development.

Family farming by the numbers:



According to the World Bank, “Agricultural development is one of the most powerful tools to end extreme poverty, boost shared prosperity and feed 9 billion people by 2050. **Growth in the agriculture sector is about two to four times more effective in raising incomes among the poorest compared to other sectors.**” So, promoting family farming is a very effective strategy in the fight against poverty.

The focus of the Decade of Family Farming is based on a positive and dynamic approach that shows civil society and its institutions not only the challenges or difficulties of family-scale agriculture, but rather its great contributions, both real and potential, to global food, combating poverty, hunger and malnutrition and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. **Only with a strong push for family farming can we achieve the objectives laid out in the Sustainable Development Goals, especially those in Goal 2,** whether contribute to the achievement of other goals and interrelated targets.

The Decade will also contribute to the **implementation of the agreements** reached during the course of the negotiations of the **United Nations Framework on Climate Change** and, specially, the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Progress should be made towards **the promotion of more effective inclusion and non-discrimination policies**, so as to reduce gender differences in access to land, inputs and credit. Rural poverty often has a woman's face, so mechanisms should be created to contribute to their financial empowerment and enjoyment of their fundamental rights.

In addition to being the **largest source of employment in developing countries** and the central pillar of the socio-economic development in rural areas on every continent, family farming is the social base on which the Right to Food, recognized in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, should be made a reality.

## **2. OBJECTIVES:**

The overall objective of the Decade of Family Farming is to contribute to the international community's efforts to end poverty in all its forms, reduce inequality and combat climate change, while ensuring that no one gets left behind.

The specific objectives include:

1. Contributing to efforts to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
2. Increasing the visibility and recognition of the important role that family farming plays in feeding the world population, creating jobs, building peace, and combating climate change, among other issues.
3. Promoting better public policies in favor of family farming and creating, strengthening and promoting mechanisms and spaces for political dialogue, including National Committees for Family Farming.
4. Increasing collaboration between different stakeholders that operate in the rural areas, strengthening agreements between consumers, farmers' organizations, research centers, and others.
5. Encouraging research centers to include family farming among their priorities.
6. Ending discrimination in all forms against women and girls in rural areas, promoting their empowerment through the increasing of their access to information, productive and financial resources and decision-making processes.
7. Promoting an environment that encourages youth to work in family farming, so that they can remain in the countryside and become agents of sustainable development.



### **3. POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF THE DECADE**

Among the expected results we can mention:

1. Substantial contribution to the implementation and scope of the 2030 Development Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the Sustainable Development Goal number 2 and other related Goals and Targets.
2. Increased agricultural productivity and incomes of family farmers, particularly women, indigenous peoples, pastoralists and fishermen.
3. Increased sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices that contribute to ecosystem maintenance, strengthen the ability to adapt to climate change, extreme weather events, droughts, floods and other disasters; and to progressively improve soil and land quality.
4. Increase in rural employment and reduction of rural-urban migration and between countries, especially young men and women.
5. Design and implementation of laws and programs focused on family farming, paying special attention to access to productive resources and to the improvement of infrastructures and services in rural areas.
6. Progressive recognition of the equal status of rural women as well as the progressive increase in rural women's access to land and other productive resources, investment, credit, training and information.