



IYFF+10

GLOBAL ACTION FOR FAMILY FARMING

CONCEPT PAPER

IYFF+10

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1. Family Farming in the World

This document describes the strategy for the campaign for the International Year of Family Farming plus 10 (IYFF+10). The first part sets family farming in context, describing its situation, the challenges facing it and its potential. The second part deals with the process of boosting family farming which began in 2008 and culminated in the declaration of the international year of family farming in 2014 (IYFF 2014) and the decision to continue the work through the IYFF+10 campaign. The third part sets out the details of the IYFF+10 campaign, describing its objectives, its central topics and its working topics. The last two parts explain the structure of the campaign and give details of how to take part in it.

This document is therefore intended to serve as the roadmap for implementing the IYFF+10 campaign.

1.1. Background to Family Farming

In global political terms, family farming is fundamental to the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Agenda. That means that IYFF+10 is an instrument at the service of the SDGs, contributing to the fulfilment of at least 9 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The implementation of this campaign and the resulting implementation of public policies focusing on family farming will represent a major step forward on the path towards realization of the right to food as a human right. The action carried out within the framework of IYFF+10 is aligned on the work of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), particularly the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food, the work on connecting smallholders to markets and the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition.

Family farming is a sector of great symbolic and strategic value owing to the economic, social, cultural, environmental and geographical role it plays. For the World Rural Forum, a family farm is a production unit defined by the deep ties that a specific household has with the piece of land they work. In fact, family farms produce more than 80% of the world's food in terms of value, thus confirming family farming's vital importance for global food security and food sovereignty for present and future generations.¹

Family farming is therefore much more than just an alternative economic model for agriculture because it is seen as the foundation for the sustainable food production required to achieve food security and food sovereignty, for environmental management of land and sea, and for biodiversity. In addition, it forms an essential part of the cultural identity of each community, and therefore a fundamental pillar of each country's integral development.

¹ *State of Food and Agriculture* (FAO, 2014)



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The International Steering Committee for the International Year of Family Farming in 2014 drafted the following definition:

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, co-evolve and combine economic, environmental, reproductive, social and cultural functions. (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 2013)

Today more than 3.3 billion people, 46% of the world population, live in rural areas.² For 70% of the people in poverty who live mainly in these rural areas, farming is their principal source of income and work.³ The International Labour Organization estimates that agriculture accounts for 35% of global employment (some 1.07 billion people).⁴ Moreover, among indigenous populations, which represent 5% of the world population (370 million)⁵, practically 40% of households depend directly on farming for their livelihood.

There are an estimated 570 million farms in the world, of which more than 500 million are family farms (managed by individuals or families and run with family labour). 84% of these farms are small; they have less than 2 hectares⁶ and control just 12% of the world's farmland.

Today there are still 795 million people in the world who suffer from hunger, and populations in rural areas such as peasant farmers, artisanal fishers, farm labourers and indigenous communities are those who suffer most. Approximately three-fourths of the world's poor live in rural areas and this proportion is even higher in low income countries (FAO, 2015)⁷.

Even though specific national and international policies have reduced these figures significantly, there is still much to do to make these policies more effective, especially in the context of the current crisis: a food, economic, social and financial crisis.

The evolution of the United Nations development agenda also indicates progress on family farming at international level. While only one of the Millennium Development Goals was related to reducing hunger, the Sustainable Development Goals and the new 2015-2030 agenda include several references to farming. For example, they refer to adopting policies that *increase productive capacities, productivity and productive employment, financial inclusion, sustainable agriculture, pastoralist and fisheries development*⁸, among others. There is a more specific reference in target 2.3 of Goal 2 (end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture):

² FAOSTAT (2015) and World Bank (2014)

³ FAOSTAT (2014) and World Bank (2016)

⁴ ILO (2013). See *Agriculture: An Engine of Pro-Poor Rural Growth*

⁵ ILO (2011). See *Unlocking indigenous peoples' potential for sustainable rural development*

⁶ *The State of Food and Agriculture* (FAO, 2014)

⁷ *The State of Food Insecurity* (FAO, 2015)

⁸ *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. (UN General Assembly, 18 September, 2015).



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2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment. (United Nations General Assembly, September 2015).

Small-scale farmers, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers are specifically mentioned, with an emphasis on access to resources. But other goals also mention the potential role of family farming: Goal 12 which is to *ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*; Goal 13 which demands that *urgent action be taken to combat climate change and its impacts*; Goal 14b, which specifically lists *providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets*; and Goal 15 which seeks to *protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss*. Thus, 9 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals have a direct connection to family farming: SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere; SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns; SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development; SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Despite the growing significance of family farming, governments in a number of countries are not truly supporting the rural sector for a variety of reasons, despite many of them having large rural populations and abundant terrestrial and marine natural resources. The lack of infrastructure of all kinds and the lack of technical assistance, access to credit or access to markets make true rural development impossible.

According to the World Bank (2015)⁹, “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. This is important for 78 percent of the world’s poor who live in rural areas and depend largely on farming to make a living. Agriculture is also crucial to economic growth: it accounts for one-third of gross-domestic product (GDP) and three-quarters of employment in Sub-Saharan Africa. But agriculture-driven growth and poverty reduction, as well as food security are at risk: A warming climate could cut crop yields by more than 25 percent.”

⁹ [World Bank](#) (September 24, 2015)



Small farmers are the most affected by the effects of climate change.¹⁰ According to a study by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)¹¹, the agriculture sector absorbs 25% of the damage and losses caused by climate-related disasters. In recent decades, millions of small farmers, fishers, pastoralists, and forest-dependent people have seen their livelihoods eroded or destroyed by cyclones, droughts, floods and earthquakes. In fact, the FAO believes that agriculture may help to reduce the impact of climate change by increasing communities' resilience, adaptation and mitigation, especially that of farmers, pastoralists, fishers, and forest-dependent people.

In this respect, organic agriculture with the strengthening of solidarity economy as a model that generates resilience of nature and guarantee the sustainability of the planet may be an interesting way of confronting the impacts of climate change. And it is precisely those involved in family farming who best implements it, given that they use traditional knowledge and ancestral know-how adapted to the local conditions of their environment. Organic agriculture is practiced in 172 countries and covers more than 43.7 million ha of farmed land worked by 2.3 million farmers all over the world¹². Just over half of those farmers are in India, Uganda, and Mexico.¹³

The latest United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21) reinforces the idea of continuing to work on the prevention and mitigation of climate change effects, an area in which, as has already been mentioned, family farming can play a vital role.

The vulnerability of agriculture, fishing and forest grazing to meteorological phenomena and the effects of climate change, and their dependence on technological and socio-political factors and on price fluctuations dictated by external markets unrelated to them reinforce the instability of their production. This means that farming families do not have stability of output or viability. Despite this, family farms as a whole are the largest source of employment throughout the world.¹⁴

1.2. State of Family Farming

Ranching and Pastoral Farming

It is estimated that more than 1 billion poor people depend on livestock for their food and income. According to the FAO's data for 2009, livestock contribute 40 percent of the global value of agricultural output and support the livelihoods and food security of almost a billion people. Yet there is a growing gulf between large-scale producers who supply growing dynamic markets and pastoralists and small traditional producers who run the risk of being marginalized even though they are contributing to local subsistence resources.

¹⁰ FAO (22 April 2016).

¹¹ *The impact of disasters on agriculture and food security* (FAO, 2015)

¹² *The World of Organic Agriculture. Statistics and Emerging Trends 2016*. FiBL-IFOAM Report. (Willer, H. & Lernoud, J., 2016)

¹³ *Organic Family Agriculture in Latin America in the context of Climate Change* (IFOAM, 2014)

¹⁴ *Towards stronger family farms* (FAO, 2014)

On the other hand, livestock farming is facing another challenge posed by the pressure it exerts on natural resources: land, air, water and biodiversity. The sector is known to be contributing to greenhouse gas emissions caused by humans. For that reason, the sector can play a key role in mitigating climate change if it adapts and adjusts its development to make it environmentally sustainable.¹⁵

In this environment, extensive pastoral production systems play a very important role in family economies, especially in arid and semi-arid regions of the world. According to the FAO, pastoralists manage pastures that cover more than one-third of the land.¹⁶ Transhumance is also practised in approximately 75% of countries, including rich countries such as the United States or France. It is estimated that more than 600 million people depend on this kind of production for their livelihood. Extensive pastoralism and extensive livestock farming are adapted to unique conditions on earth, and transhumance, as well as the environmental services that pastoralism provides, are acknowledged to be ecologically important.¹⁷

Fishing

Sea fishing and inland fishing, together with aquaculture, provide food, nutrition, and a source of income for some 820 million people¹⁸ all over the world from harvesting, processing, marketing and distribution. For many, such activity also forms a part of their traditional cultural identity.

Fishing and aquaculture provide a livelihood for 10 to 12% of the world population and offer a wide range of economic opportunities. Artisanal fishing (sea and inland) provides work for about 90% of people involved in fishing, of whom 15% are women. This number may rise to 90% in secondary activities such as processing. Increasingly, artisanal fishing and small-scale fishing are gaining more global recognition as an integral part of growth, but also as a sector that is very vulnerable to climate change or various problems such as disputes over tenure. An estimated 45% of total world catch is taken by small-scale fishers.¹⁹ In addition, aquaculture has increased considerably as a means of production. Between 2007 and 2012, aquaculture production increased from 49.9 million tons globally to 66.6 million, a 33.5% increase in five years.²⁰

Silviculture

Forest communities are also family farmers. More than 1 billion of the world's poorest people depend on trees and forests to obtain foodstuffs, energy, and monetary income. Of these, approximately 350 million, including 60 million indigenous people, use the forest intensively.²¹ The systems that have been created by combining forest and agricultural resources contribute

¹⁵ [The State of Food and Agriculture 2009. Livestock in the balance](#), FAO.

¹⁶ [FAO](#).

¹⁷ World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP).

¹⁸ [Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Resources Division](#) (FAO)

¹⁹ [Labour Standards for Fishers](#), ILO

²⁰ *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture* (FAO, 2014)

²¹ *State of the World's Forests* (FAO, 2012)

directly to the sustainable management of natural resources, such as reserves for nutrition, genetic material, fuel and energy, fodder and construction materials, water retention and recharging, pollination and pest control, green manure, and biological and cultural diversity. For example, wood, the most important source of renewable energy, provides more than 9% of the world's total primary energy supply and it is estimated that the energy obtained from wood represents more than 1.1 billion tonnes of petroleum equivalent each year.

According to data from the World Bank, 31.1% of the earth's surface is forested area, which provides 0.4% of global GDP. While income from forests has been more or less constant in recent years, total income from natural resources has fallen from 4.7% to 3.9% of GDP in the last five years. Wood and forestry production continue to hold their weight in the economy overall, and in the economy of family farming specifically.

Economic Situation

In recent years, the price of commodities has experienced large fluctuations, owing to causes outside producers' control. Some of the most prominent causes are adverse climatic events, cultivating food crops for fuel, and the Chicago stock market which subjects foodstuffs to speculative transactions.

The percentage of income the population has available for food varies enormously by country. It may be around 10% to 20% in developed countries, while in impoverished countries it may reach 80%.²² This makes the food security of families who are heavily dependent on food production very vulnerable to any rise in food prices or any crisis that shrinks their income.

In situations where prices have risen, families involved in family farming have not received sufficient income compensation because the cost of supplies and other items also rises. It is difficult for families to increase production in these cases because they do not have adequate access to other resources such as credit, inputs, technology, or training.

The progressive decline of agricultural income and its effects on rural economies mean that many family farms are disappearing because of migration from the countryside to the city. As a consequence, the global rural population has gone from 86% of the population in 1900 to just 46% in 2015.²³ Particularly in poor countries, this translates into urban poverty and overcrowding in precarious urban settlements, work in the informal economy, or illegal emigration. In respect of more developed countries, the loss of farmer activities and the ageing cause depopulation of a large number of rural territories.

Access to markets

Access to markets is also a stumbling block for poor families in rural and urban areas, as was stated at the Family Farming World Conference (Bilbao, 2011). The creation of added value for family farming produce should also be supported in order to create employment and improve

²² Data from [Share \(%\) of food consumption expenditure in total consumption expenditure](#) (FAO, 1990-2010)

²³ FAOSTAT

incomes, just as the Final Declaration at the Family Farming World Conference demands. Poor rural producers trying to process and find local, regional and national market outlets face a series of obstacles ranging from difficulties in accessing markets (a micro problem) to the complexities of sustainability in the markets (a problem that is both micro and macro).²⁴ Promoting small farmers' access to markets is key to eradicating hunger as well as supplying the population with food and creating a solid socio-economic fabric. Some of the most viable solutions would be to strengthen support for associations, to strengthen the power of the family farming in the agri-food chain, to reinforce the capacity of negotiating inside of the circuit production-processing-market chains, improving productive and trade infrastructure and apply processing and storage technologies. These are key elements to development. This requires the political support of governments in order to promote specific measures that reduce market uncertainty, favour infrastructure development and promote agricultural investment.

Land access

Land acquisition represents a significant threat to family farming and sustainable food production. According to Oxfam estimates²⁵, "the land acquired between 2000 and 2010 has the potential to feed 1 billion people, equivalent to the number of people who currently go to bed hungry each night". During the 2016 World Forum on Access to Land and Natural Resources, it was emphasized that "limited or lacking access to land and productive resources is a major cause of rural and urban poverty, marginalization, and loss of food sovereignty throughout the world".²⁶ Participants in this forum also stressed the importance of prolonging the International Year of Family Farming run in 2014. The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of National Food Security, approved in 2012 by the Committee on World Food Security, offer a fundamental tool to help eradicate hunger and poverty by promoting the rights of the men and women who work the land.

"The global food production system has become such a dominant force, changing the surface of the Earth and its ecosystems, that we cannot achieve a sustainable model without reforming the food system. Sustainable systems of food production also offer great hope to build a viable future, a future in which all of us can lead satisfactory lives within the resources of the biosphere." (Rethinking Progress - Agriculture Footprint, July 2003)

Therefore, ensuring the existence of effective and sustainable family farming is an essential goal if we are to achieve a universal equitable development model in rural, urban, and marine spaces.

²⁴ *Family Farming: Access to Markets and Volatility of Agricultural Markets*. Reference document at the Family Farming World Conference (2011)

²⁵ Briefing note "Our land, our lives" (Oxfam, 2012)

²⁶ Final report, World Forum on Access to Land and Natural Resources (WFAL 2016)

Achieving this vital goal requires an ambitious programme of concerted action by institutions, governments, farming organizations, fishing organizations, indigenous communities and other associations that promote effective policies for the benefit of the rural world in a decisive manner.

Women and Family Farming

The overall contribution of women to national wealth is underestimated. The available statistics show that women make up 43% of the agricultural workforce in developing countries and that they produce a large part of the global food harvest, according to the FAO²⁷ and UN Women²⁸. This percentage varies enormously depending on the country, ranging from 20% to 70%. According to the Women's World Summit Foundation²⁹, "rural women comprise more than one-quarter of the total world population; 500 million women live below the poverty line in rural areas. Women produce 60-80 per cent of basic foodstuffs in sub-Saharan Africa and in the Caribbean. Women perform over 50 per cent of the labour involved in intensive rice cultivation in Asia. Women perform more than 30 per cent of the agricultural work in industrialized countries. Women head 60 per cent of households in some regions of Africa. Women meet 90 per cent of household water and fuel needs in Africa. Women process 100% of basic household foodstuffs in Africa."

The official statistics underestimate the value of women's work, as food producers or agricultural laborers. Women continue to play a large part in the agricultural workforce, as food producers or agricultural labourers, approximately two-thirds of the female workforce in developing countries participate in agricultural work. Yet rural women on small farms encounter additional limitations, for instance limited access to resources such as land, funding, or education, training or due to her multiple tasks within her family or her community; and should get special attention. Thus, the inclusion, incorporation and reappraisal of the productive work of rural women is an effective strategy to fight poverty. This is an issue which demands special attention.

1.3. Challenges of Family Farming

Family farming, present on every continent and particularly in developing countries, presents large challenges and is subject to great uncertainties.

Various major actors dealing with family farming, such as the REAF, CIRAD³⁰, the CPLP, AFA and ROPPA among others, confirm that the International Year of Family Farming has raised awareness of the economic and social role that this type of agriculture plays, as well as the advantages that it presents for confronting continuing global challenges.

²⁷ *The state of food and agriculture. Women in agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development* (FAO, 2011).

²⁸ [UN Women](#)

²⁹ [Women's World Summit Foundation](#) is a humanitarian, non-governmental and international, non-confessional and non-profit organization with United Nations consultative status.

³⁰ *Public Policies for Family Farming: Definition for better support*. Perspective No 29 (CIRAD, 2014)

Some of the significant challenges family farming is currently facing are as follows:

- a) Farmers having difficulty accessing productive resources and supplies (land, water, fields, quality seeds, supplies, machinery, etc.) at affordable prices. Lack negotiating power of family farmers when it comes to setting foodstuffs prices along the distribution chain. Lack of access to local, regional and national markets. It includes the frequent intervention of intermediaries with abusive sales margins, damaging the farmers as well as consumers. Agricultural and food prices are volatile, and often subject to speculative interests. Farmers lack of access to services, like training in going to market, extension, agricultural information and training, credit and financing.
- b) The fishing sector is facing, gradually coming under the control of large companies to the detriment of artisanal fishing.
- c) Land access is frequently subject to serious legal insecurity and the absence of true agrarian reform. Many peasant families, indigenous communities and pastoralists are being expelled through the forced acquisition of their land in order to plant crops intended for industrial agriculture for exportation or fuel, thereby creating a growing cycle of precarious employment, rural exodus and new forms of rural marginalization and urban poverty.
- d) Depopulation of rural area's issue because of an aging population and the migration of the male workforce to cities owing to lack of rural employment, the responsibility of farming falls, in most cases, on women farmers.
- e) Few young people are involved in agriculture due to different barriers such as land access, funding, lack of decent revenues, lack of interest. Need to strengthen the technical capacities of young people.
- f) The role of the woman farmer is not effectively recognized through appropriate legal regulation that incorporates the concept of family farming operations.
- g) No or insufficient participation of small farmers and fishers in the decision-making processes and participation in the policies that affect them.
- h) Farmers are very dependent on weather conditions and the adverse effects that climate has on agriculture. These may cause serious changes to the landscape, rural and marine flora and fauna.
- i) The expansion of monocultivation and intensive macrocultivation deprives affected countries of part of their eco-tourism wealth and their natural balance.
- j) Unfair competition and difficulty to access markets due to different factors, such as high level of concentration of the agro-food circuit, of free trade agreements or ow health and quality norms. Importance to claim the right to protect family farming.
- k) Farmers lack adequate access to quality education and health services, especially in rural areas. Effective rural development is complicated by insufficient equipment, infrastructure and basic services in rural areas.



These challenges point to the urgency of continuing to work on behalf of family farming, both to improve living conditions and to support the essential role that family farming plays in confronting global problems, such as climate change and the need for healthier and more sustainable food.

1.4. Potential of Family Farming

If family farming globally has greater access to productive resources, markets and inputs at an accessible price and better policies and support services, it can ensure a dignified life for peasant families, indigenous communities, fishers and pastoralists, and can meet consumers' needs more appropriately and more effectively, thereby helping to stem possible future food crises.

Cooperative work could facilitate the creation of added value and upgrade the value chain for family farming. It results interesting to boost associativism within the framework of endogenous models of their organizations, develop and transform in solidarity enterprises with production's technologies incorporating R+D+I to be more efficient, effective and competitive with a major articulation to fair and solidarity markets.

The creation of cooperatives and logistics and distribution centres for family farming will facilitate access to markets, more sustainable techniques, training and advice.

Such action will also promote the role of rural organizations, farmers' organizations, pastoralist organizations and artisanal fisher organizations as true leaders of rural development whose proposals and critiques must be taken into account when agrarian policies and any other regulations that affect their living conditions and their fundamental rights are being prepared.

The role of family farming in the sustainable farming and food production process is often undervalued, as is the weight that it has in rural development. Policy decisions that affect family farming are designed very far away, with little awareness of the realities. IYFF+10 will provide the opportunity to encourage consultation between the authorities responsible for developing and formulating agrarian policies and representatives of family farmers (women and men), fishers, pastoralists, indigenous communities, peasant organizations and other representatives of the sector.

The focus of IYFF+10 is on a positive and dynamic approach designed to make institutions and the general population aware not only of the challenges and difficulties of family-scale agriculture, but, above all, of its great contribution, both real and potential, to sustainable food and the fight against poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and its role in fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition to being the largest source of employment in developing countries, and the central pillar of the socio-economic fabric in rural areas, family farming must be the social foundation for the Right to Food, recognized in the 1948 International Bill of Human Rights.



It is crucial to use the appropriate instruments to implement public policies in different sectors not related directly to production is crucial. For instance, the implementation of policies on strengthening organizations, on land access, on education, research, youth, gender, social policies, on infrastructure, etc. addressed to family farming in order to protect it.

Another example is the Network of Farmers' and Producers' Organisations of West Africa (ROPPA - *Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest*)³¹, with some of the main instruments to be developed prior to production that are land management and animal health policies, support for agricultural investment and soft loans for agriculture, capacity-building and agricultural insurance in case of adverse climatic events. Important post-production facilities include access to markets, coordination between the various actors, and support for logistics and local storage, regulation of agricultural markets and compensation for price fluctuations. Lastly, they recommend, among other things, support for the processing of products and the organization of value chains, the promotion of labels and differentiated quality identifiers, and direct support for the most vulnerable population.

For these several reasons mentioned previously in this chapter, the IYFF+10 will be the catalyst for a set of initiatives and synergies for family farming, including pastoralism, silviculture, artisanal fishing and indigenous communities, that will help optimize the results achieved in IYFF 2014 and will keep a critical eye on the policies, programmes and projects agreed upon, evaluate the measures taken and promote new ones, bearing in mind the lessons learned during the push for family farming. All this will be directed toward the implementation of public policies that favour and recognize the value of family agriculture in its various facets.

³¹ ROPPA workshop for reflection, training and preparation for the launch of regional agricultural policies (Lomé, Togo, 1-4 April 2012).

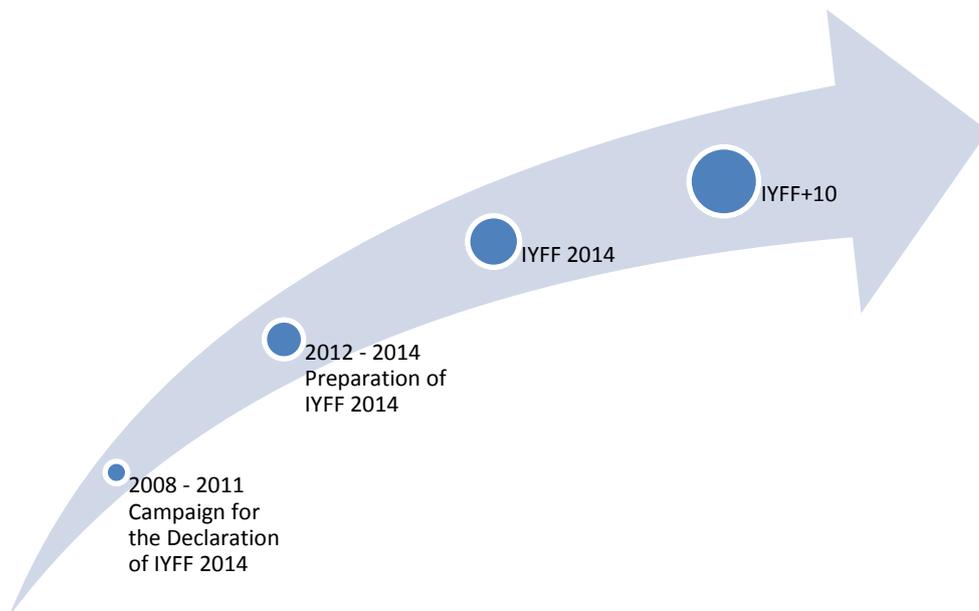
2. The push for Family Farming

The campaign to continue working for and strengthening family farming over the course of another 10 years (IYFF+10) is part of the current process. The WRF started this process in 2008 along with 360 organizations, when it requested that the United Nations General Assembly declare 2014 “International Year of Family Farming” (IYFF 2014).

Finally, on 22 December 2011, the United Nations General Assembly, at the request of the Government of the Philippines, unanimously decided to declare 2014 International Year of Family Farming.

The preparation phase for IYFF 2014 began that day, and efforts focused on promoting National Committees on Family Farming, mobilizing economic resources to develop IYFF and continue to bring partners into the process. This process is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Process of the Family Farming Campaign



IYFF took place in 2014. Numerous steps were taken to promote public policies focused on family farming during this stage. Some of the most significant results achieved are described below:

- a) Overwhelming recognition of family farming as a mode of food production, for the present and the future, declaring it an essential and effective sector in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.
- b) Significant changes in the objectives and structure of certain international bodies in order to engage more fully with Family Farming. The document from the 24th session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture, entitled “Family Farmers: Feeding the World,

Caring for the Earth”, recognizes the importance of family farming³² and the work carried out to date, and requests that the FAO continue to work on promoting Family Farming and integrate it into the FAO strategic framework and the post-2015 development agenda. The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (ICAA) restructured its working methodology, increasing the significance of family farming in its approaches, through its flagship projects. The World Food Programme (WFP) committed to purchase 10% of commodities from small family farmers in developing countries, with an annual food purchasing budget of more than 1 billion USD.³³

- c) There was massive participation in IYFF 2014. 745 organizations, public institutions, bodies, associations and research centres participated in 52 National Committees on Family Farming, including regional and international institutions.
- d) IYFF 2014 influenced the process of designing the new 2015-2030 sustainable development agenda. Family farming appears as part of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly as part of Goal 2, as stated earlier in this document.
- e) Civil society organizations, especially agrarian organizations, were further empowered. The intense advocacy work done by these groups has strengthened their position and their capacities. Most of the National Committees on Family Farming have also been led by farming organizations.
- f) In several countries, public policies have been developed and promoted to strengthen family farming. Examples are shown in Box 1 below:

³² *Family farmers: Feeding the World, Caring for the Earth*. FAO Committee on Agriculture. 24th session. Rome, 29 September – 3 October 2014.

³³ *Legacy of IYFF 2014 and the Way Forward* (FAO, 2014).

Box 1: Examples of results from IYFF 2014

Africa

Gambia: - Reformed seed policy. Creation of a Seed Council, on which Civil Society Organizations have obtained three seats.

- Land reform (property rights and land use) and a harvest insurance system implemented by the government.

Uganda: Signing, launch, and implementation of the Agriculture Act (drafted and adopted in 2008).

Burkina Faso: Commitment from the government to strengthen the new 2014-2015 farming season through new public investments aimed at family farmers.

Mali: Launch of the National Fund for Agriculture Support (NFAS) with a budget of 2 billion CFA francs (approximately USD 3.5 million).

Latin America and the Caribbean

Dominican Republic: - Food Security and Sovereignty Act (2014).

- Signing of an inter-institutional cooperation agreement between the social policy coordination cabinet, the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Committee on Family Farming.

Argentina: Decree 1030/2014 providing for the creation of a State Secretariat for Family Farming

Bolivia: - Law No 144 "Community Farming Production Revolution" and Law No 338 (OECA and OECOM) for the integration of sustainable family farming and food sovereignty

- Increase in credit and loans to USD 45,000,000 over a five-year period, intended for 32,000 small family farmers and business owners

Peru: Proposed law No 3808/2014-CR, whose goal is to put family farming once again at the centre of government policies

Guatemala: Strategic partnership between civil society organizations to push for the repeal of the "Monsanto Act" (Law 19-2014) which resulted in the government withdrawing it

Colombia: Ministerial resolution 267 launching a Family Farming Programme through the Ministry of Agriculture. Article 5 provides that the funds will come from the national budget. Resolution 300 establishes conditions for access to microcredit.

Paraguay: Decree 1056: Presidential Law on public procurement from family farming

Uruguay: Family Farming Public Procurement Act, in which the state promises to make 30% of its purchases from small farmers.

Europe

Slovakia The Ministry of Agriculture committed to increase the budget for young people and small farmers from EUR 2 million to 3 million.

Belgium (Wallonia): The National Committee's definition of family farming was adopted by the Walloon government in their new agriculture code.

Asia

Philippines: in 2014 the law on children's farms was adopted, finally giving official recognition to the children's farm project in existence in the Philippines for the past 25 years.

Philippines: A large-scale march by small producers of coconuts throughout the country sparked media attention and contributed to significantly advancing political advocacy for the "Coconut Farmers Trust Fund".

Bangladesh: Commitment by the Prime Minister to establish a special Development Bank for small family farmers with limited access to land. Three million farmers should benefit from this support for access to credit.

Nepal: The government provided EUR 78,000 to promote IYFF in 2014 and publicly undertook to continue to establish policies in favour of family farming beyond 2014.



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Some 30 public policy processes are also being developed to improve family farming. These began thanks to IYFF 2014 and they are still going through the political procedure.³⁴

Concluding IYFF 2014, the International Steering Committee for IYFF 2014 approved the document “Legacy of IYFF 2014 and the Way Forward”³⁵ on 13 November 2014. This document explicitly states that:

UN Rome-based agencies as well as other international organizations and regional institutions should consider and maintain Family Farming as an integral element of their agenda, and facilitate participation of the representatives of Family Farmers, including artisanal fisherfolk, pastoralists, indigenous peoples and mountain farmers in their work (FAO, 2014).

The document was presented at the closing session in the Philippines on 27 November 2014. Moreover, men and women farmers, peasants, artisanal fishers, pastoralists and indigenous communities from all five continents, along with rural associations, research centres, members of the World Coordination Committee, national committees and other actors met in Brasilia (Brazil) on 14 and 15 November 2014. At this meeting, they analysed the achievements during IYFF 2014, defined six demands to continue working toward (shown in Box 2), and reached some organizational agreements to facilitate carrying IYFF 2014 work further.³⁶

³⁴ More information can be found in the “IYFF 2014 Global Report: A year of progress for family farming” created by the IYFF 2014 World Consultative Committee for Civil Society in April 2015.

³⁵ Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/b-mm296e.pdf>

³⁶ Brasilia Manifesto (November 15 2014).

Box 2: Brasilia Manifesto Demands (2014)

Demand 1

Every nation must have the right to develop its own local food production managed by the women and men members of Family Farming¹. This dynamic toward achieving Food Security and Food Sovereignty must be based on the implementation of sustainable agricultural models, resilient to climate change, such as the organic model, within the solidarity economy perspective.

Demand 2

Governments must give urgent priority to the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, which they passed within the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

Demand 3

With the aim of strengthening and promoting Family Farming on a global scale, we request the Committee on Food Security (CFS) to design and approve Voluntary Guidelines for Family Farming as soon as possible.

Demand 4

With the aim of promoting Family Farming, all countries, in particular those which have an important rural population must sanction a suitable budget for the development of Family Farming.

Demand 5

To guarantee equality of rights among men and women involved in Family Farming, through women autonomy and specific public policies.

Demand 6

It is necessary to approve different public policies that promote the inclusion, integration, incorporation and social, legal, and economic recognition of young people within the agricultural sector.



On the basis of this manifesto and the desire to continue working together under global coordination, the campaign for family farming, agriculture, artisanal fishing, silviculture, pastoralism, and indigenous communities has been extended for 10 more years.

Finally, the International Steering Committee for IYFF 2014 approved the document “Legacy of IYFF 2014 and the Way Forward”³⁷ on 13 November 2014 and presented it at the closing session in the Philippines on 27 November 2014. This document explicitly states that:

UN Rome-based agencies as well as other international organizations and regional institutions should consider and maintain Family Farming as an integral element of their agenda, and facilitate participation of the representatives of Family Farmers, including artisanal fisherfolk, pastoralists, indigenous peoples and mountain farmers in their work (FAO, 2014).

This declaration underpins the idea of continuing to work to promote family farming for at least another ten years.

³⁷ Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/b-mm296e.pdf>

3. The Family Farming decade (IYFF+10)

3.1. General Objective

The general objective of IYFF+10 is to **improve and defend public policies for family farming and increase the degree of implementation** through the use of framework legislation, policies, programmes, budget increases and participation of agricultural and peasant organizations in the design, implementation and decision-making.

The public policies³⁸ should take account of civil society, and in this case, family farming organizations and representatives, given that the decisions made directly affect their lives. In this sense, family farming can be said to be an area that has been neglected by public authorities.

We believe that by promoting effective public policies for family farming, the conditions are being created for long-term improvement in the quality of life of farming families. The objective is to achieve positive transformation of the rural environment and to fight the causes of existing problems with the active participation of civil society.

After the success of IYFF 2014, with its high level of participation and outstanding results, we hope that the IYFF+10 will continue to contribute to this goal and achieve even better results.

In this framework, the **IYFF+10 initiative is actively seeing official declaration of a Decade of Family Farming by the United Nations General Assembly.**

3.2. Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of IYFF+10 are as follows:

1. To raise awareness of and win recognition for family farming, considering its fundamental role in sustainably feeding people, fighting hunger and malnutrition, adapting to climate change and managing natural resources
2. To develop collaboration between the various agents that operate in the rural environment, strengthening agreements between consumers, agricultural organizations, research centres, and other key actors in this sector
3. To empower family farming organizations, thereby increasing their role as co-producers or co-designers of public policy

³⁸ Velásquez provides one of the most complete definitions of public policy: “Public policy is an inclusive process of decisions, actions, inactions, agreements and instruments, pushed forward by public authorities with the possible involvement of individuals, and aimed at solving or preventing a situation defined as problematic. The public policy forms part of a specific environment on which it feeds and which it aims to change or maintain.” Velásquez, Raúl. (2009). *Toward a new definition of “public policy”*. In Revista Desafíos, Bogotá, Colombia (20), 149-187.



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4. To create, strengthen and promote dialogue mechanisms as fundamental instruments to achieve better public policies for family farming, such as the National Committees on Family Farming
 5. To promote agreements on Guidelines for the Governance of Agricultural Systems Based on Family Farming. Guidelines would be promoted at national, regional, and global level, with an emphasis on the national taking into account the existing agreements (for instance REAF).
 6. To increase collaboration between centres of innovation and agricultural organizations:
 - Orienting research centres' agendas toward family farming and valuing the knowledge of family farmers
 - Developing collaboration within the innovation environment (technological, social)
 - Encouraging the horizontal transfer of technology and knowledge among those involved in family farming, artisanal fishing and pastoralism, forest gatherers and indigenous communities
 7. To increase the importance of the role of young people in family farming and in related public policies, not just as subjects of rights, but also as principal agents of sustainable territorial development:
 - Promoting greater awareness within decision-making arenas of the importance of urgently improving the status of this group
 - Improving access to land, resources, training, information and technology
 - Valuing and promoting the role of young people in family farming
 8. To increase the importance of the role of women in family farming and related public policies, not just as subjects of rights, but also as principal agents of sustainable territorial development:
 - Promoting greater awareness within decision-making arenas of the importance of urgently improving the status of this group. Promoting the effective participation of women in decision making and working to eliminate structural constraints that block their participation in decision-making mechanisms (Declaration of Women, Fifth Global Conference on Family Farming, 2015). Improving access to land, resources, training, information and technology.
 - Valuing and promoting the role of women in family farming
 9. To present proposals and solutions to the growing challenges in the rural environment such as climate change, competition for resources (land, water and energy) and competition for markets.
 10. To present proposals and Solutions to the challenges in the competition for markets.
-

3.3. First Results for the IYFF+10

After the end of 2014, it has enabled to make progress in advocacy and achieve successful outcomes.

Progress in Africa:

- The National Committee of Family Farming (NCFE) of Mali succeeded to stop the approval of the last version of the Land Tenure Law at the National Assembly. This law did not take into account the Family Farmers needs related to land access.
- The Guinea-Bissau NCFE participated to the dialogue space on the elaboration of the Land Access law and the Agricultural Orientation Law.
- The Madagascar NCFE participated to a panel discussion organized by the Ministry of Agriculture in order to dialogue on the revision of the law and decree which govern the operation of the Agricultural Development Fund and to guide its use towards Family Farming.

Achievements in Central and South America:

- Peru: Promulgation of the Regulations of the Law on the Promotion and Development of Family Farming Law No. 30355, (2016)
- Colombia: Adoption of Resolution 199 of 2016 - Partial modification to the Regulation of organic products adopted by Resol. 187/2006
- Dominican Republic: Adoption of Resolution No. RES-MA-2016-14. The Ministry of Agriculture adopts the concept of Family Farming and creates the Consultative Council of Family Farming.

3.4. Central topics of IYFF+10

IYFF+10 will work on the basis of the eight central topics that have been gathering strength since IYFF 2014 (shown in Box 3):

Box 3: Central topics of IYFF+10

- Theme 1. Strengthening organization
- Theme 2. Access to suitable technologies
- Theme 3. Role of young people
- Theme 4. Role of women
- Theme 5. Access to local and regional markets
- Theme 6. Access to credit
- Theme 7. Access to natural resources
- Theme 8. Access to land

All these topics will be worked on simultaneously in the context of the public policy campaign, but strengthening the roles of young people and women in family farming will be the priority.

Role of young people

It is incredibly urgent to address the status of young people and the generational handover in arable and livestock farming, fishing, pastoralism and aquaculture. According to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), half of the farmers in the United States are 55 or older, while the average age in sub-Saharan Africa is 60.³⁹

There is no one model of young farmer, pastoralist, or fisher. What is clear is that young people's production potential is fundamental for the economic and social development of rural communities and, by extension, of the society to which they belong.⁴⁰

Therefore, public policies aimed at young people should keep this diversity in mind, as well as the dual approach that must be applied: treating young people, on the one hand, as the

³⁹ [The Farmers and Food System Leaders of Tomorrow](#). FoodTank. (April 28, 2015)

⁴⁰ According to Kofi Annan, "Young people are a source of creativity, energy and initiative, of dynamism and social renewal. They learn quickly and adapt readily. Given the chance to go to school and find work, they will contribute hugely to economic development and social progress. Were we to fail to give them these opportunities, at best we could be complicit in an unforgivable waste of human potential. At worst, we would be contributing to all the evils of youth without hope: loss of morale, and lives that are socially unproductive and potentially destructive - of the individuals themselves, their communities and even fragile democracies." V. Anna, Kori A. (2000), [We the Peoples: the Role of the United Nations in the 21st Century](#) United Nations.

targets of policies and subjects of rights and, on the other hand, as strategic development actors in rural areas contributing to sustainability in family agriculture.

To make family farming an attractive profession for young people, an effective increase in public support is needed, in cooperation with other sectors of society, private as well as public.

The IYFF+10 initiative is designed to make family farming synonymous with having a secure present and a secure future, and to that end it will concentrate on devising and implementing agricultural, economic, and social policies that specifically address the needs of rural youth.

Role of Women

As has already been stated, according to UN Women, women represent an average of 43% of the agricultural workforce in developing countries. This varies considerably by region, from 20% or less in Latin America to 50% or more in some parts of Asia and Africa. In addition, less than 20% of landowners are women, and they also have limited access to inputs, seeds, credit, and extension services.⁴¹ According to the World Bank (2012)⁴², the gender differences in access to land, supplies, and credit affect the capacity of farmers and business owners to invest, operate at the proper scale, and benefit from new economic opportunities.

During the *Fifth Global Conference on Family Farming: Building a future: Family Farming*, held in September 2015, a seminar was held on “the Woman in Family Farming”, at which participants made the following declaration:

Box 4: Declaration of Women. Fifth Global Conference on Family Farming (2015)

- We are leaders in the development of national and local economies and guarantee security and food sovereignty in our villages.
- Despite advances in the past decades, we continue to live in a situation of social and political inequality.
- There still exist structural limitations that prevent us from participating in the decision-making processes.
- We continue to face large obstacles for access to land, common goods and other natural resources (water), public resources to support production (credit, technical assistance and technology) and basic services like health, education, accommodation and infrastructure.
- Important advances have also been made in certain countries in public policies and in the implementation of new institutional requests in order to promote gender equality, but in the majority of countries, it is still a great challenge to make these policies a priority.

Women have been and continue to be omitted from many statistical records, and that contributes to the lack of public policies. Nevertheless, the FAO⁴³ estimates that equalizing

⁴¹ *The state of food and agriculture. Women in agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development.* (FAO, 2011)

⁴² *World Development Report: Gender Equality and Development.* (World Bank, 2012)

⁴³ *The state of food and agriculture. Women in agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development.* (FAO, 2011)

access to productive resources between men and women farmers could increase agricultural production in developing countries by between 2.5% and 4%. The evidence indicates that if women farmers had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase the output of their farms by between 20% and 30%.⁴⁴ This would also reduce the number of hungry people in the world by between 12% and 17%, that is to say by between 100 and 150 million people.

3.5. Central working topics of IYFF+10

The IYFF+10 is an initiative open to all actors wishing to promote family farming in the world, because only by working together and through partnerships can we face the challenges and achieve meaningful and transformative results. We are living at a moment in history in which there are multiple opportunities to find synergies and make progress.

Therefore, just as with IYFF 2014, IYFF+10 will always continue to seek to work with other agricultural organizations and rural associations, research centres, governments and international institutions.

The IYFF+10 has three working areas:

a) *Promoting National Committees on Family Farming (NCCFs)*

The National Committees on Family Farming (NCCFs) are platforms formed by a group of civil society organizations involved in the promotion and defence of family farming (agricultural organizations, non-governmental organizations, research centres, consumer associations, etc.) and in which government and international bodies (such as the FAO or IFAD) are requested to participate. National Committees go by various names in different countries: National Committee, National Network, Platform for Family Farming, etc.

Within the IYFF+10 framework, about fifty committees have been established around the world, with the goal of encouraging political dialogue and advocacy to achieve public policies for family farming.

During 2014, these committees demonstrated their potential, improving relevant public policies in several countries. Given the national, regional, and international success of IYFF 2014, many committees have decided to continue their action under the framework of IYFF+10. Other committees are under construction or are considering joining this global movement for family farming.

Committees must be inclusive, democratic, pluralist, integrated structures that allow different actors to come together, but their objective must always be to be headed by family farming organizations. Each committee establishes its own goals and activities, keeping in mind its political and socio-economic environment. Thus, the participation of governmental institutions also depends on each country or committee. Governments may participate in some committees but may simply establish a direct dialogue with others.

⁴⁴ [The rural woman and the Millennium Development Goals](#) (UN)



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Each committee is also responsible for obtaining the economic and human resources needed for its operation and activities. IYFF 2014 has shown that if the committees are credible and representative structures, with stable internal procedures based on good governance and clear planning, if they do good work and establish strategic partnerships that are effective at national and international level, it is possible to bring together the necessary resources to continue with this work.

The World Coordination Committee (WCC) is at the service of NCCFs to give advice on organization, strategic information about progress on agricultural policies, assistance in looking for economic resources, networking with the rest of the NCCFs, and assistance in gaining official recognition by other strategic partners.

b) Family Farming Guidelines

The proposal to create some common guidelines for promoting family farming arose from civil society during IYFF 2014 assessment in Brasilia (November 2014).⁴⁵ After analyzing the achievements and processes begun during IYFF 2014, there was an agreement to “create a common regulatory framework that promotes the fundamental requirements to ensure the correct development of Family Farming” and that encourages countries “to create beneficial public policies for their consolidation as a model of sustainable agriculture.”

In addition, during the Fifth World Rural Forum Global Conference: Let’s Build a Future, Family Farming⁴⁶, the need to recognize family farming as a way of life was affirmed, due to, among other things, its important role in rural and regional development, and the need to build national consensus on public policies aimed at strengthening the sector. The way forward is outlined in the Global Guidelines.

The goal of this initiative is to create consensus (national, regional, and international) on a set of priorities and guidelines that can respond to the challenges of family farming, thereby contributing to the creation and improvement of institutional frameworks that regulate policies to support family farming and rural communities.

Current agreements and guidelines will also be taken into consideration and efforts will be made to seek complementarities with them. Particularly relevant among them are the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food, the Voluntary Guidelines to Ensure Sustainable Small-Scale Fishing and the proposed Declaration of Peasant Rights.⁴⁷

In the context of the IYFF+10 initiative, this process of constructing a common framework began in 2015, based on three levels of action: national, regional, and global. The Guidelines will support the development of family farming in a comprehensive way and with a bottom-up approach, seeking to facilitate implementation at national level.

⁴⁵ *Brasilia Manifesto* (November 15, 2014).

⁴⁶ More than 200 representatives from rural areas from all five continents participated in the [Fifth Global Conference](#) held in Derio, Bizkaia on 21, 22, and 24 September 2015.

⁴⁷ See: <http://www.cetim.ch/rights-for-peasants/>

The preliminary title proposed for these guidelines is *Guidelines for the Governance of Agricultural Systems based on Family Farming*.

Initially, the Guidelines for Supporting Family Farming at National Level will be worked out from an integrated viewpoint, in step with the culture and the agricultural, economic, political, and social situation in each country. The process will be led by the NCFs.

In 2015, a pilot group of NCFs and the main actors in IYFF+10, working in a participatory process, drafted Terms of Reference (ToR) for the National Guidelines that can be used as the foundation for this work. These Terms of Reference comprise 16 chapters, relating to such matters as defining, categorizing and mapping family farming, institutional approaches, and production and market access issues.

Nevertheless, each NCF, with the support of the WCC and other actors or instruments identified in the national planning, will create its own National Guidelines. The various sets of national guidelines will be subject to a consultation and validation process with national and international actors. Exchange and collaboration between National Committees will be promoted as a form of mutual support.

Meanwhile, action is being taken in regional integration structures to promote Guidelines for Support for Family Farming at regional level, with the main goal of identifying priorities and supporting Member States in developing sustainable agriculture that allows them to fight hunger and poverty.

Based on the national and supranational guidelines, work will begin on establishing a common global framework setting out the fundamental elements required to build public policies on family farming. NCFs and other relevant international actors will participate.

c) To connect the Family Farming Organizations and agricultural research⁴⁸

Two facts emerged clearly from IYFF 2014: first, that innovation centres and family farming organizations are not sufficiently interconnected, and, secondly, that some innovation centres are ready and willing to improve the situation.

Agricultural innovation can play a very important role for the present and future of family farming, improving its economic, social and environmental output and thus enhancing sustainability and the social function that it represents, while also improving communities' quality of life.

Collaboration and synergy between research centres and family farming organizations are extremely important for building a more coherent and effective agricultural, fishing, and forestry innovation system. Participatory research should be channelled towards meeting the needs of the target subjects and sectors, who must therefore participate in the system itself, at least at the design, data collection, implementation, monitoring and dissemination stages. At the same time, both the scientific world and the political world should recognize the experience and knowledge of farmers, fishers, pastoralists, forest producers and indigenous

⁴⁸ We are referring to research centres, universities and rural extension services. In relation to participatory research, we also include local processes of innovation.

communities. In this way, the findings could be transferred to society more directly and more effectively.⁴⁹

Knowledge management in the areas of family farming should also be more highly valued and should be given more visibility in society. Knowledge management can be defined in the academic/business environment as:

An open process with multiple feedback interfaces that seeks to create new knowledge based on what is already systematized and to validate it so that it can be integrated into academic knowledge for dissemination through diverse channels and media and also for different purposes. This creation is also intended to lead to applications that solve different scientific, production, or everyday problems. Therefore, the platform for achieving these two objectives is constructed through carrying out sensory and intellectual activities of extraction, combination, creation, accumulation and application. (Fuentes, 2009)⁵⁰

The objective of this area of work is to consolidate the connection between agricultural research and family farming on a broader basis and with a holistic vision based on the 3 pillars of sustainability – social, environmental and economic. To achieve that, the work is thus based on three strategies relating to three specific objectives. The first specific objective is the FF position on the agenda for research – at three levels: international, regional and local. The corresponding strategy will be political advocacy using such tools as sets of best practices and participation in dialogue forums focusing on innovation and research. The second specific objective is close collaboration between farming organizations and research processes. The strategy will be to strengthen farming organizations and develop advocacy tools. The third specific objective is to democratize knowledge through knowledge management resulting in technical and theoretical accessibility of the knowledge generated.

⁴⁹ This concept is called “co-creation of knowledge”, and emphasizes synergy between farmers, those who have know-how in the field, and professionals and researchers from universities or technology institutes, where the intercultural dialogue is the catalyst for creating new knowledge, a process that goes beyond participation and becomes joint creation or co-creation of new knowledge. (Leisa, *Agroecology Journal*, March 2016).

⁵⁰ *Knowledge management in academic/business relationships. A new approach to analyzing the impact of academic knowledge.* Doctoral thesis. Universidad Politécnic de Valencia. Fuentes, B.A. 2009.



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4. Implementation and structure of IYFF+10

The IYFF+10 initiative is supported by a large number of actors all over the world and is still open to organizations from the agricultural, fishing, fish-farming, and forestry sectors and to indigenous communities, along with research institutions, governments and international bodies. Cooperation and team work among all of these bodies involved in family farming is extremely important for achieving better results

For this reason, the IYFF+10 plans to develop four levels of action: global, regional, national, and subnational.

At national level, 42 NCFs are still active and are working to continue strengthening public policies for family farmers in their countries. Some of these committees have promoted the creation of family farming sub-committees to discuss more local public policies and have an impact on them.

At regional level, the fundamental agents of IYFF+10 are the regional family farming organizations, which are also interacting with United Nations special agencies (principally FAO and IDAF) at regional level.

At global level, the World Coordination Committee⁵¹ has been established and its role is to define, implement, monitor and evaluate the IYFF+10 strategy. The World Rural Forum acts as the Secretary of this Committee, and is actively involved in carrying out the IYFF+10 strategy and implementing the decisions made by the World Coordination Committee.

⁵¹ The World Coordination Committee is made up of: ROPPA, PAFO, INADES International, COPROFAM, RELACC, PDRR, AFA, AsiaDHRRA, SEWA, UPA, NZYF, AFDI, IFOAM, OXFAM International, Action Aid/IFSN, the Costa Rica NCF, the Nepal NCF and the Madagascar NCF.

5. How to participate in IYFF+10

- ✓ *If you represent a family farming organization or another civil society organization and wish to join the IYFF+10 initiative, you can:*
 - Participate in various IYFF+10 lines of action such as the National Committees, work on the Guidelines or collaboration with innovation centres
 - Participate in national and regional processes of developing public policies on family farming
 - Contact other agents and organizations that may be interested.
- ✓ *If you represent a government, you can:*
 - Improve public policies for family farming
 - Devise political dialogue mechanisms to include civil society in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies relating to family farming
 - Demand that public innovation centres work more directly with family farming organizations
 - Increase the budget for research on family farming
 - Ask the United Nations General Assembly to declare a Decade of Family Farming
 - Make a formal statement of accession to the IYFF+10 initiative
 - Support the process of creating Guidelines for Family Farming
 - Recognize your country's National Committee on Family Farming as an important actor in the development of public policies
 - Make a financial contribution to promote the IYFF+10 initiative
 - Spread information about the initiative.
- ✓ *If you represent an agricultural research centre, you can:*
 - Devise mechanisms to include family farming organizations in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of research processes
 - Recognize and highlight innovations made by the men and women involved in family agriculture and take their knowledge into consideration
 - Spread information about the initiative.
- ✓ *If you represent an international organization, you can:*
 - Incorporate family farming as a priority central concept in your work
 - Spread information about the initiative
 - Ask your organization's national offices to support the work of their countries' national committees
 - Make a financial contribution to the IYFF+10 initiative
 - Make a formal statement of accession to the IYFF+10 initiative
 - Ask the United Nations General Assembly to declare a Decade of Family Farming.
 - Support the process of creating Guidelines for Family Farming.