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IYFF-2014 Global Report

A year of progress for Family Farming

April 7, 2015



WORLD RURAL FORUM
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IYFF-2014 World Consultative Committee for Civil Society:
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Agrosolidaria, AFA, AsiaDHRRA, SEWA, UPA, AFDI, Organic System,
OXFAM International, IFOAM, Slow Food, Action Aid, La Vía Campesina.

I. Introduction

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The difficulties faced by family farmers are numerous: climate change, globalized markets and fierce competition from foreign subsidized products in local markets, and the abandonment of public funding in the farming sector in many countries, thereby considerably limiting access to credit, to training, to agricultural inputs and to rural infrastructures. And the list does not end there.

In spite of these difficulties, Family Farming continues to feed the world by producing 70% of food consumed worldwide. And they are expected to meet a challenge with several faces: to feed an ever-growing world population increasingly concentrated in urban centres and to do so with increasingly diminished resources.

Inspired by the need and urgency to find solutions for these problems, the Civil Society, coordinated by the World Rural Forum (WRF), organized a global campaign supported by 360 organizations of the Civil Society, as well as various governments, international organizations (in particular the FAO and IFAD) and several research centres, to declare 2014 as “The International Year of Family Farming”. The role of the Philippines government was fundamental in the presentation of the IYFF Resolution Project finally approved by the United Nations General Assembly. In this way, Family Farming has finally been placed at the heart of debates around the world.

In this document, we present the main achievements during the IYFF-2014, with emphasis on those at national

level. The FAO was the official IYFF program coordinator, working effectively together with other agencies of the United Nations, in particular the IFAD and PMA, governments, and areas of the Civil Society, amongst whom the World Farmers' Organization (WFO), La Via Campesina and the World Rural Forum.



Stand placed by the IYFF-2014 National Committee in Indonesia.

The international aspect is taken into more detail in the [“Legacy of IYFF-2014 and the Way Forward” document](#) and its annexes approved by the IYFF International Steering Committee.

We do not consider this letter of achievements a place for self-satisfaction, but an incentive to keep on working on this long process, as there is still a lot to do in order to achieve a real recognition and respect for the rights of family farmers, smallholders, pastoralists, artisanal fishers and indigenous communities. ■

II. General achievements

First of all, the IYFF has brought about a general acknowledgement of the important role played by family farmers around the world. Before the IYFF-2014, many people saw Family Farming as something of the past, now many are praising its significant role in the present and future of humanity.

It should also be pointed out that the IYFF has enabled various bodies (Civil Society, academies, governments, organizations) to work together for a common cause.

Also, the increase of political agreement has been reported concerning national governments and decision-makers. Despite some difficulties and pitfalls, it can be stated that international organizations have made an effort to adapt their structures and activities in favour of Family Farming: In its 24th Session, the FAO Committee on Agriculture requested that the organization integrates Family Farming as part of its Strategic Framework.

Moreover, there have been useful global initiatives, like the World Food Programme's agreement to buy 10% of their products from small family farm-

ers in developing countries, the online Family Farming Knowledge Platform or the International Working Group created to expand the common criteria for the identification and definition of Family Farming. These last two initiatives were championed by the FAO. Meanwhile, the IFAD has led various debates on the subject and has strongly supported the national aspect of the IYFF-2014.

Moreover, the World Consultative Committee, consisting of farmers' organizations, rural development institutions and international NGOs, has ensured the effective development and global representation of Civil Society during the IYFF-2014.

We cannot forget the dynamism and leadership achieved by farmers' organizations and federations, whose strengthening was one of the pillars of IYFF-2014.

However, first of all, we want to highlight the public policy changes achieved during the IYFF-2014 in various countries, achieved mainly thanks to the determined work of the Family Farming National Committees. ■



Working group in a WCC meeting held in Montpellier, on June 2014.

III. Creation of Family Farming National Committees

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IYFF-2014 National Committees' representatives during the Global Dialogue on Family Farming hosted by FAO.

To implement the IYFF-2014, National Committees (NC) were established in 50 countries. These national platforms gather together numerous Civil Society organisations, public institutions, research centres and international organisations having close ties with family farming. Their purpose is to consult on national public policies needed to help family farmers meet the numerous challenges they face. The objectives proposed for this year and the appropriate actions required were thus decided by each committee.

Africa (15): Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo-Brazzaville, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

Europe (10): Belgium, Slovakia, Spain, France, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland.

Asia-Oceania (6): Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines.

America (19): Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Mexico, Canada, the USA.

They have done everything in their hand to analyse and to diagnose the problems faced by family farmers in each country. They have shown how they can act decisively to start negotiations between the various national stakeholders in order to deliver a positive national framework for family farmers.

As a result, numerous governments, the FAO, the IFAD, other international organizations and sponsors now rec-

ognise the NC as useful and legitimate dialogue spaces to discuss the themes of national agriculture and food. This validates the role of civil society and of the importance of inclusive dialogue

with state representatives, and it is also important to stress that governments formed part of the NC in nearly half of the countries concerned. ■



Participants in the Assembly of the Rural Regional Dialogue for Central America, held in El Salvador, prior to regional meeting on Family Farming.

IV. National, regional and global consensus

Civil Society and National Committees achieved frequent consensus at national, regional and global level about the challenges in Family Farming and proposed policies concerning these. These proposals have been formalized via official documents such as statements, policy declarations, manifestos, memorandums.... These documents have been passed on to various governments to challenge them on certain policy gaps, to request a meeting or to invite them to seminars and other meetings to discuss the contents more widely. Some examples:

NATIONAL LEVEL *

- Declaration of Civil Society (small farmer organizations and support structures) for the International Year of Family Farming (**Burkina Faso, 30/11/2013**).
- Manifesto of the Philippine civil society addressed to the president for the implementation of agricultural reform (**The Philippines, 22/01/2014**).
- Maradi Forum's appeal to the public and administrative authorities concerning family farms (**Niger, 08/02/2014**).
- Declaration of the Farmers' Congress (**Georgia, 28/03/2014**).
- Declaration of the Philippine Civil Society on the International Year of Family Farming (**The Philippines, April, 2014**).
- Joint Farmers Organizations and NGO Declaration on International Year of Family Farming. The Quezon City Declaration. (**The Philippines, 25/11/2014**).
- Declaration of the civil society of the province of East Nusa Tenggara (**Indonesia, 23/05/2014**).
- Policy document for agricultural reform through 25 approaches (**Mexico, May, 2014**).
- Small farmers' Memorandum on the PFA / LFA (Agricultural Land Policy / Agricultural Land Law) (**Mali, 30/05/2014**).
- Guidance document issued by the National Forum on the Family, Farmer and Native Agriculture for the formation of public policies (**Paraguay, June, 2014**).
- National declaration of Rennes for regional food systems (**France, 04/07/2014**).
- Declaration of the National Small Farmers' Forum on family farming (**Burundi, 16/10/2014**).
- Document of political impact to parliament and the Minister for Agriculture (**Nigeria, 29/09/2014**).
- Guidance document on public policies, leaflet for the national plan of development (**Costa Rica**).
- Guidance document on public policies by UNAG -Unión Nacional de Agricultores y Ganaderos of Nicaragua (**Nicaragua, August, 2014**).
- Declaration of the 3 main farmer's platforms of the Democratic Republic of Congo against the governmental policy of implementation of agro-industrial parks (**Democratic Republic of Congo, 18/04/2014**).
- Memorandum of the Spanish Committee of Family Farms (**Spain, January, 2015**).
- Guidance document for the promotion of young people in small scale and family agriculture, ap-

proved by the government and the National Committee (**Slovakia**).

- White paper expressing the proposals and commitments of the civil society (**Ivory Coast, in December, 2014**).
- Final declaration of the national forum for the promotion of family farming in **RDC Democratic Republic of Congo (19/12/2014)**.



Regional Dialogue for planning and mobilization in the IYFF in Montevideo, organized by COPROFAM and supported by the WRF.

REGIONAL LEVEL *

- Montevideo Regional Declaration (**Uruguay, 25/03/2014**).
- Declaration by the Latin American and Caribbean Forum of IYFF-2014 National Committees (**Brazil, 14/11/2014**).
- Declaration by the Conference on Rural Women of Latin America and the Caribbean of IYFF-2014 (**Brazil, 12/11/2014**).
- Brussels Regional declaration, for a partnership between the OP, the state and other parties for global support and mentoring of family farms in Western Africa (**Belgium, 25/03/2014**).
- Declaration by the Conference of the IYFF-2014 in Eastern Africa on the coherence of overall

policies on food and nutrition (**Uganda, 25/09/2014**).

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL *

- Abu Dhabi Declaration (**Abu Dhabi, January, 2014**).
- Brasilia Declaration (**Brazil, November, 2014**).
- International manifesto of Young Farmers, issued by the international summit of Bordeaux (**France, 04/09/2014**).

Whether **through governmental or intergovernmental authorities**, state representatives became involved in the IYFF-2014:

- Declaration by the United Nations on the IYFF-2014: Resolution 66/222 (**New York, 28/03/2012**).
- **Resolution of the Agriculture Committee of the FAO (CO-AG):** "Family Farmers -Feed the World, Care for the Planet" (29/09-03/10). Support of the activities of the IYFF-2014 and the request to integrate family farming into the strategic plan of the FAO.
- Paris Declaration by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Paris Agricultural Exhibition (**France, 25/02/2014**).
- **Andean Parliament** Declaration (29/08/2013).
- **Baku Declaration:** Resolution on food security, limited water resources and stability in the OSCE zone (**Azerbaijan, July, 2014**).
- Constitution of a working party centred exclusively on family farming and rural development within the CELAC (**Community of the Latin American States and the Caribbean**).

- **Recommendation of the CMC N 01/14 on the IYFF-2014**, which reinforces recognition of family farming in the **MERCOSUR**.
- **Legacy and prospects of the IYFF-2014**. Document approved by

the International Steering Committee of the IYFF-2014.

- **Resolution 544 of the American Senate** which indicates 2014 "International Year of Family Farming" (**The USA, in 17/09/2014**). ■



Mr. Lupino Lazaro, chair of the IYFF-2014 International Steering Committee.

Young Farmers' Summit organized by AFDI and Jeunes Agriculteurs in Bordeaux, September 2014.



V. Activities by Civil Society and National Committees within the IYFF-2014

Throughout the year, 862 actions of political influence and raising public awareness organized by the NC of Family Farming were listed. The picture below breaks these activities down according to their main objectives. It does not include the considerable quantity of internal meetings by the National Committees, necessary for the organization and implementation of these activities.

Moreover, this figure does not show the whole picture, because many other activities were carried out within the framework of the IYFF-2014 but only gained local recognition.

Every initiative was unique and different from the others, gathering maybe ten people or maybe thousands, lasting a few hours or several months, its aim to analyse and comprehend the most complex problems concerning agricultural or food themes, to discuss the solutions offered by changing public policies, or to raise public awareness of the value of this work.

Furthermore, the United Nations also supported the IYFF through numerous national, regional and international activities, by placing Family Farming at the heart of its schedule of actions. ■

Continent	Promotion and Petition Actions	Actions to Raise Public Awareness	Total number of actions
Africa	142	66	208
America	185	86	271
Asia-Oceania	109	35	144
Europe	130	117	247
Total	566	304	870

VI. Activities of promotion and advocacy: the results

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Working group at the International Encounters on Family Farming and Research, in Montpellier.

During this year, 65 % of National Committees' activities concerned the organization of official meetings, conferences, forums, workshops and seminars, to which political decision-makers were invited to discuss the challenges faced by Family Farming. However, it was also an opportunity to highlight the fact that family farmers are capable of meeting these challenges, whenever an enabling environment is generated to develop their potential, as well as to strengthen ties and communication between Civil Society and governments.

International scientific meetings (such as those at Almería and Montpellier) and exchanges between farmers from different countries also helped to mutually enrich knowledge and ideas.

In addition, numerous studies were carried out or sponsored by the NC to gather information on a national basis

about family farming, with regard to inventories, household strategies, difficulties threatening their production and marketing capabilities, their individual requirements, etc. This was done, for example, by the NC of **Nigeria, France, Burundi, Spain, Hungary, Gambia, India, the Philippines and Ivory Coast.**

This data has enabled the NC to develop solid advocacy tools to suggest even more effective policies to decision-makers. Numerous working parties within the NC have thereby led to the formation of public policy proposals around such fundamental themes as the financing of the sector, markets, seeds, land tax, employment of rural youth, women... Some National Committees achieved to engage governments on policy dialogue, while others participated themselves in the development of public policies to promote Family Farming.



Meeting of rural women in Ivory Coast.

The IYFF-2014 has therefore achieved its main objective: to contribute to the improvement of public policies on Family Farming. The examples illustrate how:

Gambia: Reform of policies on seeds. Establishment of a committee in relation to seeds (Seed Council) within which civil society organisations, one of which is a part of the NC, obtained 3 seats.

Gambia: Reform of the land tax (property and land use rights) and system of agricultural insurance set up by the government.

Dominican Republic: Food sovereignty and security law of the Dominican Republic.

Argentina: Decree 1030/2014 planning the constitution of the State Secretariat of Family Farming.

Bolivia: Law N 144 "Agricultural Community Productive Revolution" and law N.338 of OECA and OECOM, for the integration of sustainable family farming and food sovereignty.

Uganda: Signature, launch and establishment of the **Agricultural Law** (written in 2008 but which remained on hold since).

Peru: Private bill N 3803 / 2014-CR whose aim is to reposition family farming at the centre of government policies.



Farmers leaders during IFAD's Farmer Forum.

Slovakia: the Ministry of Agriculture made a commitment to **increase the budget for young people and small farmers**, increasing it from 2 to 30 million euros.

Belgium (Wallonia): the NC's definition of family farming was adopted by the Walloon government in its new code of agriculture.

Guatemala: Strategic alliance between civil society organisations to bring about the **abolition of the "Monsanto Law" (law 19-2014)** and which the government eventually granted.

Colombia: Ministerial resolution 267 - Launch by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Family Farming Programme. Article 5 indicates that funds will be made available from the national budget. **Resolution 300** established the conditions of entitlement to microcredit.

Paraguay: Decree 1056 - Presidential law of public procurement of Family Farming.

Uruguay: Family Farming Public Procurement Law, where the state is committed to reserve 30% of their purchases to small farmers' products.

Dominican Republic: Signature of an **agreement of inter institutional cooperation** between the office of social policies coordination, the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Committee of family Farming.

Bolivia: increase in the granting of credit and grants of \$45.000.000, over a period of 5 years, targeted at 32.000 families of small farmers and entrepreneurs.

Burkina Faso: Commitment of the government to strengthen the new agricultural campaign in 2014-2015, by means of **new public investments** targeting family farmers.

Mali: Establishment of the National Fund for Agricultural Support (FFNAA) comprising about 2 billion FCA.

OTHER STEPS FORWARD *

Bolivia: World Food Day report by the Secretary of Rural Development, which incorporates the implementation of fundamental public policies reinforcing family farming.

Dominican Republic: the establishment of the farming sector as the third axis of national development, in the country's development strategy for eradication of poverty.

Dominican Republic: Technology transfer plans for Family Farming and soft loans to associations were offered to small farmers, by Banca Solidaria, Banco Agrícola y el Fondo Especial para el Desarrollo Agropecuario (FEDA).

Bangladesh: Commitment of the Prime Minister towards the **establishment of a special develop-**

ment bank for small family farmers with limited access to land. Three million farmers will benefit from this assistance in accessing credit.

Mali: **Consideration of the NC's Small Farmers Memorandum**, by the technical commission working on the PFA / LFA (Agricultural Land policy / Agricultural Land Law) document, in which participated the CNOP (National Coordination of Small Farmer Organizations), member of the NC.

CURRENT LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES *

Italy: process of negotiation of a specific private bill in family farming, supporting it and highlighting its socioeconomic function. It also defines the status of family farmer and establishes a series of measures to assure the future of this model of agricultural production.

Slovakia: the government and the NC agreed on a discussion paper for young people and small scale family farming. Government commitment to give back 10 % of unused public lands to family farmers is planned.

Hungary: Process of law for a regulation of special sanitary standards for access to local markets aimed at small family businesses.

Peru: Bill 3803 / 2014CR, outline law for the promotion and sustainable development of family farm-

ing. Paper II concerns protection and promotion of family farming; Article 8 concerns the National Council of family farming (CONAF), Article 10 resources and financing and Article 12 insurances and credits.

Colombia: appeal to the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, members of Congress and territorial groups for the formation of distinctive public policies for the family farming.

Colombia: Definition of Family Farming.

Ecuador: Definition and cooperative outlining of national family farming and ministerial agreement on the definition of peasant family Agriculture, still in process.

Guatemala: proposal of a support programme for sustainable agriculture.

Salvador: support for the delivery of the government's family farming plan.

Ecuador: Incorporation of peasant and community family farming in the private land bill proposed by the National Assembly Food Sovereignty Commission

Nepal: The government granted 78.000€ to promote the IYFF in 2014 and made a public commitment to continue to promote policies in favour of family farming beyond 2014. ■



Meeting of rural women in Ivory Coast.

VII. Raising public awareness: the results

Family Farming suffers from a short-sighted and often negative perception by numerous governments and the population. It is sometimes seen as a subsistence job, based on an archaic model, unable to ensure national food security. This image explains partially why some decision-makers turn away from it in favour of other agricultural production models which are unsustainable in the medium or long term. But this situation also has an impact on farmers' perception on their own job and contributes to young people turning away from the sector.

That is why a third of the activities of the IYFF-2014 focused specifically on raising public awareness, to restore the image of Family Farming and return it to the place which it deserves in society. It was also important to directly reach family farmers in order to dispel

the lack of worth they themselves sometimes felt towards their job.

The approach used to mobilize and raise awareness was to specifically target the media. To do so, numerous press conferences, resulting from a multitude of articles in print and on-line, were organized by the NC of **Spain, Burundi, Burkina Faso, RDC, Gambia, Switzerland, Indonesia, Togo, the Philippines, Nepal, Nicaragua, Salvador, Guatemala, Zimbabwe, Uruguay** and by many others. In addition, the NC of **Bolivia, Burundi, Ivory Coast, RDC and Burkina Faso** offered guidance to journalists, so that they could relay a truer picture of Family Farming.

Radio programmes dealing with national Family Farming were broadcast by, amongst others, the NC of **Burundi, of Costa Rica, Nepal, the Philippines,**

Uganda, Zimbabwe, Slovakia and France. Moreover, TV was a relevant ally in order to reach a considerable part of the population via educational and awareness raising broadcasts to **Togo, Burundi, Nepal, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, RDC, Spain, India** and to **Slovakia.**

The vast majority of National Committees have implemented advertising campaigns, requiring the creation of diverse media in order to increase the visibility of the IYFF-2014: web sites, documentaries, posters, calendars, booklets, brochures, T-shirt, jackets,...

These diverse items have been broadcast or distributed during more than eighty agricultural shows, public forums and festivals (NC of **Belgium, Ecuador, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Ivory Coast, Georgia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Slovakia, Paraguay, Switzerland, Italy, Nepal, Gambia, Indonesia, France, Salvador, Mexico, Senegal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Nigeria and Niger**). Marches organized by the NC of **Brazil, Nepal, Uganda, Costa Rica, Niger, Ivory Coast** also helped to raise the IYFF's profile. In the **Philippines**, a long march across the country

by small coconut producers received a lot of media attention.

Competitions aimed at the public and farmers were proposed by the NC of **Canada, France, Portugal, Belgium, Gambia, Nepal, New Zealand, Mexico and Burkina Faso.** The Ministry of Agriculture of the Dominican Republic, active member of the National Committee, has organized visits of the president to family farmers, in order to increase awareness on their strategic role in Dominican society. At the same time, the NC of the **Philippines, France, Belgium, Indonesia and Colombia** staged photographic exhibitions. Other initiatives, such as farm visits, the issue of stamps with a Family Farming theme (**in Brazil and in Ecuador**), commemorative coins (**Portugal**) and songs with video-clips completed this profile-raising programme.

Even if it is difficult to establish exactly the impact these activities have had on the public, it is nevertheless certain that they have contributed to raise the profile of Family Farming in the concerned countries. The NC of **Nepal** for example estimates it reached more than 106.600 people directly through its demonstrations, and the majority of the national population indirectly. ■

VIII. Future plans and prospects

The International Year of Family Farming IYFF-2014 has placed Family Farming at the top of the agenda, at the heart of debates, where it can no longer be ignored. The searchlight has been directed to a more than usual degree upon its challenges as well as its principal functions, and has gathered together the key players necessary for its promotion: farmers' organizations, political decision-makers, international institutions, NGOs, agricultural research centres...

This promotional year was essential but unfortunately does not guarantee that Family Farming will be sufficiently recognised and supported on a global scale.

The results obtained in one year are

very encouraging and have persuaded the NC of family farming to continue with the collective work it took on in 2014. Based mainly on the consensus obtained in Brasilia, it was decided that the Family Farming campaign should be extended to 10 years. This campaign is to be called **IYFF+10**, and through this wide temporal and organizational framework, the common goal will be to continue to procure better public policies in favour of Family Farming.

Within this broad framework, the focus will be on continuing with the support from the Family Farming National Committees, promoting participatory research and aiming to create some global guidelines for the promotion of Family Farming. ■



Declaration of the 2015-2024 Family Farming Decade in Nepal, during the IYFF-2014 closing ceremony celebrated in Kathmandu in January 1th, 2014.



Some representatives of the IYFF-2014 National Committees, together with other representatives attending the World Conference of Women and Men Farmers Leaders held in Brasilia in November 2014.

IX. Conclusions

For many National Committees, their biggest achievement has been to make the international community aware of the challenges and the importance of supporting family farming. Equally, it has been the public recognition of civil society, working towards a common purpose, as being crucial for the positive running of the country.

National farmers' organizations and regional federations have displayed considerable dynamism and activities around the International Year. This was a key contribution, especially taking into account that their participation is essential for achieving real breakthroughs that benefit Family Farming.

Never has an international year been so celebrated. In the end however, these results only reflect the tremendous importance of Family Farming and the necessity to re-

consider the various policies which have the power to affect or support. Commitments made by governments and the first programs of public policies established in 2014 to support Family Farming are an excellent thing. It is necessary to move forward so that all the commitments are met, for which it is essential that international agencies and governments continue listening and working with Civil Society Organizations.

There remains however a lot to be done, so that this awakening of political consciousness becomes widespread and through effective laws becomes a reality, and so that family farms, the true ambassadors of national food security and sovereignty, can proudly bear one of the noblest responsibilities there is: to feed the world while caring for the planet. ■ ■

Acknowledgment

Through these lines, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all those people and organizations that have participated in the activities throughout the world during the International Year of Family Farming IYFF-2014. Farmers' organizations and federations deserve special recognition, as well as NGOs, rural research centres, universities, sponsors, local, regional and international governments, international bodies, etc. To all of them our sincere appreciation for the enthusiasm and climate of understanding generated around the IYFF-2014.

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