

IYFF-2014 International Year of Family Farming 2014

For better public policies in favour of women
and men from the countryside and the sea.



DECLARATION

After a campaign supported by more than 360 organizations from 60 countries in five continents, coordinated by the World Rural Forum, in December 2011 the General Assembly of the United Nations unanimously declared 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming, IYFF-2014.

OBJECTIVE

Civil Society mobilized for the IYFF-2014 seeks to achieve specific policies in favour of the recognition and development of Family Farming.

LED BY CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil Society drives a shared, inclusive and truly effective IYFF-2014, a celebration led by farmers' organizations, coming from five continents. International organizations, led by FAO, have organized an official program –Civil Society also participates in its advisory body– with its own objectives.

ADVOCACY LEVELS

- > **NATIONAL:** IYFF-2014 National Committees.
- > **REGIONAL:** The Farmers' Federations spearheading the IYFF-2014 on each continent.
- > **INTERNATIONAL:** The World Consultative Committee of Civil Society.

**Join the IYFF-2014
and support Family Farming**
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Coordinated by



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**FAMILY
FARMING**
The sustainable
model for food
production!

**FEEDING
THE WORLD,
CARING FOR THE EARTH**
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2014
International Year of
Family Farming

What is Family Farming?

Family Farming (also Family Agriculture) is a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family labor, including both women's and men's. The family and the farm are linked, co-evolve and combine economic, environmental, reproductive, social and cultural functions.

INCLUSIVE CONCEPT: When we talk about Family Farming, we consider men and women farmers, artisan fishers, pastoralists, gatherers and landless peasants, as well as indigenous people.

- > **PASTORALISM.** Extensive livestock production systems cover about 25% of the Earth's terrestrial surface, produce about 10% of meat used for human consumption and support 20 million households.
- > **ARTISAN FISHERS.** The livelihoods of some 357 million people depend directly on small-scale fisheries, which employ over 90% of capture fishers of the World.



1. GUARANTEE OF FOOD SUPPLY

70% OF THE WORLD FOOD PRODUCTION IS PROVIDED BY FAMILY FARMERS

- > Key to fight Hunger and Malnutrition.
- > Small farms are often more productive and sustainable per unit of land and energy consumed.

2. GENERATES WELFARE

40% OF WORLD HOUSEHOLDS DEPEND ON FAMILY FARMING

- > Out of the 3,000 million rural people in developing countries, 2,500 belong to families engaged in Family Farming.
- > Also contributes to stabilize the population in rural areas, to preserve historical and cultural values, to generate income and consumption.

3. POVERTY ALLEVIATION

AT LEAST TWICE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN OTHER PRODUCTION SECTORS IN THE PREVENTION OF POVERTY

- > GDP growth originated in agriculture is at least twice more effective in reducing poverty than GDP growth generated in other sectors.
- > Agricultural and rural growth also benefits the poor in urban areas, due to the abundance and proximity of food.

4. BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

GREAT POTENTIAL FOR THE CONSERVATION OF LOCAL VARIETIES

- > Throughout history, we have used about 7,000 plants to meet basic needs. Nowadays there are over 150 species grown commercially, of which 30 constitute 90% of the calories in the human diet and only four (rice, wheat, corn, potato) account for more than half of the caloric contribution.
- > Family Farming, besides being a source of genetic agro-diversity, can ensure their preservation through the use of native seed varieties and native livestock breeds well adapted to various environments.

5. WOMEN AS FARMERS

WOMEN MAKE NEARLY HALF OF AGRICULTURAL LABOR IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

- > In most cases, the woman cooks and puts food on the table, sells farm products and deals with the health of the family. She is the first educator of their children, to whom gives birth.
- > Women contribute a significant proportion of agricultural labor force in developing countries. FAO estimates this figure at 43%, while UNIFEM estimates between 60-80%.