



WORLD RURAL FORUM

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FAMILY FARMING ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

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Family Farming has been firmly placed on the Sustainable Development Agenda, both directly through Goal 2 and also by being closely linked with many aspects of the agenda's other goals and targets, appearing as a cross-cutting theme.¹

The ways in which food is grown, produced, exchanged, transported, stored and sold represent the fundamental connection between people and planet, and the way towards sustainable food production for the human race.

All of this reinforces the need for Governments to ensure the implementation of public policies which promote the permanence and consolidation of Family Farming as a social, economic, environmental and productive sector which is important for achieving the SDGs. It is a commitment to farming families and to indigenous, fishing and pastoral communities.

The following points examine the relationship between family farming and some of the Sustainable Development Goals.

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Almost 80% of people living in extreme poverty live in rural areas, which means that people who live in rural areas are four times more likely to suffer extreme poverty than those in urban areas. Indigenous people and women are disproportionately affected.

At the same time the majority of men and women who live in rural areas, some 2.5 billion, are farmers, predominantly in family farming, and there are also hundreds of millions of indigenous people and farm workers. This means that 40% of households worldwide depend on agriculture as a way of life.

Agricultural growth in farming and low-income economies is at least twice as effective as growth in other sectors in reducing hunger and poverty². Thus in order to work on SDG 1 and put an end to the scourge of poverty we need to focus efforts on rural areas, with particular emphasis on the most important agents of change, such as family farmers, artisan fishers and

¹ As part of the International Year of Family Farming IYFF 2014, the following definition of Family Farming was agreed: it 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 labour, 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.

² Report: "World Development: Agriculture for development" World Bank, 2008



pastoralists, and improve the local capacity to produce and access food as well as establishing social protection systems.

The text for SDG 1 states that:

There are more people to feed with less water, land for cultivation and biodiversity. But the world produces enough food for everyone. We must transform the current food systems which use large quantities of inputs, to make them more sustainable and also reduce food losses and waste, by using better management and better techniques in agriculture, livestock farming, fishing and forestry.

Agriculture also has an important role to play in combating desertification and other negative effects of climate change.

The targets of Goal 1 include:

- ✓ By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

All of the targets for SDG 2 have a clear link with family farming due to the inseparable connection between food security, adequate nutrition, local economic development and family farming. Men and women family farmers produce 80% of food for global consumption and are also the principal source of local development.

The targets of Goal 2 are:

- ✓ By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.
- ✓ By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.
- ✓ 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.

- ✓ By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality
- ✓ By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.
- ✓ Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries.
- ✓ Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round.
- ✓ Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility.

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

A quarter of the world's population consists of women farmers, often heads of household, which represents around 1.6 billion people (Women's World Summit Foundation, Geneva). Women provide a considerable proportion of the agricultural workforce in developing countries. The FAO estimates this figure at 43%, while UNIFEM calculates it as being between 60-80%.

Some of the problems of family farming have a greater impact on women farmers, such as the lack of access and control of resources related to land, technology, training and credit. Thus to achieve SDG 5, the status and rights of women in family farming must be strengthened, ensuring equal access to productive resources, credit services, insurance, training and rural extension.



One of the targets of SDG 5 highlights the need to:

- ✓ Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

SDG 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

The greatest demand for water comes from agriculture, which uses almost 70% of all water abstraction and as much as 95% in developing countries. Hence it is essential to promote the sustainable use of water resources and facilitate access to water which will contribute to food security, development and the eradication of poverty.

One of the targets of SDG 6 is:

- ✓ By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

According to FAO estimates, food systems use 30% of the world's energy.

During the IYFF-2014 the efficiency of family farming (including energy use) was confirmed, along with its capacity to increase food production, create employment and reduce poverty while maintaining ecosystems. Therefore a commitment to policies on access for men and women family farmers to a secure, accessible form of energy is also needed in the fight against poverty and hunger.

SDG 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Rural and urban environments have an ongoing relationship through food systems and many other social and economic connections. Every year 19.5 million hectares of agricultural land are affected by urban expansion and industrial development. However, if managed correctly, the rural-urban interaction can produce harmonious land development results.

One of the targets of SDG 11 is:



- ✓ Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Every year 1.3 million tonnes of food globally are lost or wasted, which is one third of all food produced for human consumption.

Family farming has a leading role to play in reducing the high level of post-harvest losses and food waste, providing there is appropriate investment to improve rural infrastructure including communications, transport, energy storage, efficiency and recycling of waste throughout the value chain.

Two of the targets of SDG 12 are:

- ✓ By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.
- ✓ Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Family farming is strongly affected by the impact of climate change. In fact it has been predicted that agricultural production will fall by 2% each decade for the rest of the century as a consequence of the increasing temperature³.

At the same time, family productive systems can offer sustainable appropriate technology which makes it easier to adapt, mitigate and build resilience to the effects of climate change.

One of the targets of SDG 13 is:

- ✓ Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

³ FAO and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, 100 facts in 14 themes linking people, food and the planet



The small-scale fishing sector, which is covered by the definition of family farming adopted by the international community as part of the International Year of Family Farming, represents half of the world's fish catches. When fish catches destined for direct human consumption are taken into account, the proportion from small scale fishing increases to two thirds of the total.

One of the targets of SDG 14 is:

- ✓ Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

SDG 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

The targets for SDG 15 include:

- ✓ By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.
- ✓ By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.
- ✓ By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
- ✓ By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development

CONCLUSIONS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Sustainable Development agenda represents a more integrated vision of development in which the goals and indicators are fully interrelated and the role of a sustainable family farming model which can feed the human race is undisputed. In fact almost all of the SDGs have an undisputed agricultural and rural component. Moreover, as can be seen from this report, a direct link with family farming can be made in 10 of the 17 SDGs.

The Sustainable Development Agenda is essentially achieved by putting in place policies which facilitate access for rural communities in areas such as productive resources, financial services or rural extension and, of course, by increasing public investment in the family farming sector.

Therefore, a firm commitment to promote family farming is required from governments, International Organisations and other agencies.