

**STATEMENT BY FAMILY FARMING ORGANISATIONS AND CSO MEMBERS OF THE WORLD
CIVIL SOCIETY COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF FAMILY
FARMING**

We, Family Farmers' Organisations and other CSOs engaged for decades in strengthening and promoting Family Farming and Sustainable Food Systems in different regions of the world, would like to make this appeal to Governments, UN agencies and institutions, international and bilateral cooperation agencies and other stakeholders:

We encourage a global recognition of the vital role that Family Farming (FF)¹ plays, not only in terms of sustainable food production - producing more than 80 percent² of the world's food in terms of its global value-, but also with regard to rural employment and income generation, as well as environmental management of rural and marine areas and their biodiversity. It is also the source of significant cultural elements for each community and, ultimately, a fundamental pillar of countries' overall development, contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We wish to underline the existence of numerous international, regional and national instruments which recognise and protect, from different perspectives, family farmers and their vital role in addressing some of today's most important global challenges, including resilient food systems, rural development, climate change and women's empowerment, as outlined in the ["GUIDE on International and regional instruments to defend and promote the interests and rights of family farmers"](#).

We strongly encourage the faithful implementation of these international, regional and national agreements in defence of family farming in an interconnected and mutually reinforcing manner.

We can confirm that when an adequate enabling environment is established in territories, with specific public policies and actions implemented in favour of family farming, including actions focused on women and youth, it can i) ensure a dignified life for family farmers, including peasants, indigenous communities, fisherfolk and pastoralists, iii) meet the needs of consumers in the most appropriate and effective way, iii) maintain diversity and strive for

¹Considering its diversity, there is no single definition of Family Farming. [The International Steering Committee for the International Year of Family Farming, celebrated in 2014, developed the following conceptual definition of Family Farming](#) (FAO, 2013): "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 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, social and cultural functions".

²[The State of Food and Agriculture. FAO, 2014](#)

climate change mitigation and iv) promote the sustainable development of rural areas. This enabling environment includes different public policies and frameworks that reinforce family farmers' access to and control over land, water, genetic resources, territory, markets and value chains; which ensure their access to investments and incentives to produce, certify, market and consume healthy and nutritious food, aligned with the promotion of agroecology; and which support family farmers efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, among other important challenges.

These policies and frameworks should guarantee economic and political autonomy and the empowerment of women, strengthening women's leadership and their inclusive and equitable access to different policies and programmes, with special attention given to their access and control over land and assets ownership. By supporting women to develop agency and mainstreaming women in public policies their unique potential will be unleashed.

We underline the importance of advancing the UN Decade of Family Farming to meet the most important global challenges, among which are the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, the reduction of the gender gap and recovery of rural livelihoods after Covid-19; as well as the transformation of food systems to make them more resilient, inclusive, viable and sustainable. This will not be possible without strong support for family farmers, with a special focus on women and youth and the strengthening of their organizations, cooperatives and associations.

Finally, we reiterate our strong commitment to working together with other actors to define policy and institutional frameworks that strengthen family farming.

Signed: World Civil Society Coordination Committee of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming-UNDF 2019-2028

The World CSOs Coordination Committee for the UNDF (WCC) is a committee established by Civil Society Organizations to coordinate their positions and actions in the framework of the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) 2014, the IYFF+10 campaign for the declaration of the Decade, and now the implementation of the UN Decade of Family Farming 2019–2028.

The WCC brings together a significant part of Family Farmers Organizations, CSOs and representatives of National Committees of Family Farming (NCF), ensuring an equitable gender representation. Its members are currently:

- Africa: Network of Farmers' and Producers' Organisations of West Africa – ROPPA, Pan-African Farmers' Organization – PAFO, Regional Platform for Farmers' Organisations in Central Africa-PROPAC, Inades Formation International, NCF of Madagascar

World CSO
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- America: Confederation of Family Farming Organisations in Mercosur – COPROFAM, Latin American Network of Community Commercialisation – RELACC, Regional Rural Dialogue Programme for Central America and the Dominican Republic – PDRR, NCF of Costa Rica
- Asia and Pacific: Asian Farmers’ Association – AFA, AsiaDHRRA, Self-Employment Women Association - SEWA, India, Young Farmers of New Zealand, NCF of Nepal
- Europe: Actuar Portugal, Union of Small farmers in Spain – UPA, French farmers and International Development – AFDI; National Federation of Communal Forest and Pastures (NES-NCF of Albania)
- International: OXFAM International, IFOAM Organics International, Action Aid International, Slow Food International, World Rural Forum-WRF (appointed as Secretariat), Representative of Rural Women, Representative of Rural Youth

Observer member: Support group of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)

This declaration is also supported by the International Land Coalition (ILC).