

GLOBAL CONFERENCE FAMILY FARMING AT THE CORE OF SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

23-26 November 2021

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS AND CONCLUSIONS

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United Nations
Decade of
**FAMILY
FARMING**
2019-2028



TABLE OF CONTENTS

01

INTRODUCTION TO THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE FAMILY FARMING AT THE HEART OF SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS.....	3
1.1. Contextualisation.....	3
1.2. Global Conference building process.....	5

02

STRENGTHENING FAMILY FARMING AS A PATHWAY TO TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS.....	8
2.1. Panel 1: Enhancing sustainable production.....	8
2.2. Panel 2: Promoting Inclusive Value Chains and Market Access.....	10
2.3. Panel 3: Public policies.....	12

03

PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR SCALING UP UNDIFF.....	14
3.1. High Level Panel.....	14
3.2. National Committees of Family Farming (NCFF) Global Exchange Meeting.....	15
3.3. Special session on Land tenure rights.....	16
3.4. Special session on Rural youth.....	17
3.5. Special session on Women's leadership and family farming.....	18
3.6. Special session on Indigenous peoples and family farming.....	20
3.7. Communication initiatives for Family Farming.....	21

04

KEY CONCLUSIONS OF THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY FARMING AT THE CORE OF SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS.....	23
---	----

05

ANNEXES.....	26
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1. INTRODUCTION TO THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE FAMILY FARMING AT THE HEART OF SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

1.1. Contextualisation

Two years have passed since the United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 (UNDIFF) began. During these two years, two important observations have been made: the first is the enormous capacity of family farming to create alliances, and the second is the comprehensive and coherent response that the Decade can provide to current major global challenges.

In this sense, the World Rural Forum (WRF) aimed to invite people to reflect on the keys to the large-scale implementation of the United Nations Decade for Family Farming at a Global Conference entitled "Family Farming at the Core of Sustainable Food Systems", which was held between 22 and 26 November 2021.

The Global Conference was conceived as a high-level platform to raise the relevance of family farming in relation to the achievement of sustainable, resilient, inclusive and viable food systems, within the framework of the UNDIFF 2019-2028, and to stimulate concrete commitments in favour of the 2.5 billion people who depend on family farming activities worldwide. In fact, the Conference contributed to:

- a) the promotion of the participation of family farmers in the definition of policies that favour the development of sustainable food systems (inclusive food systems);
- b) the definition of policies and programmes that strengthen the viability and resilience of family farmers;
- c) the generation of a profound reflection and commitment to sustainable food systems based on the development of family farming production and organisation models.

By placing family farming at the centre of food systems, the Conference pursued a twofold objective: on the one hand, to contribute to the various dimensions of food systems sustainability; and, on the other hand, to address the challenges of family farmers in tackling inequalities in food systems.



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As a result, the Conference succeeded in :

- **Increasing visibility and recognition of the key role that family farming plays in building sustainable, resilient, inclusive and viable food systems** by showcasing experiences and solutions inspired by family farming.
- **Promoting a broader reflection on the instruments (policies, programmes and measures) that are essential to addressing the challenges of family farmers** and unleashing the unique potential of family farming in transforming food systems, by stimulating the effective participation of family farmers and other relevant actors.
- **Fostering commitments, collaboration and partnerships among key stakeholders (governments, international organisations, family farmers' organisations, rural associations, research centres and others)** to implement the Decade 2019-2028 as a pathway to sustainable, resilient, inclusive and viable food systems.

The issues that were defined as priorities at the meeting of the World Civil Society Organisations Coordinating Committee for the United Nations Decade of Family Farming are summarised below.

THEMATIC AREA 1

Enhancing sustainable production of diversified, safe, and nutritious food and its contributing to sustainable livelihood.

THEMATIC AREA 2

Promoting inclusive value chains and access to markets for family farmers.

THEMATIC AREA 3

Public policies increasing the participation of family farming in food systems.

- **GENDER EQUITY** and the leadership of rural women.
- Resilience and adaptation to **CLIMATE CHANGE**.
- Secure and improve the family farmers' **LIVELIHOODS**.
- Inclusiveness, participation and **STRENGTHEN FAMILY FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS**.
- Support **YOUTH** and ensure generational sustainability.



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1.2. Global Conference building process

The design and organisation of the Global Conference was based on a broad participatory and inclusive process to define its contents and proposals. Four elements were key to achieving this:

1 The discussion on the Conference held at the meeting of the Global Civil Society Organisations Coordinating Committee for the United Nations Decade of Family Farming on 27 April 2021[1].

2 The creation of three thematic advisory committees, linked to the 3 corresponding Panels of the Conference, composed of some twenty organisations:

- **Advisory committee on Thematic 1:** Enhancing **sustainable production** of diversified, safe, and nutritious food and its contribution to sustainable livelihood;
- **Advisory committee on Thematic 2:** Promoting **inclusive value chains and access to markets** for family farmers;
- **Advisory committee on Thematic 3:** **Public policies** increasing the participation of family farming in food systems.

These Advisory Committees, which worked very actively for 4 months, focused on the 3 main debates, as well as the agenda for each thematic area. Reference documents can be found in Annex 1.

3 The co-construction of reference documents for the 3 main thematic areas by the Advisory Committees. The organisations participating in the ILC Family Farming Initiative also addressed the sessions and drafted a fourth Reference Document, dedicated to Land Rights. In addition, a dozen podcasts, infographics, and various videos were produced to feed the discussion.

4 The last major element of the process was the co-organisation of special sessions with WRF partner organisations. Thus the session on "Land Rights" was co-organised with the International Land Coalition, the one on "Women's Leadership and Family Farming" was co-organised with FAO, the session on "Rural Youth" was co-organised with IFAD, the one on "Indigenous Peoples and Family Farming" was co-organised with the Forest and Farm Facility and FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit and the session on "The Role of Communication in Family Farming" was co-organised with FAO and the regional communication platforms COMDEvAsia, Yenkasa and Onda Rural.

[1] The WCC brings together a large number of civil society organisations, highly representative of family farming, working to defend and promote family farming, monitoring and identifying priorities for the success of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDDF). Its composition can be consulted at <https://www.familyfarmingcampaign.org/en/ccm/>.



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In addition, the High-Level Panel on "UN Decade Extension" was co-organised with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain.

The Conference was thus designed based on the following programme:

PRE-CONFERENCE 22 NOV	DAY 1 – 23 NOV	DAY 2 – 24 NOV	DAY 3 – 25 NOV	DAY 4 – 26 NOV
NATIONAL COMMITTEES OF FAMILY FARMING GLOBAL EXCHANGE MEETING	WELCOME & GLOBAL INSTITUTIONAL OPENING	WELCOME & FRAMING	OPENING OF THE DAY	OPENING OF THE DAY
	INTRODUCTION TO DISCUSSIONS	INTRODUCTION TO DISCUSSIONS	PANEL 3 PUBLIC POLICIES INCREASING THE PARTICIPATION OF FAMILY FARMING IN FOOD SYSTEMS	HIGH LEVEL PANEL: SCALING UP THE UN DECADE OF FAMILY FARMING
	PANEL 1 ENHANCING SUST. PRODUCTION OF FOOD BY FAMILY FARMERS AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO SUST. LIVELIHOOD	PANEL 2 PROMOTING INCLUSIVE VALUE CHAINS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS FOR FAMILY FARMERS		THE ROLE OF COMMUNICATION IN FAMILY FARMING
	Break - 30 min	Break - 30 min	Break - 30 min	Break - 30 min
	SPECIAL SESSION: RURAL YOUTH (Coorg. IFAD)	SPECIAL SESSION: WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND FAMILY FARMING (Coorg. FAO)	SPECIAL SESSION ON LAND TENURE RIGHTS (Coorg. ILC)	SPECIAL SESSION: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND FAMILY FARMING (Coorg. FFF)
CLOSING OF THE DAY	CLOSING OF THE DAY	CLOSING OF THE DAY	CLOSING OF THE DAY	GLOBAL CONCLUSIONS

This Global Conference and, therefore, the debates generated, were very well received and attended, including numerous governments and representatives of international organisations. More than 800 people registered for the event, participating throughout the 4 days of the conference, and almost 100 speakers took part.

The Conference generated a considerable amount of communication material[2], including: 4 infographics summarising the situation of women farmers, youth, indigenous peoples and access to land; 10 podcasts recorded by WRF partners and allies and dedicated to 3 themes (sustainable production, access to markets and generation of added value and the public policies necessary to strengthen agriculture); and graphic reports of the sessions.

[2] For more information please see: <https://conferencia.ruralforum.org/en/resources/> .



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THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE IN FIGURES

4

DAYS

+10

EVENTS

Discussion panels
Special sessions
High level Panel
Exchanges

102

COUNTRIES

+800

PARTICIPANTS

Local, national, regional
farming organisations
Research centres
Governments
International institutions
NGOS
Private sector



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2. STRENGTHENING FAMILY FARMING AS A PATHWAY TO TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS

The current global food system produces enough food for the entire population; however, it is terribly unbalanced, vulnerable to crises, unable to reduce hunger and malnutrition, and increases social and territorial inequalities. Because of its social, economic, cultural and environmental characteristics, family farming (FF) is the way to ensure the sustainability of food systems. Therefore, FF must be visible, as an object, subject and protagonist of public policies.

Numerous approaches were discussed at the Conference to strengthen family farming so that it can lead the transformation towards sustainable, resilient, inclusive and viable food systems. The main issues are summarised below.

2.1. Panel 1: Enhancing sustainable production of diversified, safe, and nutritious food by family farmers and its contribution to sustainable livelihood[3]

This Panel delved into the ways and means of production of family farming, which allow both for a viable and sustainable livelihood for producers and also provide a source of healthy, safe and diversified food for communities.

Family farming is diverse: it takes different forms, not all of which are virtuous, and not always included in sustainable and inclusive food systems. However, in all cases there is a central link between the family, the farm and the territory. It is therefore essential to promote production systems that are healthier, and more redistributive and respectful of people and nature.

Ensuring the leading role of family farming to guarantee more sustainable, inclusive, viable and resilient food systems involves:



01 - Going beyond a limited vision of the farm.

These questions do not only concern the "family farm" dimension. They also concern the dynamics of territories and the preservation of natural resources, question social relations - particularly the role of women and young people in decision-making - and call for specific public policies and collective actions.



02 - Promoting the transition towards more sustainable and agroecological practices, which will make it possible to overcome the vulnerability of food systems.

Promoting diversified production systems is also essential to address the problems associated with monocultures.

[3] For more information please see the reference document produced by panel 1: https://conferencia.ruralforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/DocPanel1ENG_ForoRural_121121.pdf.



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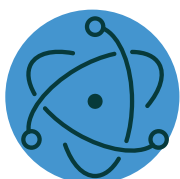
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03 - Improving and securing access to productive resources.

One area of action is access to productive resources, primarily land. In this respect, the ILC's recurrent warnings about the process of land grabbing and its consequences on the inequalities of what can be perceived as a common good to feed humanity, are particularly striking. This dimension of access to resources obviously refers to inequalities in the capacity of men and women farmers to cope with uncertainty and hazards of all kinds, foremost among which are climate hazards.



04 - Enhancing local knowledge.

Another field of action is the valorisation of local knowledge (and in particular the cultivation of the diversity of FFs' production), while reinforcing the capacities of FFs, by opening up their technical and academic range, particularly in the sometimes very specialised field of agroecology and the circular economy. The aim is to reduce the use of petrochemical inputs when they are overused and alternatives exist, or to use them carefully when they objectively represent responses to situations of deficiency affecting the most vulnerable. It is not a question of seeking the convergence of models, but the most virtuous models according to the situation and context.



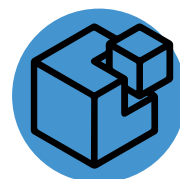
05 - Promoting sustainable and economically viable family farming to ensure youth employment,

especially in some regions of the world.



06 - Promoting and enhancing quality production.

More generally and everywhere, efforts must focus on the quality of production and on the recognition of this quality by markets. This may involve the recognition of environmental and social services provided, in particular through certification that allows for higher prices. This can be achieved through improved public procurement, targeting healthy and diversified products from family farming.



07 - Strengthening organisations that represent and defend family farming and cooperatives that reinforce their sustainability.



08 - Increasing resources dedicated to strengthening family farming.

These policies should jointly and coherently address the previous 7 issues. They must encourage family farming diversity and allow family farmers to express the full potential of their practices. Stable and sustainable policies are needed.



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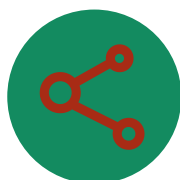
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2.2. Panel 2: Promoting Inclusive Value Chains and Market Access for Family Farmers[4]

The panel sought to contribute to the discussion on how to create and distribute value in the family farming sector through inclusive value chains, ensuring family farming's leadership in the shift towards sustainable, resilient, inclusive and viable food systems. Just as there is a diversity of family farmers, the markets in which family farming operates are also diverse and vary according to their specific context: local markets, fairs, wholesalers with national distribution, national public procurement markets, etc.

Eight areas were identified which should be promoted:



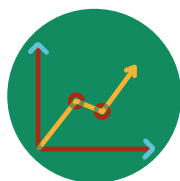
01 - Building partnerships between family farmers and consumers.

It is important to increase the capacities of family farmers to ensure that their supply of products (type, quantity, quality, packaging, authorisations, certifications, etc.) meets the needs of consumers. The development of regulatory frameworks that improve market transparency and monitor contractual arrangements will also increase the capacity of family farmers to act accordingly.



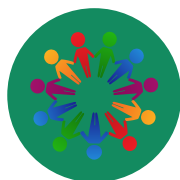
02 - Promoting access to different markets, including family farmers specialized market.

Access to local and regional markets should be encouraged to ensure the sustainability of family farming and the resilience of local food systems, as well as institutional procurement and purchasing programmes. Moreover, movement restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic have demonstrated the need for family farmers to have the capacity and ability to access online trading platforms.



03 - Boosting the creation of added value in family farming production.

Such added value could come from basic processes, such as drying, roasting or debarking, or from more advanced processes, such as the preparation and marketing of final products (processed food, oil, beverages, etc.).



04 - Promoting the organization of farmers into cooperatives.

The organisation of family farmers in cooperatives or similar structures enables them to aggregate their products, reduce transaction costs, process production and market it through various channels. In addition, through association, storage, processing, conditioning or packaging facilities can be improved. As a result, their negotiating position is strengthened, risks are shared and competitiveness is improved.

[4] For more information please see the reference document produced by panel 2: https://conferencia.ruralforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/DocPanel2ENG_ForoRural_161121.pdf.



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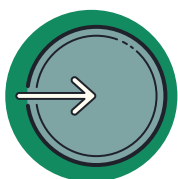




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05 - Ensuring access to infrastructures and services.

It is important to obtain commitments from governments to improve infrastructure and connectivity in rural areas, in order to access markets (local, national, regional or online) in an optimal way.



06 - Promoting efficiency enhancement, farm diversification and sustainable agriculture.

Public policies and programmes should promote diversified production systems, which mitigate the vulnerability of family farming to market shocks (quantity needed or price drops) or climate shocks.



07 - Enhancing agri-financing.

Tax incentives, accessible and affordable credit and other forms of financing for the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products can be provided. Such a requirement could be achieved through government funding bodies, savings and credit cooperatives, non-governmental micro-finance organisations, self-help groups and providers of private savings or credit facilities.

Similarly, innovative mechanisms are also needed to balance public and private sources of capital to support family farming in the event of disasters, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.



08 - Strengthening organization and partnership building (value-chain governance).

An essential complementary programme to all the above, is the organisation and strengthening of existing family farming organisations, as well as the provision of advisory and planning services for these organisations, in order to strengthen the technical, organisational and negotiating skills of family farmers.



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2.3. Panel 3: Public policies to increase the participation of family farming in the food systems[5]

Panel 3 contributed to present and discuss the generation of enabling policy environments (legal and institutional frameworks, political commitments, etc.) that ensure family farming leadership in the shift towards sustainable, resilient, inclusive and viable food systems that improve the livelihoods and resilience of small-scale farmers, foresters, fishers, pastoralists and workers, with a special focus on rural women, indigenous peoples and youth.

Beyond maintaining the focus on food availability, it is necessary to ensure access to healthy food, rethinking consumption, production and supply systems in an integrated way, integrating family farming policies with food, health and environmental policies. Public policies play a very important role in unlocking the potential of family farming in transforming food systems. Therefore, the importance of policy dialogue and the need to form new alliances with other actors, such as consumers and environmental groups, was highlighted.

The following context-specific policy measures were proposed:



01 - The recognition and implementation of differentiated public policies with an integrated approach, with policies and programmes that value and reward the care and sustainable management of natural resources and more sustainable forms of production.

Governments should establish an inclusive, transparent and coordinated approach to policy development and implementation, with the active and informed participation of farmers and their organizations during the process of policy development as well as the implementation and monitoring of national and regional policies, as a condition of legitimisation, qualification and effectiveness. It is important to create, expand and strengthen differentiated policies for social protection and access to education, health, economic and financial services, and, fundamentally, to cultural goods.



02 - Commitments, cooperation and coalitions to advance differentiated public policies at the national, regional and multilateral levels.



03 - Measures to protect the territories and the rights of indigenous communities.

[5] For more information please see the reference document produced by panel 3: https://conferencia.ruralforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/DocPanel3ENG_ForoRural_171121.pdf.



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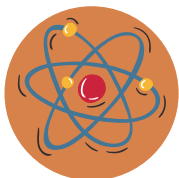
04 - Policies promoting the equality, autonomy, social, economic and political empowerment of rural women by valuing their contributions to sustainable production.

In addition, tools should be developed to measure the impact of policies on women and to incorporate the rural perspective when addressing women's rights in the political agenda.



05 - The promotion of rights and opportunities for rural youth, prioritising access to land, education, work and leisure and new agendas of circularity and wellbeing, processing and marketing;

promoting innovative ways to engage youth in agriculture, paying special attention to gender considerations and digital literacy and connectivity.



06 - Promote the use of science and technology for rural populations to access accessible and quality inputs,

promoting research to produce scientific evidence capable of leading an inclusive policy debate and dialogue.



07 - Promote partnership and ensure access to public policies, through the empowerment of organisations,

the production of disaggregated data, the adaptation of access requirements, inclusive dialogue, constant revision of instruments, and training and capacity building in public policies for family farming.



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3. **PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR SCALING UP UNdff**

During the four days of the Conference, it was repeatedly pointed out that the pandemic, despite its enormous impacts, has reaffirmed the importance of family farming and local food systems. It was also underlined that family farmers have a fundamental role to play in the solution to today's major global challenges, such as the transformation of food systems, the fight against climate change and the post-Covid-19 recovery. Moreover, as the authorities present at the opening of the Conference affirmed, the family farming model is the model to promote because it is the fairest, most inclusive and most sustainable. It is essential to give a boost to the UNdff by working from different opportunities and with key actors that are reflected in the following sections.

3.1. **High Level Panel: A Coalition of countries for family farming**

The High-Level Panel, co-organised by the WRF and the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain under the title "Scaling up the UN Decade of Family Farming" made progress in the commitments of the countries for the implementation of the Decade and the Family Farming Coalition; an element that will undoubtedly be strategic to focus international collaboration and to strengthen family farming as a fundamental axis of development.

Experience has shown that policies, in order to be sustainable, must be anchored in law and institutions and be considered policies of State. The institutions and organisations involved must ensure the sustainability of public policies dedicated to family farming over time, and reduce their dependence on changes in administrations.

The Family Farming Coalition can contribute to scaling up the UNdff and its relationship with other major international processes, ensuring a renewed effort towards the effective promotion, development and implementation of policies, strategies, programmes and investments aimed at strengthening family farming and unleashing its transformative potential towards more sustainable, resilient and viable food systems.



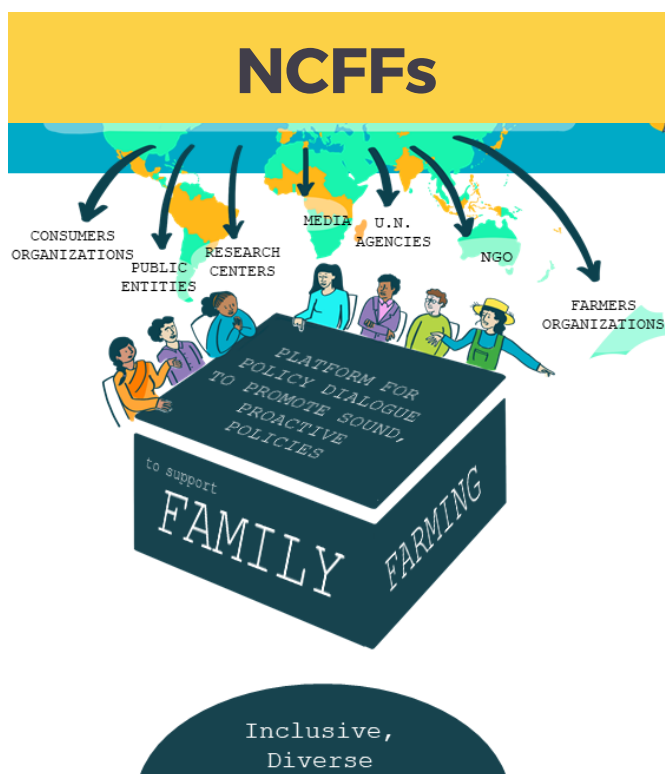


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3.2. National Committees of Family Farming (NCFF) Global Exchange Meeting



On the eve of the Conference, 22 November 2021, an exchange took place between the NCFFs on the generation and implementation of public policies through the Decade's National Action Plans (NAPs). The NAPs are concrete contextualised instruments which provide tangible measures and specific commitments on family farming, especially through public policies, programmes and regulations, and which involve a roadmap for countries and regions to support their efforts towards the sustainable development of Family Farming. At the meeting, the participants agreed that the UNDF and the National Action Plans are a very valuable instrument for unleashing the transformative potential of Family Farming.

They also recognised the enormous importance of **strengthening the NCFFs as they represent a great opportunity for political dialogue on sustainable food systems** and the role that family farming plays in them, with 45 NCFFs around the world, bringing together more than 2,600 organisations.

It was underlined that **progress in the first two years of implementation of the UNDF is very relevant**. Based on the positive results, it was agreed that for the next biennium of implementation, it is necessary **to increase the scale and scope of the Decade**, giving priority to defining national plans in more countries and starting to implement the measures contained in the plans. This will require increased resources and efforts.

45 NCFFS

+2.600
ORGANISATIONS



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3.3. Special session on land tenure rights

A special session on Land Rights, organised by the World Rural Forum, in collaboration with the International Land Coalition (ILC), took place on 25 November.

Family farming is a way of organising agricultural production based on strong links between the soil, the land and the family unit that works it and acts as the guardian of these ecosystems. Broad, secure and sustainable access to land, soil, water, biodiversity and other natural resources related to the livelihoods of people living from family farming is fundamental to eradicate hunger, fight poverty, establish peace and justice, and achieve sustainable development.

The report on land inequality at the heart of unequal societies[6] presented by ILC has shown that **inequality in access to land has grown significantly, both globally and in every region**, with land increasingly concentrated in the hands of corporations that also control value chains.

This situation impacts on family farming and has important consequences for problems related to climate change and the lack of democracy, as well as constituting a source of conflict.

However, the solution lies in **having data that can be easily used by the agrarian organisations**, the NCFFs, above all to **influence sectoral policies**, such as redistribution of agrarian reforms, monitoring of corporations, taxes and transparency in the land market, and land control.

It was highlighted that **the UNDRF is an opportunity to put land rights firmly on the political agenda and to scale up**. The UNDRF national plans offer an opportunity to address this inequity. There are many approaches to focus on, from access to land, regulation of land markets in favour of family farming, but above all control of land. The need to incorporate a holistic view of land was stressed.



[6] For more information, please see the report: <https://www.landcoalition.org/es/uneven-ground/report-and-papers/>.



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It was emphasised that **secure access to land is a determining factor** for young people to be able to act as protagonists in the sustainable future of family farming. Therefore, ensuring secure access to land for young family farmers must be a priority element of public policies.

It also called for the **creation of spaces for dialogue**, so that young people can participate in the construction, implementation and monitoring of public policies specific to family farming, promoting an agriculture focused on ensuring sustainable, resilient, inclusive and viable food systems.

It was underlined that the NCFFs can be a framework which will enable young people to work on all of the above issues.

3.4. Special session on rural youth

The Special Session on Rural Youth and Family Farming, jointly organised by the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Rural Forum, took place on 23 November. This session provided a space for young farmers representing 5 continents to share their proposals for public policies and programmes which can support them in addressing the challenges that threaten the generational renewal of family farming and the profitability and sustainability of their family farms. The young people were clear on the need for **policies** for rural youth aimed at **financing, education and technical assistance, access to markets, generation of added value and organisation of young people in cooperatives**.

The **enormous innovative potential** of rural youth was highlighted as well as the fact that not attending to their expectations would be a waste of their strengths, energies and ideas.



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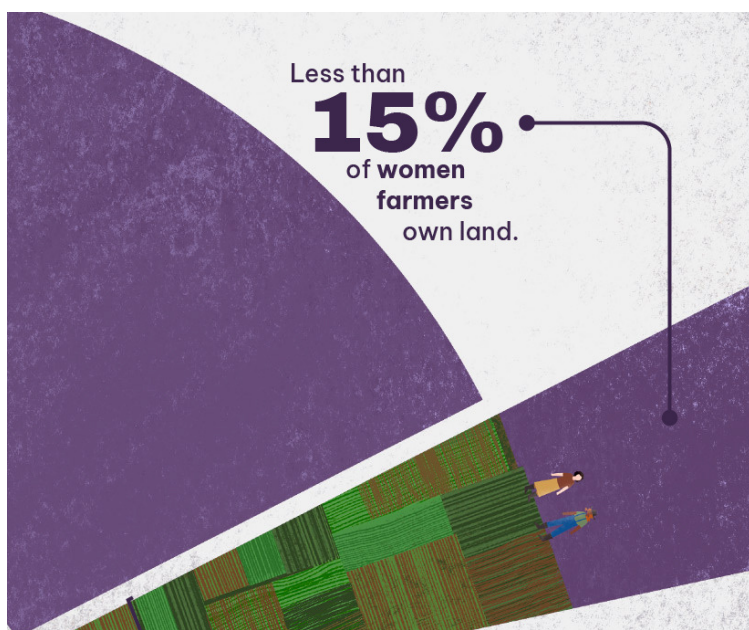
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3.5. Special session on women's leadership and family farming

This session, held on 24 November, was jointly organised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the WRF and provided a space for exchange between representatives of rural women's organisations and women parliamentarians from different continents. The aim was to discuss ways to effectively include the current challenges faced by women in family farming within the political agenda. The special session on women and family farming was designed to **bring actors from legislative and executive institutions** closer to the UNDF, with parliamentary representatives from Colombia, the Philippines, Pakistan and Gabon, as well as the Director of the Directorate for the Promotion of Women Agricultural Producers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of Peru, and the FAO.

During this session, it was pointed out that addressing the gender gap must be a priority in the agendas of family farming and sustainable and resilient food systems. Therefore, work on women's political and economic empowerment has to be done through the various axes mentioned below.



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The gender gap, which limits rural women's ability to reach their full potential, prevents them from accessing and taking advantage of available opportunities and resources.



According to estimates, women account for about 40 % of agricultural employment.



Without women, Family Farming would not be able to feed the world

Marcela Villareal, Director, Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division, FAO

Raising awareness and recognising

the fundamental role of women in family farming.

Strengthening their presence in decision-making spaces

ensuring that women and their proposals are on the political, legislative and executive agendas.

Strengthening the institutional framework dedicated to family farming

and, within that framework, promoting collaboration between the organisations and the executive branch, ensuring not only the existence of training programmes, advice, access to markets, generation of added value, etc. for production, but also their adequate funding.

Working with the legislative branch

to create regulatory frameworks and resources focused on gender equity and equality in access to resources, technology, training, technical assistance and education.

Renewing the commitment made by the international community

when it signed the UNDRF and its Global Action Plan, reflected in a strong crosscutting gender component in the National Action Plans and in the policies that are designed within the framework of the UNDRF.



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The importance of **jointly designing concrete instruments** to advance the work agendas of indigenous peoples, promoting the definition of public policies that address the enormous challenges faced by indigenous peoples and always considering their cosmovision, was also pointed out.

The term "Indigenous Peoples" encompasses a wide diversity of beliefs, cultures, languages and livelihoods, all of which have one element in common - deep connections to territory and ecosystems.



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3.7. Communication initiatives for Family Farming

A discussion on Communication Initiatives for Family Farming, co-organised by the communication platforms ComDev Asia, Yenkasa and Onda Rural, FAO and the World Rural Forum, was held on 26 November.

Pillar 4 of the Global Plan of Action recognises the role of communication as a driver for the advancement of family farming and underlines the need to improve communication, ICT capacities, as well as raising awareness on the roles and challenges of family farmers. It is a key to recognition, **visibility and exchange of experience among farmers themselves**, as well as towards the general public.

Three Participatory Communication Plans are being implemented at regional level to contribute to the implementation of the UNDFP along three main lines of action:



- a) raising awareness on family farming and the UNDFP by giving farmers a voice
- b) improving the local communication capacities of farmers' organisations and rural institutions
- c) promoting rural communication services as part of family farming policies and programmes

The regional awareness campaigns "Family Farming at the Core of Sustainable Food Systems" were launched during the Conference.



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the core of Sustainable
Food Systems

THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE IN FIGURES - COMMUNICATION MATERIAL

4

CONCEPT
DOCUMENTS

4

INFOGRAPHICS

8

PODCASTS

26

VIDEOS AND
RECORDINGS



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4. KEY CONCLUSIONS OF THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY FARMING AT THE CORE OF SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

The Global Conference on Family Farming and Sustainable Food Systems was geared towards giving a leading role to family farming organisations, building alliances with other key actors and analysing the keys for the UN Decade of Family Farming to contribute significantly to the transformation of food systems to become more inclusive, resilient, sustainable and viable. This multilateral conference was a high-level platform to increase the relevance of family farming in relation to achieving sustainable, resilient, inclusive and viable food systems, within the framework of the UNDF 2019-2028, as well as to stimulate concrete commitments in favour of the 2.5 billion people who depend on family farming activities around the world.

The 9 most relevant recommendations of the 4 days of the Conference, and of the whole previous process, are the following:



RECOMMENDATION N°1

There is an explicit recognition that **family farming has gained space on the international agenda** by looking towards sustainable food systems that have family farming at their core. The work of dialogue and joint construction must be constant, **taking the Decade process to more local, national, regional and international spaces.**

United Nations
Decade of
**FAMILY
FARMING**
2019-2028



RECOMMENDATION N°2

The United Nations Decade for Family Farming has proven to be a **concrete instrument for advancing family farming and generating consensus on public policies.** The role of the National Committees for Family Farming, and the more than 2,600 entities which are their membership base, is proving to be fundamental for mobilisation of actors and concertation throughout the public policy cycle.



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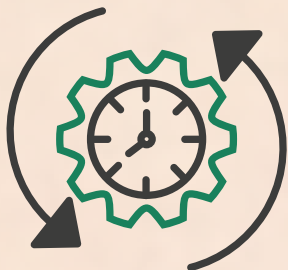


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Food Systems

RECOMMENDATION N°3



The UNDIFF offers a great opportunity to find **common commitments, synergies, roadmaps, policy and legislative frameworks (new or existing) through the Decade's National Action Plans** or other instruments. In this sense, in addition to focusing on policy generation, it is essential that policies are **effectively implemented** and resourced: funding, investment, technical assistance are needed. It is also essential to ensure that family farmers, including the most vulnerable, have effective access to these policies.

RECOMMENDATION N°4



It is necessary to continue working on the construction and implementation of differentiated policies for family farming, and at the same time these must incorporate territorial, environmental and nutritional approaches, amongst others.

RECOMMENDATION N°5



Family farming organisations have found strong allies who are supporting very important processes to strengthen family farming. But it is necessary to innovate with **new alliances with key actors, ensuring that family farming is considered in, inter alia, environmental, food, social, and consumer policies.**

Family farming must be part of these agendas, with an important re-signification of its role.

RECOMMENDATION N°6



The **relevant role of consumers** and the need to integrate them into the debates is increasingly present. There is a growing number of consumers who are increasingly concerned with how food is produced (valuing environmental sustainability and the nutritional value of food); who produces it (with attention paid to family farming) and how food is distributed and marketed (with a preference for short circuits and direct relations with the producer). This fact opens a very important window of opportunity for family farming and reinforces the need to strengthen alliances with consumer groups or organisations.



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RECOMMENDATION N°7

Family farming organisations themselves need to reinforce communication strategies, increasing their creativity with a **narrative that attracts and reaches other key actors**, society and governments, linking proposals to strengthen family farming with current key issues including food systems, climate change, post-covid recovery and the priorities of the national and international agenda.



RECOMMENDATION N°8

Family farming organisations and cooperatives need to be **strengthened** and made economically sustainable, with the capacity to make proposals and to continue building spaces for political dialogue, as well as for commitment and action, such as the National Committees for Family Farming (NCFFs).



RECOMMENDATION N°9

There has been a strong call for the transition towards more diversified and agroecological production models, towards more inclusive value chains and towards local and regional markets that value family farming production.

For all of the above reasons, it is necessary to consolidate and strengthen the steps taken, while at the same time scaling-up the UNDF's actions, especially with regard to its national and regional plans. Greater stimuli are needed to ensure that all organisations, governments and international bodies make a firm commitment to unleashing the enormous potential of family farming. Only in this way will it be possible to achieve the desired and sustained impact to ensure that the Decade fulfils its mission and makes a decisive contribution to securing the 2030 Agenda. In this way, family farming can contribute decisively to ensuring diversified, quality food systems and resilient rural and urban communities that enjoy a high quality of life, with equity, equality, dignity and freedom from hunger.



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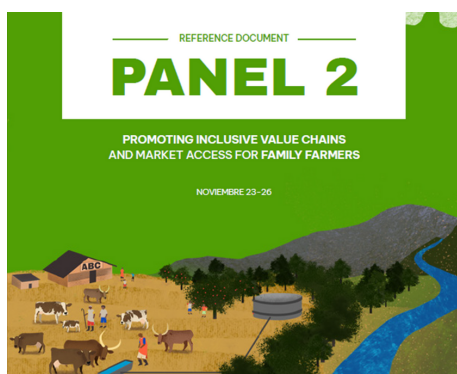
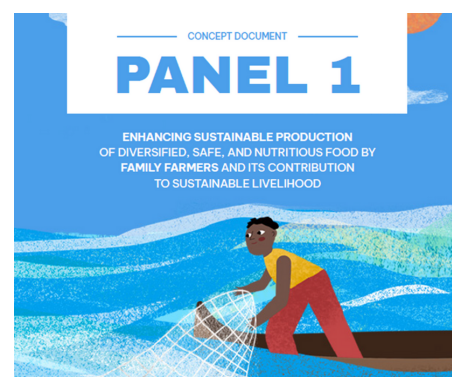
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ANNEXES

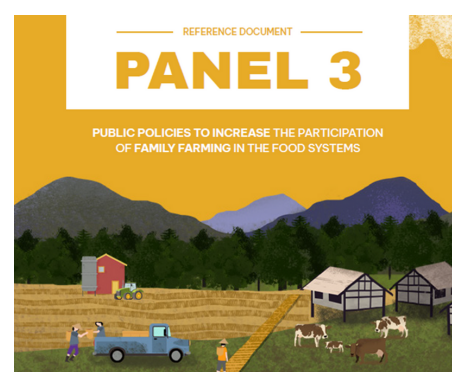
CONCEPT DOCUMENTS

1. Panel 1: Enhancing sustainable production of diversified, safe, and nutritious food by family farmers and its contributing to sustainable livelihood



2. Panel 2: Promoting inclusive value chains and access to markets for family farmers

3. Panel 3: Public policies increasing the participation of family farming in food systems



4. Special session on land tenure rights



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