



## Final Declaration

### "Sowing sustainability: Scaling up the vital contribution of Family Farming"

The [VIII Global Conference on Family Farming: Sustainability of our Planet](#) organised by the [World Rural Forum](#) (WRF) from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2024 in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, has brought together more than 200 representatives of leading Family Farming organisations, regional platforms, governments, international bodies, research centres, consumer organisations, philanthropic entities, women's and youth organisations, as well as National Committees of Family Farming from all five continents.

We identify that humanity faces diverse, complex and interconnected challenges in the context of the climate, food and environmental crises. Addressing these challenges requires integrated partnerships and global solutions, based on sound legal and institutional frameworks and political commitments at national, regional and multilateral levels. These must promote food systems with sustainable production and consumption patterns, food and nutrition security, and new economic opportunities with social inclusion and equity. All this by promoting synergies between urban and rural areas.

We recognise the vital role of family farmers - and all those who are part of it, Indigenous Peoples, traditional communities and those engaged in pastoralism, livestock, fisheries, mountain farming, along with other food producing groups - for the sustainability of the planet. We highlight their catalytic contribution to economic development, guaranteeing the production of healthy and quality food, ensuring territorial balance, managing natural resources in a more sustainable way, preserving knowledge and wisdom, and achieving inclusive and resilient development.

We note that in these five years of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNFFF) 2019-2028 implementation, we have made significant progress. However, Family Farming continues facing enormous challenges that we will only overcome if we redouble our joint efforts, move forward in the recognition of the vital and leading role of Family Farming in



building responses to the climate crisis and the food systems transformation, and intensify support to deploy its full potential.

In Vitoria-Gasteiz we have met and discussed successful territorial, national and regional initiatives and experiences promoted by a wide range of actors. The VIII Conference has made possible to identify and agree on key actions to promote the implementation of the Decade and to address the emerging challenges of the planet and of Family Farming in particular:

1. We reaffirm our determined commitment to scale up the **vital role of Family Farming** as a driver for the transformation towards sustainable, inclusive and resilient food systems. We ratify the UNDDF 2019-2028 as an international consensus tool and the Global Action Plan as a guide to orient global, regional and national policies.
2. We call for the promotion of **comprehensive policies that recognise the multidimensionality of Family Farming and its link to crucial agendas** such as food, nutrition, health, land, biodiversity, climate, poverty and inequality. It is essential to back them up with adequate resources and robust policy frameworks that include mechanisms for participation and social dialogue. It is time to update tools, innovate and strengthen the capacities of public institutions, family farming organisations and all actors involved for this purpose.
3. We underline the importance of strengthening the **National Committees of Family Farming** (NCFF) as multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms to update and improve public policies in the countries, strengthen the connection between agendas, scale up good practices and address current challenges. It is key to expand their role in political dialogue and their participation in public policies by providing them with the necessary resources to achieve meaningful results.



4. We celebrate the successful initiatives to ensure the **economic sustainability of Family Farming** presented in Vitoria-Gasteiz. Highlighting associationism, cooperativism, ensuring fair incomes and the inclusion in value chains, while also ensuring environmental and social sustainability. We urge to scale up and deepen these initiatives through policies that ensure a long and dignified life for Family Farming and the economic dynamization of territories.
5. We highlight the **leadership of Rural Youth** in the food systems transformation, employment creation and generational renewal. We endorse [the priorities and proposals](#) put forward by the Family Farming Youth Core Group (FF Y CG) to promote efficient and innovative public policies. We call for support for the [proposal to declare an International Day of Young Farmers](#) to enhance the visibility and recognition of the pivotal role of rural youth in building an inclusive and sustainable food future.
6. We urge to reduce gender inequalities in rural areas and advance the empowerment of rural women through organizational transformations and specific, inclusive, and equitable public policies aimed at promoting their autonomy and rights, particularly regarding land tenure and access to economic and financial resources, allocating specific funds for this purpose. We endorse the priorities defined at the [II International Meeting of Rural Women](#) held in Brasilia and reaffirmed during the VIII Conference. We commit to strengthening the networks of *Margaridas do Mundo* as a mechanism to enhance joint efforts and solutions.
7. We recognise the **catalytic role of Family Farming in climate change adaptation and mitigation**, biodiversity conservation and the transition to resilient and production systems, incorporating agroecology and other sustainable production methods. It is urgent to **boost the participation** of Family Farming organisations as key actors in climate debates and negotiations, as well as in their financing mechanisms.



8. We stress the importance of **ensuring land tenure security** as a fundamental pillar in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the UNDDF 2019- 2028 goals, tackling the climate crisis, promoting sustainable food systems, and the sovereignty and food security of peoples. We call for strengthening strategies that overcome legal, cultural and economic barriers that limit land rights, especially for women and youth.
9. We celebrate the progress in the principles of **participatory research and co-innovation** in Family Farming to achieve sustainable production of healthy food and adaptation to climate change. We urge to take the necessary steps for widespread ownership and co-leadership by family farmers throughout the research cycle, as well as to forge new relationships between the research world, agriculture, civil society, and public institutions, for the viable transition of food systems.
10. We underline the importance of **intensifying networking** among diverse actors, including governments, international organisations, family farmers and their organisations, women, youth, research centres, consumer organisations, environmental organisations and other actors. We call for breaking silos, fostering effective commitments and partnerships to drive the Decade forward and address global challenges in line with the 2030 Agenda. The success of the 2030 Agenda in its entirety is impossible without Family Farming.

Five years ago, the United Nations declaration of the Decade of Family Farming marked a significant milestone. Today, the aspirations of family farmers are clearly visible and our proposals are concrete. As crises take on various forms and challenges intensify, Family Farming organisations emerge stronger to contribute to the solutions that the world needs. We need catalytic actions that improve the lives of family farmers while ensuring a sustainable future for all.



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VIII. Global Conference  
**FAMILY FARMING:  
SUSTAINABILITY  
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The Conference has provided a valuable space to reflect on achievements, identify areas for improvement and challenges, both existing and emerging, and propose a solid and steadfast path forward at all levels: national, regional and global. We share experiences, build common desires and references that inspire us towards a more equitable, prosperous and resilient future for all humanity.

We thank all participants for their commitment and contributions to this dialogue and we call to transform it into concrete, shared and solidarity-based actions, scaling up the contribution of Family Farming to sow sustainability. We all eat, we all need Family Farming to live.