



LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE DECLARATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOUNG FARMERS

Young farmers are at the heart of one of the major challenges of the 21st century: the sustainability of food systems. This encompasses a series of challenges which require involving agents of change capable of addressing these challenges, such as the rural youth. Indeed, innovations leading to new sustainable forms of production, organization and marketing, as well as technological tools adapted to their contexts and needs, are essential to ensure increased sustainable agricultural productivity and food security within a complex context linked to climate change. Young people are in the best position to adopt them, but certain constraints that particularly affect them need to be better understood. Access to land, to other productive resources, to financial services, to training and employment opportunities are all challenges that are driving a growing number of young rural people to leave the communities in which they grew up and settle in national urban centers, or even abroad, in search of better opportunities.

Providing young people in rural areas with the political and socio-economic conditions they need to remain in the farming sector, and thus ensure the next generation of farmers, is a key issue. Faced with this critical situation, the stakeholders involved in the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDF 2019-2028) have decided to prioritize rural youth within this process, granting them a specific and cross-cutting work pillar of the Global Action Plan, encouraging the active participation of young people in the debates and in many initiatives implemented within the framework of the UNDF.

However, in order to guarantee that the visibility of issues specific to young farmers, which generates political debate and multi-stakeholder negotiations, can be sustained over time, beyond the UNDF, the organization express its support for the proposal to include youth of family farming in the United Nations calendar, by granting them the International Day of Young Farmers, declared by the United Nations General Assembly.

Let's continue to support the future of family farming and agrifood systems!

Signature

