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**AIDE-MEMOIRE**

## **FIRST GLOBAL FORUM OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF FAMILY FARMING 2019–2028**



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**Virtual event**

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## Background

The **United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019–2028 (UNDF)** serves as a framework for countries as they develop public policies and investments to support family farming and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) have been called upon to support the implementation process through the establishment of the joint FAO–IFAD Secretariat on the UNDF.

The UNDF addresses family farming from a holistic perspective for rural poverty eradication, in all its forms and dimensions, while giving family farmers a central and leading role in the transition towards more sustainable agrifood systems and societies. The UNDF leverages family farmers to promote an inclusive rural transformation that contributes to reducing rural poverty, generating and distributing wealth, creating decent jobs, and starting up and growing inclusive agrifood businesses where the environment is sustainably managed and the agricultural and food heritage is preserved.

The design of family farming-centred policies that are coherent and intersectoral, and which address the environmental, economic and social dimensions of agricultural and rural development concurrently, is fundamental to support this transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind. To this end, the UNDF focuses on developing strategies and interventions that grant family farmers access to natural and productive resources, information, markets, technology and innovation, addressing the multiple constraints that family farmers face. This allows family farmers to increase productivity and income and improve nutrition and livelihoods, while adapting to and mitigating the impact of climate change, sustainably managing natural resources, and conserving biodiversity.

To this end, the UNDF envisages the creation of 100 **National Action Plans for Family Farming** by 2024. The national action plans are contextualized frameworks of action at the national level in support of family farming. They promote interinstitutional cooperation and are aimed at the integration of specific family farmers' issues into policies and strategies related to the wider food, agricultural, social and environmental sectors.

Since its launch in 2019, the UNDF has begun to be successfully implemented. It has resulted in a robust engagement process involving a wide range of stakeholders, aimed at identifying and implementing concrete policies and measures in support of family farming. This approach has resulted in 186 relevant policies, laws and regulations that have been developed and endorsed around the world that support family farming. To date, 52 countries are actively working on the implementation of the UNDF, in efforts involving more than 2 600 family farmers' organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and public and research institutions. Eleven National Action Plans for Family Farming have been approved, while the three regional action plans cover

the region of the Near East and North Africa, the subregion of South Asia (the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC], eight countries), and the subregion of Central America (the Central American Integration System [SICA], eight countries).

### **Rationale and objectives of the global forum**

The First Global Forum of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019–2028 was co-organized by FAO and IFAD, with the aim of leveraging the experiences of different actors in order to take stock of the achievements and challenges faced since the launch of the UNDF. The different sessions hosted discussions aimed at the identification of priority policies and technical areas that will shape the UNDF agenda for the next period of implementation, to accelerate transition to context-specific, diversified, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.

The objectives of the global forum included:

- Exchange good practices, successful processes, experiences and concrete policy solutions in support of family farming.
- Highlight key emerging policy and technical areas, actions and instruments to enable family farmers to achieve diversified, innovative and dynamic farming systems.
- Scale up and scale out efforts to promote multistakeholder partnerships and cooperation for the development and effective implementation of policies, strategies and programmes, enabling family farmers to fulfil their transformative potential.

The global forum was divided into different sessions:

- A high-level opening focused on the global results of the UNDF and on experiences from countries that had approved national action plans.
- Seven technical sessions focusing the discussion on the different pillars of the Global Action Plan, highlighting results, lessons learned and emerging priorities.
- A final session with a regional round table to highlight key recommendations and the way forward for the implementation of the UNDF.

### **Preparatory events ahead of the global forum**

The global forum was preceded by regional dialogues, organized in collaboration with FAO and IFAD Regional Offices. These events gave all actors the opportunity to connect, reinforcing links between governments and farmers' organizations, and addressing emerging topics. The format and structure of each regional dialogue was decided in agreement with the relevant Regional Office so as to better tailor the event to each region's specific needs and context. Some thematic

dialogues preceding the global forum were also organized, with the aim of providing a discussion space and visibility to themes that are transversal to the seven pillars of the Global Action Plan.

The overall process culminated with the global forum, which brought together more than 3 000 participants to discuss 133 experiences from countries and regions around the world.

#### Regional Dialogue in the Near East and North Africa: 19 May 2022

Starting with the assessment of the emerging priority topics and with the analysis of some successful experiences that had taken place in the region during the first three years of the implementation of the UNDF, the regional dialogue saw a lively discussion and a common reflection on how to leverage the role of family farming towards more productive and resilient food systems in response to regional challenges, exacerbated as a result of global crises, and their impact on family farmers' livelihoods.

#### Regional Dialogue in Europe and Central Asia: 24 June 2022

The regional dialogue, which took place in Budapest in a hybrid format, took stock of the national action plan processes in the Region of Europe and Central Asia, discussed emerging topics, identified the way forward, and strengthened multi-actor collaboration among governments, parliamentarians, family farmers and their organizations, researchers, civil society, and technical experts, with the aim of improving public policies that are conducive to family farming.

#### Regional Dialogue in Asia and the Pacific: 29 June 2022

The online regional dialogue focused on exploring the contribution of family farmers' organizations to sustainable and climate-resilient food systems, identifying lessons learned to foster the inclusion of rural youth, and reflecting on the way forward to building the capacities of family farmers' organizations and to ensure effective participation through appropriate financing and implementation modalities.

#### Regional Dialogue in Africa: 14 July 2022

The regional dialogue focused on boosting the resilience of family farmers in Africa to adapt to food crises through improved access to technologies and innovations. During the event, good practices in leveraging family farmers' potential to support resilient and sustainable agrifood systems through wider and better access to innovation were presented and discussed.

#### Regional Dialogue in Latin America and the Caribbean: 30 August 2022

Leveraging the successful and innovative experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the important results achieved during the first three years of the implementation of the UNDF, the regional dialogue stimulated a joint reflection on how to enhance the role of family farming towards sustainable, inclusive and resilient agrifood systems, facing current and future crises through a transformative recovery.

#### Technical Dialogue on Policy Application of Family Farming Definition: 4 July 2022

The regional dialogue brought examples of family farming definitions, parameters and characteristics used at national level to develop and inform legislation and public policies, and demonstrated concrete practices of how the concept of family farming can be implemented on the ground and applied in well-focused, differentiated and effective policy interventions, which are well adapted to the real needs of family farmers.

#### Technical Dialogue on Rural Communication Services for Family Farming: 11 July 2022

The discussions showcased current trends, approaches, experiences and lessons learned related to rural communication services for family farming. In addition, the dialogue aimed to define criteria, opportunities and priorities for mainstreaming rural communication services in family farming national action plans, policies and programmes, and to agree on mechanisms to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing around rural communication services.

#### Technical Dialogue on Family Farming and Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems: 16 September 2022

The thematic dialogue explored the framework and policies on family farming and the importance of tailored policies on Indigenous Peoples. The dialogue also explored replicable practices of labelling and certification conducted by Indigenous Peoples that could be an example for family farmers all over the world.

Discussions held in the framework of the regional and technical dialogues were systematized and reported in the framework of the relevant pillar sessions at the global forum, to capitalize on the key topics which emerged and the priority areas which were discussed at the regional level.

## The First Global Forum of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019–2028

### Day 1

19 September 2022

### High-level opening session

*Moderation: Ron Hartman, Director, Global Engagement and Resource Mobilization Division, IFAD*

The high-level opening session marked a moment of important momentum around strengthening the commitment of governments, family farmers' organizations and United Nations (UN) agencies to develop public policies and investments to support family farming. The opening session emphasized that family farmers are the foundation of food security and are key to delivering food systems that produce enough healthy food, which in turn brings economic benefits and development to rural people and communities, and safeguards the environment.

#### Opening and welcoming remarks

**Víctor Julio Carvajal-Porras, Minister for Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Costa Rica**, opened the event by reiterating Costa Rica's commitment to continue working in support of family farming. He recalled the importance of the Coalition on Family Farming and on Strengthening Actions in Support of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming in scaling up and out the results achieved within the framework of the UNDF. Family farmers play a crucial role in building the future of our agrifood systems, and recognizing their contribution and supporting them with appropriate policies is therefore key to ensure that they can access economic opportunities and successfully face climate change impacts.

**QU Dongyu, Director-General, FAO**, highlighted that family farmers need to be at the centre of efforts to transform agrifood systems if real progress is to be made towards ending hunger. Since its launch three years ago, the UNDF has promoted integrated policies and investments to support family farmers. FAO has strengthened its strategic framework through a dedicated priority area of work to deliver concrete results and remains committed to supporting the implementation of the UNDF to achieve sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems.

**Alvaro Lario, President-elect, IFAD**, made note of the role of family farmers in global food production and observed that they form a key target group for IFAD investments in resilient, sustainable development projects. He highlighted the importance of the UNDF as a resource that inspires solutions through its practical work, networks and solidarity. Family farmers have immense potential to act as drivers of change, but now they need greater resilience to withstand shocks. The results achieved over the past three years of UNDF implementation are the result

of thousands of actors working together, but commitment should be increased to face the new challenges.

**Csaba Kőrösi, President, United Nations General Assembly**, spoke about the importance of turning rhetoric into action and working to implement policy and legal safeguards to guarantee the survival of family farms, along with coherent, intersectoral policies, management paths and technology options for all, especially for family and smallholder farmers. The world is facing some of the greatest challenges in decades, and the global forum comes at a timely moment, as there is an opportunity to work together to put people, family farmers and their communities at the centre of solutions. The UNDFE offers a platform for governments to work together with food producers towards having family farmers better positioned and integrated into policy and supply chains.

#### The UNDFE: Highlights from the first three years of implementation

**Marcela Villarreal, Director, Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division, FAO**, provided a general overview of the main highlights from the first three years of the implementation of the UNDFE. Overall, 2 625 farmers' organizations, NGOs, public institutions, academic and research institutions have been involved in multistakeholder dialogue processes. Of this total, 1 853 family farmers' organizations and federations have been fully engaged.

To date, 53 countries are actively working on the implementation of the UNDFE. Eleven National Action Plans for Family Farming have been approved (in Brazil, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, the Gambia, Indonesia, Nepal, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Sierra Leone and Tunisia) and 14 other countries are in the drafting phase. Processes are ongoing at regional and subregional level with the development of three action plans, for the Near East and North Africa region and the subregions of South Asia and Central America.

Approximately 185 policies, laws and regulations have been developed and endorsed around the world, most of which are focused on mitigating the impacts of multiple crises on family farmers and on promoting approaches centred on family farming to address agrifood system issues. Sixty-five intersectoral coordination mechanisms, including National Committees of Family Farming and other multistakeholder platforms for policy dialogue, have been established or reinforced to achieve coherent objectives and targets.

FAO is working closely with different countries by providing technical support at all stages of the process for designing and implementing national action plans. The future work under the umbrella of the UNDFE should be sustained by concrete commitments to promote effectiveness and appropriate resource mobilization, to accelerate efforts in favour of family farmers through the adoption of supportive policies and further investments.



A short video was played describing the multilayered contributions of family farming to food security and territorial development and the role of family farms in achieving sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems.<sup>1</sup>

### Panel: Family farmers at the heart of sustainable food systems

During the ministerial panel, the distinguished speakers discussed the topic of family farming at the heart of sustainable agrifood systems, starting with successful country experiences.

**Abu Bakar Karim, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security, Sierra Leone**, underlined the essential role of family farming to ensure the future of Africa, where family farmers represent and feed about two-thirds of the entire population. The minister also announced the launch of the recently developed National Action Plan for Family Farming in Sierra Leone and highlighted the importance of multistakeholder dialogue in the development of such policy frameworks.

**Victor Julio Carvajal-Porras, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Costa Rica**, pointed out the important role of the UNDF in supporting the development of differentiated policies for family farming that consider the specific characteristics of these actors. He highlighted the importance of having a dialogue with producers to develop joint actions with these fundamental agents of change that play a role in transforming food systems, to make them efficient, sustainable and inclusive.

Family farming is essential to Costa Rica; however, farmers often have limited access to inputs, supporting networks and markets, information and infrastructure. Improving farmers' conditions will contribute to dynamizing the rural economy, reducing poverty in rural areas and preserving natural resources and biodiversity. Developing and efficient social protection systems for family farmers is therefore essential.

The minister recalled that the Coalition on Family Farming and on Strengthening Actions in Support of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming, launched thanks to the initiative of those involved as a follow-up to the UN Food Systems Summit, is working to develop a transformative approach to address the specificity of family farming and will work with a variety of stakeholders, including IFAD and FAO, to develop effective policies and to foster donor support.

**Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Director of Agriculture, Rural Development and SAARC Development Fund, SAARC**, emphasized that family farmers provide 70 percent of the food in the region, but the agriculture sector faces multiple challenges, like the effects of climate change, decreasing soil fertility and post-harvest losses.

Regional body SAARC is a centre of excellence with the mandate to undertake agricultural research, support policy planning and knowledge management on agriculture-related matters, and to increase farmers' livelihoods, especially for women and youth.

The *UNDF regional action plan for strengthening family farming in South Asia 2021–2028*<sup>2</sup> was developed by SAARC with the support of the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and FAO to improve livelihoods and catalyse efforts, with the adoption of a multistakeholder approach in its formulation and development. The plan represents a solid institutional mechanism and an important reference for countries to improve support for family farming in the subregion.

In addition, SAARC has published a book on the UNDF in the region,<sup>3</sup> in collaboration with the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development and FAO, which focuses on family farming's constraints, challenges and opportunities, and on government policies to contribute to achieving the SDGs at the country level and at the regional level in South Asia.

Following the speaker, the leaders of the global organizations supporting the implementation of the UNDF addressed the forum, calling on governments and international institutions to use the UNDF to provide substantial support to genuine family farmers' organizations so that in return they can give the best to the countries and communities they belong to. They underlined as well that the objectives that were set for the UNDF are more urgent today than ever, and while we have taken some very important steps in the right direction, there is much still to be done.

**Martin Uriarte, President, World Rural Forum (WRF)**, turned the spotlight on the relevant role of family farming in public policy, and highlighted four key areas of work:

- Support inclusive and multistakeholder dialogue on integrated and holistic public policies for family farming.
- Improve policy institutions and legal frameworks in support of family farming (this has been done with the 11 approved national action plans and with countries in different stages of drafting).
- Promote coherence of policies and coordination among all actors in a shared horizon.
- Establish a permanent forum for dialogue, with the participation of IFAD and FAO, like the already existing National Committees of Family Farming.

It is now time to scale up the UNDF's results with a stronger focus on instruments, regulatory frameworks and budgets for the implementation of the national action plans; to mobilize resources; and to continue to foster strong partnerships by incorporating new actors, like consumers and research centres, to develop a new generation of policies. The UNDF is a great instrument to move this agenda forward.

**Arnold Puech D’Alissac, President, World Farmers’ Organization (WFO)**, highlighted the need to invest in capacity building and the importance of helping build agricultural sectors that are dynamic and can easily adapt to future generations and future challenges. Family farmers have the potential to face the sustainability challenge in all its dimensions, and this is more important than ever considering the urgency of achieving the SDGs in a few years, while different factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the negative impacts of conflicts, gender inequality and deteriorating natural resources, are hampering this achievement.

Family farmers should be given the opportunity to be at the heart of the transition to sustainable agrifood systems, and to this end, it is important to scale up the implementation of the UNDIFF around some priorities: better access to resources, including land and water; access to social policies, credit and markets; strengthening capacities, with a particular focus on youth, women, farmers’ organizations and cooperatives; and reinforcing the representation of these groups with advocacy activities. Concentrating on the generational renewal of family farming is also of the utmost importance. The World Farmers’ Organization and its members are working on these priorities in different countries, to support the transition towards sustainable agrifood systems.

**Morgan Ody, General Coordinator, La Via Campesina, and Vice-Chair of the International Steering Committee for the International Decade of Family Farming**, brought attention to the multiple and interrelated crises that the world is facing, and how family and peasant farming plays a key role in guaranteeing a livelihood for the large majority of the people in each and every region of the world by producing food and taking care of communities.

However, family farmers’ livelihoods are constantly threatened, and although they provide food for others, they often suffer from hunger themselves. She cited the need for stronger commitments from governments and public institutions to develop and implement public policies to protect and support family farming.

In 2018, the UN General Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas. This declaration should be a guideline for all governments that are seriously committed to supporting family farmers, with particular reference to four key policy areas: supporting rural women and youth, agroecology, market regulation for fair prices, and access to land and water for small-scale farmers.

**Gabriel Ferrero y de Loma-Osorio, Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**, concluded the session by emphasizing the role of the CFS as key platform to scale up national public policies for family farming. Over the last three years, work under the UNDIFF banner has concentrated on concrete actions at the national level, with participative processes and the reinforcement and creation of national platforms and national plans. However, the UNDIFF had barely begun when the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, and the current systemic and multifaceted crises are jeopardizing access to food for all. Family farmers demonstrated their fundamental role

as actors in the agrifood systems during the pandemic, when international value chains were disrupted, and their contribution gained increased recognition. Now they need to be supported with better access to social protection, markets and capacities, to allow them to lead the transition towards resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.

The committee, which includes 140 governments, civil society organizations, UN agencies and international financing institutions, is a space for coordination and discussion that supports the UNDF, as family farming is key to the CFS's food security agenda. Now, this global forum must pave the way to a new phase, to scale up the development of platforms, strategies and policies in support of family farming at the global level.

## **Technical session 1: Developing an enabling policy environment to strengthen family farming**

*Moderation: Mikael Kauttu, Senior Partnership Officer, Global Engagement and Resource Mobilisation Division, IFAD*

An enabling social, economic and political environment is a prerequisite for family farmers to lead the transformation towards zero hunger and poverty, sustainable and healthy food systems, and an inclusive and resilient society. Pillar 1 of the Global Action Plan focuses on the necessary preconditions that are needed to make sure that progress is made towards the achievement of the UNDF's other goals and expected outcomes.

The first technical session of the global forum presented successful experiences of constructing an enabling policy environment for family farming from regional, national and local perspectives. It also highlighted the need to define family farming well at the national level in order to better target public policies.

**Marcela Villarreal, Director, Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division, FAO**, provided some introductory topics to better frame the panel's discussion, namely what the importance of family farming is today and what role an enabling environment plays in ensuring that the potential of family farming is turned into reality, as well as giving a brief overview of the main results achieved under Pillar 1 of the UNDF since the launch of the decade.

The current crises have multiple implications through the channels of trade, production and prices. A radical transformation in the way we produce, supply and consume food is urgently needed, as hunger rose further in 2021, and it is expected that nearly 670 million people will still be facing hunger in 2030.

Pillar 1 of the UNDF focuses on the construction of an “enabling policy environment” to support the diverse and multilayered contributions of family farming to sustainable development. This requires strong political commitment and policy design, adequate resourcing, inclusive governance, institutional arrangements for participation, advocacy and awareness-raising, and reliable data.

There is a need for a complex set of integrated, coherent and intersectoral policies, strategies and programmes that address the economic, environmental and social constraints that family farmers and their communities face. It is important to properly define the target of the public policies, since the appropriate conceptualization of family farmers as a policy target group in a given context will allow for effective and inclusive policy interventions.

Over the last three years of implementation, the availability, accessibility, quality and usage of data relevant to family farming has increased around the world. In addition, new legal frameworks have been developed and existing frameworks reviewed, while effective strategies have been developed to increase coherence in policy implementation. It is important now to focus on effective mechanisms and innovative ways to increase the reach, flexibility and effectiveness of the implementation of the UNDF.

**Juan Martín Rodríguez, General Secretary, Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (Parlatino)**, presented an overview of the work done to develop a model law on family farming, and shared some lessons learned from experience to categorically ensure that agreed concepts are translated into concrete policy applications. Parlatino includes 23 parliaments from Latin America and the Caribbean, working together with the mandate of promoting regional integration. Parlatino has always focused on the importance of strengthening family farming, local production and rural employment, to fight hunger and malnutrition and eradicate poverty. With this view, various political pronouncements have been made, including among others the joint declaration on family farming<sup>4</sup> and the model law on family farming.<sup>5</sup>

The Parliamentary Front against Hunger, composed of 21 national and 5 regional and subregional parliaments, has been working with Parlatino in a virtuous circle of cooperation, with the Parliamentary Front against Hunger providing relevant inputs to Parlatino, while Parlatino supports the front through its actions. More than 50 laws developed using Parlatino’s model law have been promoted in recent years.

**Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Director of Agriculture, Rural Development and SAARC Development Fund, SAARC**, provided an overview of the process leading to the regional action plan for strengthening family farming in South Asia, which contributed to strengthening awareness, recognition and financial commitment in favour of family farmers in the countries of the region. The process was formulated and carried out via a participative approach, engaging all the relevant stakeholders in the region. Regional body SAARC provided a platform for inclusive policy

dialogue, a framework for fostering experience-sharing among the members and other actors supporting agricultural research in the region. The association also led the drafting of the regional action plan and held regional consultation meetings to formulate strategies to strengthen smallholder family farmers in South Asia.

The SAARC regional action plan resulting from this process will hopefully boost the development of national action plans and help channel regional priorities into these plans. The plan's pillars derived from a contextualization of the Global Action Plan's seven pillars of action. A publication highlighting family farming's constraints, challenges, opportunities and policies at the country and regional level was also released and disseminated. Among the most relevant future activities cited were the planned consultation meetings at country level to encourage members to formulate national plans.

**Arthur Zogan, National Platform for the Promotion of Family Farming in Togo (PNAFAT)**, highlighted the importance of an inclusive process for a successful policy dialogue. The platform is made up of about 30 actors, including youth and women-led organizations, civil society organizations, forest and farm producer organizations, research institutions and consumers' associations, who worked together towards the creation of platforms for policy dialogues at the national and local level. This facilitated the successful mobilization of stakeholders, as well as the inclusion of women and youth in the policy dialogue process.

Future steps to ensure the engagement of all the relevant actors in the next phase of the work to support family farming in the country will include reinforcing the dialogue; increasing sensitization and awareness-raising; ensuring effective participation of family farmers and their organizations, including fisherfolks and pastoralists; strengthening the dialogue with the government; and mobilizing resources and creating a steering committee for the development and endorsement of the action plan.

**Pierre Girard, International Cooperation Centre of Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD)**, reported on the main lessons learned and emerging priorities from the Technical Dialogue on Policy Application of Family Farming Definition held on 4 July 2022. He focused on concrete practices that show how the concept of family farming concept can be developed and implemented on the ground for well-focused, differentiated and effective policy interventions, which are well adapted to the real needs of family farmers. He recalled the importance of developing a definition of family farming at the national level to effectively target family farmers, which in turn allows a variety of transversal issues to be grasped by capturing their multifunctionality.

It is therefore paramount to define family farming from a legislative point of view, which has been done based mainly on the criteria of direct management of the farm and family labour. Data collection about family farming in country is key to ensuring effective targeting, and the

experience of registries and the creation of observatories is particularly successful, as these tools go beyond statistical surveys as a result of greater collaborative and voluntary support from the farmers. Registries allow for better targeting, more effective policy design and implementation, and better evaluation and monitoring. They also allow adaptation over time and quantification of impacts that facilitate institutional work.

**Laura Lorenzo, Director, World Rural Forum, Member of the International Steering Committee for the International Decade of Family Farming**, provided some closing considerations, highlighting the need to reinforce the dialogue, increase sensitization and awareness-raising, and ensure effective participation of family farmers and their organizations, including fishers and pastoralists. She recalled the importance of defining family farming from a legislative point of view, based on agreed criteria and tailored parameters. Building an enabling environment implies a complex set of integrated, coherent and intersectoral policies, strategies and programmes that address the economic, environmental and social constraints that family farmers and their communities face. The UNDF has showed great capacity to create alliances and synergies, and now there is a need to ensure coordination to transform this potential into a better environment in support of family farmers.

## Day 2

20 September 2022

### Technical session 2: Support youth and ensure the generational sustainability of family farming

*Moderation: Anna Korzenszky, Partnership Officer, Family Farming Engagement and Parliamentary Networks, FAO*

The future of food and agriculture lies in the hands of the next generation of family farmers. For viable and sustainable agrifood systems and the generational renewal of family farming, we should ensure young people are able to stay on farms and in rural communities. For this reason, the Global Action Plan of the UNDFP devotes special attention to young farmers. Pillar 2 aims at supporting youth and ensuring the generational sustainability of family farming. This is a transversal pillar, as youth-related issues cut across many diverse problems and activities which relate to the production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food. The technical session on Pillar 2 showcased experiences and practical and policy initiatives from around the world that focused on the support for youth and the generational sustainability of family farming, highlighting the importance of intragenerational and intergenerational knowledge exchange to foster innovation and guarantee the future of sustainable agrifood systems.

**Hannah Wittman, Project Team Leader, HLPE Report on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems**, provided an overview about what generational sustainability means in the context of agrifood systems and its importance in reference to family farming. Intergenerational sustainability means setting the conditions for new generations of farmers to enter the farming sector and to continue to thrive in it, while also supporting the needs of farmers today. This includes questions of family farm succession and inheritance, as well as new pathways and entry points for youth living in urban areas and those who are willing to be involved in farming, its renewal and regeneration.

Young people also need clearly defined pathways to access natural resources in agriculture, fishery and forestry, even as “newcomers” without farming family backgrounds. Access to land and land tenure security, especially for women, is essential to ensure that challenges of intergenerational sustainability are addressed.

**Melissa Gómez Gil and Reem Zorqan, Youth Group, International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)**, brought the experience of the Youth Working Group of the IPC, which has been organizing a global consultation on generational sustainability of family farming. The



initiative brings together family farmers from all age groups to reflect on the challenges and opportunities associated with generational turnover in family farming.

Among the most important challenges identified were the lack of policies to mitigate climate change and its effects on agriculture and young people; the lack of recognition of young peasants as agents of change and their limited participation in decision-making and in social organizations; the difficult access to land and land transfer between generations; and challenges linked to the acquisition of seeds.

**Monica Bufon Augusto, National Youth Secretary, National Confederation of Agricultural Workers (CONTAG)**, shared details of the National Youth and Rural Succession Plan in Brazil, with a focus on the improved access of youth to resources and assets. The plan was developed in coordination with civil society and was approved in 2016 as part of an effort to implement specific public policies in support of rural youth in the country. It was cancelled in 2020. The five main axes of the plan are: land and territory; work and income; education; well-being; and participation and democracy. This holistic approach was expected to deal with the different types of “invisibility” experienced by youth even within associations and unions, and to result in policy dialogue with spaces that are better targeted to include urban youth.

One of the most important achievements of the plan was the broad extent of the capacity-building activities, thanks to a network of 120 000 farmers’ field schools across the entire country. Other instruments to address youth concerns in family farming are conceived to work with rural youth and developed by the confederation, like the programme Jovem Saber, which supports capacity development.

**Koudasse Afantchawo, President, Youth College, Network of Peasant Farmers’ and Agricultural Producers’ Organizations of West Africa (ROPPA)**, focused on the importance of intragenerational knowledge-sharing and dialogue, and on how these educational experiences can be scaled up and institutionalized. The network’s exchange programme for youth highlighted the need to promote intergenerational and intragenerational exchange, to grow a new generation capable of producing sustainably to meet the world’s food needs. To this end, it is fundamental to empower young farmers by reinforcing their technical and advocacy capacities. In order to reach this goal, the programme mobilized peasant leaders, researchers and technical experts to train over 135 young people on agroecological approaches and practices.

**Khoushou Sewraj, Farmers in Agriculture, Livestock, Cooperative & Organic Network, Mauritius**, presented the experience of the Gymnasium, a global educational programme for young farmers based on intergenerational and intragenerational knowledge exchange, which strengthened young farmers’ engagement within their organizations and with national and local policy processes. The programme empowered young farmers by connecting them to platforms

and developing soft skills. Capacity-building activities focused on managing data and networking, with the aim of making them into leaders.

The main bottlenecks encountered were the limited access to investments, networking and knowledge, as well as the low profitability of farming. In order to overcome these challenges, it is important to provide youth with secure access to land and other resources and to strengthen their influence on and participation in policymaking processes.

**Irish Baguilat, Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development**, reported on the lessons learned and the emerging priorities from the Regional Dialogue in Asia and the Pacific, held on 29 June 2022. Over 170 participants from 30 countries attended the event and participated in the preparatory consultations.

The discussions at the regional dialogue stressed the importance of granting youth access and control over land and productive resources, and access to capacity building (including in agroecology and for climate change adaptation). It is recommended that a young farmers' consultation mechanism be set up in the region, and that young farmers be supported to strengthen their leadership capacities and their capacities to participate in the policy dialogue.

The main priorities for action in the region include the urgent need to ensure that family farmers have access to and control over land and productive resources; to strengthen farmers' organizations and cooperatives and their capacity to deliver tailored services; to focus on territorial development approaches and the reinforcement of local agrifood systems; and to cope with climate change and with the diffusion of agroecology and other sustainable agricultural practices.

**Tim Kränzlein, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN organizations in Rome, Member of the International Steering Committee for the International Decade of Family Farming**, provided some concluding considerations. He highlighted the importance of ensuring youth access to resources and finance, the key role played by data and evidence-based decisions, and the centrality of awareness-raising activities and training for empowering rural youth.

The CFS Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition, endorsed during the 50th Plenary Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 50) in October 2022, will hopefully have a positive effect on the implementation of the UNDFP.

### Technical session 3: Promote gender equity in family farming and the leadership role of rural women

*Moderation: Valentina Bodrug-Lungu, President of NGO Gender-Centru and Moldovan State University*

Women are essential to achieving sustainable, productive and inclusive food systems, as well as zero poverty and zero hunger within the framework of the SDGs. Women contribute to food systems not only with their labour, but also with their knowledge of agricultural practices and biodiversity. Rural women diversify income sources and ensure food security, nutrition and well-being for their families and communities. Despite this huge contribution, many women farmers remain the most affected by poverty and social exclusion, and are more likely to not see their basic human rights respected.

Pillar 3 of the Global Action Plan, a transversal pillar, focuses on a set of indicative actions from global to local level to achieve gender equity in family farming and strengthen rural women's leadership role. The third technical session focused on promoting gender equity in family farming and the leadership role of rural women, with interventions and experiences highlighting the essential contribution of women to agriculture, and a call for transformative actions to incentivize the active engagement and the leadership and socioeconomic inclusion of women for ending hunger and for sustainable and resilient agrifood systems.

**Tomàs Duncan Jurado, Permanent Representative of Panama to the Rome-based agencies of the UN**, provided some introductory elements to kick off the discussion and an overview about the key areas to support women who are family farmers and to promote gender equity in family farming. Women are essential for sustainable, inclusive food systems and for zero hunger. They contribute to production, agricultural practices, protection of biodiversity and service provision, but they remain the most affected by poverty and exclusion.

The topic is highly relevant to the work of the UNDF, with particular reference to Pillar 3 and to Pillar 1, the latter of which is focused on creating an enabling environment to strengthen family farming. The holistic approach of this pillar is the most appropriate to deal with this kind of complex issue and to tackle structural challenges.

In Panama, the Ministry of Agricultural Development is implementing concrete actions to support rural women. These include, among others, the establishment of a special fund for family farming and a family farming registry, which are accompanied by a programme to improve rural women's collective action and increase their entrepreneurial capacities, and by the creation of national and local women-led networks.

Panama is also supporting the work done in the framework of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), with particular reference to the development of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition.

**Prem Prakash, National Land Rights Forum (NLRF)**, focused on an experience in Nepal that used a holistic perspective to improve women farmers' access to resources and assets and to improve their engagement in policy processes.

Women's access to, use of, and control over land and other productive resources is essential to ensuring that they are key players in guaranteeing food security and safeguarding biodiversity. Policies dedicated to closing this gap represent one of the most effective approaches to combat rural poverty, support women's productivity to generate marketable surpluses and add value to their food production and transformation. In Nepal, women's lack of access to land ownership and control causes limited access to finance and support from the government, lack of recognition, and scarce policy provision.

The Nepalese forum worked to achieve equal property rights in marriage and to increase land ownership and access to land, subsidies and finance. The successful achievements of the NLRF put the spotlight on the key aspect of accessing land ownership and control, and the related subsidies and financing schemes, and on the importance of implementing already existing policies by partnering with local authorities. Future actions should concentrate on organizing mass campaigns to promote the effective implementation of the existing policies.

**Susanne Jeri, African Women Network of Fish Processors and Traders (AWFishNET)**, focused on the experience of AWFishNET, a demand-driven network established in 2017 and actively engaged in regional African policy processes related to fishery livelihoods. The establishment of the network at the regional level was a huge achievement and allows for experience-sharing and advocating for an enabling policy environment with a unified voice and more influence. Among the main challenges encountered were the very weak structures at the country and regional level, and the lack of a real space for discussion by women. In 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic created new challenges, and a study was conducted to evaluate its specific impact on women fishers in 14 countries of the region, thanks to local women trained to be reporters. The experience of the AWFishNET network in Africa highlights the need for gender-responsive social protection and flexible financial services, and the need to transform decision-making processes and favour women's leadership in policymaking.

For the way forward, key topics to focus on will be advocating for investment in gender-inclusive fisheries and aquaculture governance, in women's leadership in policymaking, in the technical collective capacities of women through ICT, and in networking, in order to increase the viability of women's enterprises.

**Belén Citoler, Deputy Director, World Rural Forum**, reported the experience and outcomes of a global process of exchange among women family farmers. Activities have been carried out over the last three years, contributing to strengthening alliances, networking and collaboration among women family farmers in a network of rural women in action. In 2022, a global exchange focused on the identification of the needs and priority themes in terms of capacity building, and a needs assessment was conducted involving about 60 women farmers from family farmers' organizations.

The exchanges highlighted the need to scale up and reinforce the capacities of women members of forest and farm producer organizations, strengthening their ability to mobilize and lobby and empowering them to reinforce their participation and leadership role. The discussion focused on the centrality of tailored capacity development, aiming to make women's voices heard in order to identify their needs.

Some of most relevant areas that emerged from data collection were the need to invest in technical collective capacities of women through ICT, to invest in networks, to increase the viability of women's enterprises, and to increase women's leadership skills and their advocacy capacities.

**Ricardo Montero Lopez, Technical Coordinator, Central American Agricultural Council of the Central American Integration System**, reported on the key challenges and the emerging priorities from the Regional Dialogue in Latin America and the Caribbean on the UNDF, held on 30 August 2022.

Discussions in the framework of the dialogue focused on the need to ensure economic inclusion of rural women. The subregional action plan on family farming for Central America pays specific attention to the theme, with a dedicated pillar aimed at promoting economic inclusion of rural women and strengthening their technical capacities, and at promoting exchange among women to foster political and cultural change.

The way forward to operationalize the plan includes national and regional gatherings to define the workplan for 2023 in the framework of the subregional implementation of the plan, resource management for implementing meaningful actions, and the search for synergies with other national and regional processes to maximize results and leverage coordination.

**Marcela Villarreal, Director, Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division, FAO**, provided some concluding considerations. Gender inequality is pervasive, and disaggregated data on hunger and malnutrition shows a significant gender gap in all regions of the world. The structural nature of gender inequality in agriculture is well illustrated by the differences in access to land and natural resources. Transformative actions are needed to incentivize the active engagement, leadership

and socioeconomic inclusion of women for ending hunger and for sustainable and resilient agrifood systems.

In order to address the gender gap, reinforcing and financing women-led organizations is paramount, as is strengthening women's voices and participation in policymaking processes. In order to meaningfully participate in decisions and to be productive entrepreneurs, women need their needs fulfilled in terms of capacity building, which could be specific to their situation and different from those needs expressed by men. Fostering the exchange of experiences among women is key to promoting their empowerment and agency.

#### **Technical session 4: Strengthening family farmers' organizations and capacities to generate knowledge, represent farmers and provide inclusive services in the urban–rural continuum**

*Moderation: Arianna Giuliadori, Secretary General, World Farmers' Organization*

Organized farmers can contribute to policy change, linking local solutions to national and global goals and challenges such as the SDGs and climate change. By playing a catalytic role to improve family farmers' opportunities to access their rights, agricultural resources, public services and policies, and to access markets, family farmers' organizations can become the backbone of vibrant and inclusive rural societies.

The fourth technical session saw discussion of different experiences that explored the fundamental importance of bolstering family farmers' collective action, economic inclusion and participation in policy processes, and the fundamental role played by family farmers' organizations and cooperatives.

**Bruno Roelants, Director General, International Cooperative Alliance**, opened the discussion with an overview of the role of family farmers' organizations in sustainable agrifood systems. Cooperatives and other producers' organizations are making a fundamental contribution to the transition towards resilient, sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems, since they are able to find contextualized solutions for local challenges, create solidarity networks and provide inclusive services to support farmers' livelihoods and production.

Over 250 million producers are members of cooperatives, and the majority are family farmers. Cooperatives are fundamental as they are both enterprises and associations of persons governed by democratic principles, and they allow for developing economies of scale (storage, processing facilities, markets, etc.) and for strengthening the capacities of their members. Cooperatives create and maintain around 10 percent of all jobs in rural areas, and they also create indirect jobs (in agritourism, machinery repair, etc). Cooperatives also provide social services for their

members, strengthening their resilience. The democratic structure of cooperatives promotes innovation, while at the same time protecting cultural heritage, and they have an important role in the co-creation of knowledge and policies in all relevant areas.

**Drem-Taing Toutkoul, Coordinator, Subregional Platform of Peasant Organizations of Central Africa**, shared the experience of the National Consultation Council of Rural Producers of Chad, which focused on strengthening the organizational capacities and technical expertise of family farmers' organizations to better serve their members and communities, and to provide services for sustainable livelihoods and a sustainable landscape.

By providing capacity building to its member cooperatives, the national council fostered an increased demand for membership to benefit from the services of the cooperatives; an increase in cultivated areas, as the cooperative is able to facilitate access to inputs and irrigation for its members; an increase in members' income, through collective procurement of inputs and access to institutional markets (the state and NGOs, for distribution to refugees and displaced persons as a result of Boko Haram's activities); the return of young people involved in jihadist activities to engage in agricultural production; and improved access to bank credit for members.

**Gissela Davila, Onda Rural**, reported on the experience of a regional integration initiative, Onda Rural, on family farming issues and inclusive communication services that compiles the experiences and good practices of different actors in Latin America and the Caribbean. The work of Onda Rural highlights the key role of rural communication services in strengthening the participatory communication capacities of farmers' organizations and rural institutions and in giving family farmers the capacity needed for sustainability.

Two other regional platforms have been established, one in Asia (ComDevAsia) and the other in Africa (Yenkasa Africa). The three initiatives developed campaigns and courses to share experiences and resources with the largest possible audience, and they have now reached over 15 million people, with the aim of further increasing this number.

**Alfredo Campos, European Coordination, La Via Campesina**, reported on the key challenges and the emerging priorities from the Regional Dialogue in Europe and Central Asia, held on 24 June 2022. Discussions focused on the importance of relying on participatory processes and favouring the inclusion of producers' organizations through all the stages of policymaking processes, and on the importance of community-led approaches and integrated community development.

The speaker emphasized that issuing laws and policies is not enough. They must be put into practice and the resources needed for implementation must be provided. Policymaking processes need to be more inclusive and to better include small-scale family farmers in the region, in order to find effective local solutions to global challenges. In this framework, strengthening farmers' organizations is key to improve their role and support the advancement

of the UNDF in the region where, despite encouraging ongoing processes at the national level, the formal adoption of national action plans and other policies and laws conducive to family farming is proceeding slowly.

The UNDF and the UN agencies FAO and IFAD play a fundamental role at the global, regional and national levels, promoting an institutional dialogue with forest and farm producer organizations to achieve the goals of the UNDF. Three and a half years after its launch, with the experiences acquired and the challenges encountered, it is important to reconsider priorities and strategies and the time horizon to achieve these goals.

The following **interactive discussion** between participants focused on the importance of reliable data to provide solid evidence that allows for a full recognition of family farmers' role and for the formulation of effective and tailored policies and interventions; the importance of including community-led approaches and tools to understand and analyse existing power dynamics within family farming and rural communities as an entry point to increasing family farmers' voice, rights and agency; the urgent need for rural credit and banking/financial instruments; the need to change the priorities of governments and to better focus on small-scale producers; and the importance of using local languages for communication and policy dialogue, to ensure that farmers are represented.

**Mario Arvelo, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the Rome-based agencies of the UN, Member of the International Steering Committee for the International Decade of Family Farming**, provided some concluding considerations. Organizations are key in addressing the multilayered challenges that we are facing today, and those that will arise in the future. Producers' organizations and cooperatives are able to fight inequality, as they adopt democratic values as a principle and thus promote inclusion. Their role is of the utmost importance in granting family farmers access to formal markets and enabling them to access credit and resources and to profit from economies of scale. This ultimately improves their living conditions and the food and nutrition security of their communities. The speaker invited all actors to work together with farmers' organizations in the framework of the UNDF, and to support coordination with the CFS.



## Day 3

21 September 2022

### Technical session 5: Improve socioeconomic inclusion, resilience and well-being of family farmers, rural households and communities

*Moderation: Sean Cox, Agricultural Attaché (USDA), US Mission to the UN in Rome, Member of the International Steering Committee for the International Decade of Family Farming*

Although family farming is the foundation of food security and sustainable healthy food systems, it is family farmers who are the most impacted by poverty and vulnerability and who face the highest levels of economic, financial, social and environmental risk. Pillar 5 of the Global Action Plan focuses on helping family farmers increase their productivity, improving their livelihoods and economic viability in a manner that enables them to escape poverty and increase resilience. The fifth technical session brought examples of practical and policy initiatives illustrating different aspects and necessary steps towards improving the socioeconomic inclusion, resilience and well-being of family farmers. The session highlighted the importance of expanding social protection systems and securing appropriate financial instruments for family farmers and for their communities, while strengthening collective action to lead to effective and inclusive public policies.

**Santiago Rojas, Director, National Institute of Agricultural Development (INDAP), Ministry of Agriculture, Chile**, provided an overview on the importance of a holistic vision to strengthen the resilience and well-being of family farmers and their communities, while addressing the gender gap and the lack of youth participation.

A study of the rural environment in Chile shows that 60 percent of farmers have low average income and low levels of education, and more than 50 percent of farmers do not have internet access. These are gaps of deep concern when trying to bolster the resilience and capacity of rural family farmers.

In order to achieve the SDGs, it is essential to work effectively on the UNDF's Global Action Plan. There is no doubt that the first three years of the decade have been challenging, with the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, and all the other issues that family farmers face. The Ministry of Agriculture in Chile has been working with farmers to limit the impact of the fluctuations of international markets by promoting the use of innovative approaches and varied fertilizers, and by focusing on the public purchasing system for school meals using an agroecological and gender-sensitive lens.

**Joseph Rostand Olinga Biwole, Country Director, IFAD**, presented a social protection project in Madagascar that provided investments specifically aimed at reducing household vulnerability through access to social protection services and public goods, in particular for youth, women, and their communities.

The most vulnerable may fall through the gaps and miss out on targeted interventions. The aim of this project was to ensure that they can be lifted out of the realm of poverty to become part of the community at large. The project promoted investment in rural micro-projects and focused on the direct targeting of beneficiaries by the communities themselves, assisting around 1 500 family farms with productive micro-projects to support the most vulnerable households.

It is essential to consider local context and changes in trends whenever developing projects or programmes. Relevant data was used to target interventions and improve livelihoods. However, the dynamics of poverty are complex and require real coordination and collaboration between a number of development partners working in all sectors, including governance, education, health, energy and infrastructure.

**Wafaa El Dikah Hamzé, Senior Advisor, Agriculture & Int'l Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Lebanon**, presented some measures reinforcing social protection and socioeconomic inclusion for family farmers in rural areas of Lebanon, highlighting the instrumental role of the farmers' registry for the collection of accurate information on vulnerable farmers and on the geographical distribution of farms, to guarantee social recognition of family farmers and their access to social security schemes.

In Lebanon, the agriculture sector is largely informal and dominated by small-scale family farms. Lack of formal recognition of the sector by labour laws has caused exclusion from social security and benefits. A law has been drafted to allow for the official recognition of the farmer registry, which seeks to ensure access to agriculture and social services and facilitate access to social security and assistance benefits. The registry would also allow for gender-disaggregated data on farmers and on the management and control of subsidies, thus ensuring transparent and fair distribution, creating linkages with national emergency response systems and putting in place criteria to trigger the expansion of social safety nets.

**Arturo Bisoño, Director of Family Farming, Progressing with Solidarity Program, the Dominican Republic**, presented a successful experience on strengthening the socioeconomic inclusion of family farmers by including them in local, high-quality product markets. The Progressing with Solidarity Program promotes socioeconomic inclusion of vulnerable groups through family farming, improving their access to markets, adequate remuneration and income opportunities. The target group for the project was the rural community of Villa Poppy, where 65 percent of households have an income of under USD 20 a month and 80 percent depend on

agriculture. Ninety percent of product sales were through intermediaries, with little profit for the farmers.

A participatory field study was carried out to formulate an effective programme to include Villa Poppy in more profitable markets of high-quality products, thanks to an improved irrigation system. Farmers began selling to hotels and restaurants and introduced previously unknown products.

**Mohamed Elkaramany, Director, Egyptian Food Bank**, reported on the main insights of the Regional Dialogue in the Near East and North Africa, held on 19 May 2022. More than 160 participants attended the event, including representatives of governments, specialized technical agencies, family farmers' organizations, academia and research institutes, and NGOs and civil society organizations. Participants exchanged and proposed recommendations for the way forward for implementation of the UNDF in the region, with a focus on promoting participative policy dialogue for effective support to family farmers; reinforcing socioeconomic inclusion and resilience to shocks; and supporting the diversification of markets and the creation of economic opportunities for small-scale family farmers.

Among the main recommendations for the future implementation of the UNDF in the region was the importance of granting women and youth access to resources and land to address structural vulnerabilities, protecting land tenure and land rights, and addressing the lack of social protection in rural areas for farmers to build resilience to crises.

Discussions highlighted that the local dimension of family farming is key to enhancing resilience strategies to face crises. To this end, defining family farming at the regional level and within the different national contexts is the first step to elaborating tailored solutions and differentiated policies and interventions that will fill the gap between the support provided to family farmers and the support provided to agribusiness.

**Adriano Campolina, Senior Policy Officer, Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division, FAO**, closed the session by highlighting the importance of expanding social protection systems and addressing the gaps that exist, in a context of increased vulnerability of family farmers. Securing access to land, credit and markets, and making sure that digitalization is inclusive, are key aspects to increasing farmers' resilience. The UNDF relies on collective action to hold governments to account, and it is meant to leave nobody behind and ensure all kinds of discrimination are addressed.

## Technical session 6: Promote sustainability of family farming for climate-resilient food systems

*Moderation: Alessandro Meschinelli, Innovation Systems Adviser, Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR)*

Global challenges related to the multiple crises (climate, energy, etc.), as well as to population growth and dietary changes, have put increasing pressure on an already vulnerable agricultural system to provide everyone with sufficient and healthy food. In order to meet the needs of present and future generations, it is essential to accelerate a transition towards more sustainable food and agriculture systems. Pillar 6 of the Global Action Plan offers the opportunity to simultaneously address effects of climate change, foster the sustainability of food systems, and improve the sustainability of the management and use of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, with impacts across the three dimensions of sustainability.

The sixth technical session focused on promoting sustainability of family farming for climate-resilient food systems, with experiences related to sanitary regulations and animal health policy issues and traditional, climate-resilient crops. These experiences highlighted the increasing vulnerability of pastoralist and livestock keepers caused by their restricted mobility as a result of climate change.

**Tiina Huvio, Board Member, AgriCord, Forest and Farm Facilities Program**, presented an overview of the key areas to promoting sustainable and climate-resilient family farming. The road map for more sustainable and climate-resilient agrifood systems needs strong engagement with local family farmers, who are motivated but often unable to act as a result of the lack of resources. It is important to adopt a holistic approach considering production, processing, distribution and marketing issues, and taking into account family farmers' livelihood systems. There is a need for a strong collaboration between all actors to develop and adopt new farming practices and techniques which are based on locally specific knowledge, which promote efficient use and sustainable management of natural resources, and which are economically viable for the farmers. The transition would necessarily require some years of low yields, and farmers must receive the support of all actors and networks involved, from policymakers to those providing tailored technical assistance. This will only be possible if strong and inclusive producers' organizations are in place, providing farmers with resources and services and helping them get their voices heard.

**Robyn Alders, Senior Consulting Fellow, Global Health Programme, Chatham House**, focused on sanitary regulations for animal health tailored to family farming in Australia. Animal health and livestock-raising are not just aspects of an economic activity, they are also related to human health, well-being and culture. However, the animal health sector is often under-resourced at all levels, from local to national. Three key animal health policy issues were highlighted: biosecurity

measures tailored to specific production systems and considering relative risk and feasibility under local conditions; delivery of animal health services and increasing farmers' capacity and knowledge to prevent infectious disease; and access to local, appropriate slaughter sites.

**Kyle Stice, Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON)**, shared the experience of The Breadfruit People, a regional network gathering all actors, from producers to processors, who work with the crop. Breadfruit is a traditional, climate-resilient crop that is gluten-free and low in glucose, and whose trees require limited care. The experience highlighted the centrality of promoting the production of climate-resilient crops, which are rooted in traditional and cultural knowledge, to ensure food security and income generation for small-scale family farmers. The network helped develop partnerships and synergies among members, facilitated the sharing of news and market information, and supported research and knowledge management through the publication of a technical guide, the organization of webinars, and by sharing information through its website and on social media.

**Blamah Jallo, Coordinator, Réseau Billital Maroobé**, assessed the vulnerability experienced by pastoralists in a context of multiple crises in the Sahel. Pastoralism in the Sahel has a significant importance and plays a key role in ensuring food security, especially considering the high percentage of production for self-consumption. However, it was emphasized that the climate and security crises are strongly impacting pastoralists' livelihoods, already affected by limited access to markets, inputs, water access points, and threatened by the increasing insecurity in the entire area. It was also stressed that measures that limit mobility and transhumance, which is central to coping with shocks and climatic variability, are undermining their adaptation strategies and exacerbating the impact of those crises.

In order to formulate appropriate strategies, there is a need for an integrated approach which takes into account risks related to conflicts, climate and environmental degradation, and which relies on local actors and producers' organizations as key players because of their knowledge of local and social dynamics. It is important to adopt a conflict-sensitive approach in all the activities carried out, to set up endogenous systems for monitoring and warning of multifaceted shocks, and to innovate by setting up insurance mechanisms adapted to the realities of small Sahelian herders.

The **interactive discussion** focused on the need to reshape the architecture of climate funding toward more fast-track procedures for actions to address climate change in agriculture. The strengths of the coping strategies developed by local and vulnerable communities should be capitalized and better included into wider strategies. It is important to advocate with governments for the development of policies aimed to enhance the resilience of local food systems and family farmers, especially those communities in a situation of protracted crisis.

**Zainal Arifin Fuad, La Via Campesina, Member of the International Steering Committee for the International Decade of Family Farming**, delivered concluding remarks. He recalled the main topics addressed through the experiences assessed in the session, highlighted the importance of collaboration and partnership to deal with the multifaceted impacts of climate change, and stressed the importance of valorizing local knowledge and capacity building. He also called for a renewed international commitment under the umbrella of the UNDRR and of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030, and in national contexts, with policies and processes led by governments. There is need for an increased commitment of international institutions to support the implementation of the UNDRR. The 28th session of FAO’s Committee on Agriculture (COAG), held in July 2022, recommended specific actions for all actors, namely governments, FAO and IFAD, to support the UNDRR.

### **Technical session 7: Strengthen the multidimensionality of family farming to promote social innovations contributing to territorial development and food systems that safeguard biodiversity, the environment and culture**

*Moderation: Guilherme Brady, Head of Unit, Family Farming Engagement and Parliamentary Networks, FAO*

Family farmers are heterogeneous constellations. This heterogeneity is a result of family farming’s intrinsic nexus between the way family farmers produce and live. This includes the different dimensions of family farming, which are not limited to production, but include diverse non-agricultural activities, to ensure the security of family consumption, the sustainability of agroecosystems and landscape management, and the transmission of locally and traditionally rooted knowledge, cultural heritage and social values. Pillar 7 of the Global Action Plan offers the opportunity to promote integrated and sustainable territorial planning, responding to the needs of both urban and rural populations while sustainably managing natural resources and ecosystems.

The seventh technical session concluded the technical discussions by emphasizing the need to further strengthen the multidimensionality of family farming. Speakers from Colombia, India, Nicaragua and Spain demonstrated via diverse examples that traditional knowledge does not contradict with innovation; in fact, the two complement each other. The session underlined the urgent need to interconnect and integrate different policy areas in order to strengthen the multidimensional contribution of family farming to agrifood systems.

**Jose Maria García Álvarez Coque, Professor of Agrarian Economics, Polytechnic University of Valencia-UPV**, provided some introductory elements to better frame the reflection on how to strengthen the diverse functions of family farming to promote social innovation and diversification of employment opportunities, to improve interconnections between rural and urban areas, and to generate benefits for society as a whole.

Family farming has developed many successful tailored solutions related to its different environmental, social and economic functions by interconnecting traditional, local knowledge with emerging tools and approaches. Its role in ensuring food security and environmental sustainability remains essential, considering that on average family farmers use significantly fewer chemical inputs than other farmers. The multidimensionality of family farming allows effective action on a range of issues: addressing youth outflows and intergenerational renewal; promoting innovative activities that also involve citizens (e.g. responsible tourism, social economy and cultural events); promoting alliances between different actors (e.g. consumer associations, environmentalists, women, universities and municipalities); valuing local systems that integrate dimensions, such as landscape culture identity (e.g. agrobiodiversity, Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems). This multidimensionality does not contradict family farmers' capacity to supply food but rather positions them as engines of conservation of natural resources who generate well-being and livelihoods in their communities.

**German Dario Espitia Prieto, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Colombia**, offered some insights on a successful experience that promotes market solutions for family farmers and improves services built on local knowledge through South–South cooperation. Proyecto Sembrando Capacidades is an exchange programme between Colombia and Brazil, implemented with the support of FAO between 2019 and 2021 and based on five axes: agricultural extension, agricultural innovation, agroecology, short marketing circuits, and characterization of family farmers. Eight experiences from Colombia and four from Brazil were assessed to produce policy recommendations focused on favouring the well-being of producers and consumers, reducing food waste and loss through direct contact between the two groups (and with the reinforcement of virtual platforms to serve this aim), and promoting the inclusion of family farmers in local public procurement markets.

**Marlen Sanchez, Latin American Institute of Agroecology**, focused on the synergies between production systems (fisheries, aquaculture, forestry, crops and livestock) and an enhanced management of biodiversity as a contribution to safeguard biodiversity, the environment and culture. The experience of the institute, which is based in Nicaragua, highlights the importance of rediscovering the harmony between people and nature to build synergies between production systems. Promoting access to natural resources, education and training for family farmers is a necessary step to bring sustainable transformations. It was emphasized that agroecology training institutions help young people to recover their agricultural, indigenous identity, with a comprehensive training approach that combines formal and informal methods from the classroom to the field. The speaker called for governments and policies to support these education approaches at the local level.

**Meenakshi Choudhary, Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)**, brought the experience of the KAMLA Initiative in India, which helps women by creating new employment opportunities, promoting traditional food and nutrition, and improving connections with urban areas.

The initiative was developed to address the decrease in millet cultivation resulting from lower prices, which has been driven by changes in consumption patterns, conversion of irrigated areas for wheat and rice cultivation, low yields, and the increasing costs of intermediaries. It was focused on the promotion of a green and sustainable lifestyle by creating a place where people can access traditional and nutritious food and learn healthy recipes and environmentally friendly lifestyle practices.

The KAMLA Initiative has shown how promoting a green and sustainable lifestyle and producing and commercializing traditional, nutritious food can foster women's empowerment, create employment and also ensure fair prices for family farmers.

**Tania Eulalia Martínez Cruz, Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems**, reported on the main lessons learned from the Technical Dialogue on Family Farming and Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, held on 16 September 2022.

The event contributed to identifying policy areas that may be common, overlapping, or which present potential synergies between family farmers and Indigenous Peoples. Both groups are rooted in solidarity, tradition and territorial identity, and both experience difficulties in accessing remunerable markets. Discussions focused on the key role played by enforcing label certification schemes that empower people and reinforce culture and identity. To this end, policies should be created with a participative process fully involving Indigenous Peoples and family farmers, so they can acknowledge their rights and opportunities. Youth play a fundamental role, as they are the future custodians of biodiversity and of knowledge of sustainable practices, and they need to be better engaged in policymaking processes and in policy dialogue.

**Hildegard Lingnau, Executive Secretary of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR)**, delivered some closing remarks, highlighting the importance of strengthening the multidimensionality of family farming, bringing actors together to come up with solutions, and promoting collective actors.

Traditional knowledge is not contradictory to innovation. To leverage multidimensionality, it is important to integrate policy areas in order to be more effective and achieve results in different dimensions.



## Day 4

22 September 2022

### Closing session: Key findings and recommendations

*Moderation: Marcela Villarreal, Director, Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division, FAO*

After the extensive sharing of experiences and good practices in the first three days of the global forum, the closing session aimed to contribute to the co-development of a joint agenda of action for the next period of UNDFP implementation, with a view to accelerating a transition to context-specific, diversified, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems, for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life for rural communities.

**Marcela Villarreal, Director, Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division, FAO**, opened the session and recalled some of the important messages which had emerged over the past few days. The UNDFP was launched more than three years ago, when we lived in a different reality. Today we face a tougher context and more serious challenges. The importance of family farming in this context is more evident than ever: family farmers, when supported with affirmative policies and programmes, have a unique capacity to redress the failures and weaknesses of agrifood systems, responding to global problems with contextualized, local solutions. Their unique feature, multidimensionality, is not contradictory to their ability to supply food, but in fact works as an engine that generates well-being and diverse means of subsistence in the rural–urban continuum. However, in order to better support this feature, it has been highlighted that it is critically important to create solid interconnections between different topics and to increase the coordination between traditionally independent sectoral policies. One of the areas in which innovations are most needed is the way policies are formulated and implemented.

**Guilherme Brady, Head of Unit, Family Farming Engagement and Parliamentary Networks, FAO**, briefly described the knowledge products produced or in development by the FAO–IFAD Secretariat of the UNDFP to offer technical support to strengthen producers' organizations and their capacity to deliver inclusive services and to support the implementation of sound policies. They include, among others, a legislative and regulatory analysis, checklist and legal brief on family farming; a learning guide on empowering farmers through enhancing social capital; a learning framework for inclusive, integrated and innovative public policy cycles for family farming; a methodology to develop data on family farming, including in the context of COVID-19, using statistically valid samples to provide knowledge to inform policymaking processes targeting family farming; and guidelines for mainstreaming gender equality in national action plans and public policies.

**Mario Acunzo, Communication for Development Team Leader, Family Farming Engagement and Parliamentary Networks, FAO, and Stella Tyrol, College of Development Communication at the University of the Philippines Los Baños**, presented some activities on rural communication services for family farming as a collaborative framework to advance inclusive communication services by supporting and scaling up existing initiatives and strengthening linkages between rural institutions, farmers' organizations and communities. A consultative process took place involving the three UNDF regional platforms, in Asia (ComDevAsia), Africa (Yenkasa Africa) and Latin America and the Caribbean (Onda Rural), and recommendations were elaborated to mainstream rural communication services into policies, to support the implementation of National Action Plans for Family Farming through Communication for Development strategies, and to design specific rural communication services in the context of national action plans and field projects.

**Kathryn Hollifield, Program Manager, Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP)**, shared a quick overview of GAFSP, which is a financing platform launched by the Group of Seven (G7) and the Group of Twenty (G20) in response to the 2007/8 food price crisis. It supports medium- to long-term investment in agriculture and food security in the world's poorest countries. The programme exclusively finances smallholders and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and relies on a set of cross-cutting priorities that have continued to evolve over time to reflect a deepening awareness of food system imperatives.

The speaker also informed the forum of the upcoming launch of a call for proposals meant to address the ongoing crises and to enable small-scale farmers to have the necessary tools to respond to future crises. The call for proposals is divided into two parts. The first will be launched on 27 September 2022 and is dedicated to project proposals by countries. The second part will be launched before the end of 2022 and will be dedicated to project proposals designed by producers' organizations. A minimum of USD 25 million will be made available via the call for proposals, and further details will be shared in the coming weeks.

#### Regional round table to highlight key priorities and recommendations for the way forward

*Moderation: Luiz Beduschi, Policy Officer, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO*

**Esther Penunia, Secretary General of the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development, Forest and Farm Facilities Program**, reported on the main recommendations that emerged from the discussion held on the first day of a connected event, Saving Our Future: Investing in Locally led Diversification for Climate Resilience and Food Security, a hybrid conference taking place in Hanoi, Viet Nam, from 22 to 26 September 2022. The event gathered 87 participants from 29 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe, and focused on

discussing the way forest and farm smallholder businesses can flourish in the face of climate change by diversifying their products, markets and networks.

The speaker highlighted that small-scale family farmers are the most vulnerable to climate risk, but they are also solution providers who can act on multiple aspects and dimensions. Forest and farm producer organizations are instrumental to leverage this potential, as they provide different and inclusive services for increasing the livelihoods and resilience of their members and need to be strengthened and supported.

Some key priorities were identified for the future implementation of the UNDFP legal and policy frameworks, specifically on land rights, agroecology and agroforestry. They included involving family farmers in the formulation and implementation of policies; enhancing and scaling up family farmers' capacities to provide ecosystem services as well as social protection measures to address the climate crisis; recognizing and supporting forest and farm producer organizations and cooperatives and their role as the voice of family farmers, and in providing economic services to their members; promoting gender equality, inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and ethnic minorities, and attracting youth to agriculture; and providing direct financing to small-scale family farmers through their forest and farm producer organizations.

**Pan Sopheap, Vice-Chairperson, Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (AsiaDHRRA), and Chairperson, Cambodian Partnership for the Development of Human Resource in Rural Areas Association (CambodHRRRA),** focused on some of the achievements the past three years of UNDFP implementation and the key messages that had emerged from the Regional Dialogue in Asia and the Pacific in preparation for the UNDFP.

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, many results were achieved in the framework of the UNDFP. Among the most important were the integration of UNDFP-focused regional initiatives in the final draft of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Master Plan on Rural Development 2022 to 2026, the development and publication of a regional action plan for family farming 2022 by SAARC, national action plans being implemented at different stages in Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines, and ongoing mobilization to develop national action plans in Bangladesh, India, Japan and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The key challenges faced by family farmers in the region include lack of recognition and understanding, weak advocacy and the weak interest of governments. Among the main lessons learned from the first three years of implementation was the important role played by multistakeholder processes and platforms, the importance of involving youth, and the benefits of partnerships between civil society organizations and governments.

Among the main recommendations for the way forward were the following: intensify awareness-raising around family farming and the UNDFP among agricultural and rural

stakeholders and the public sector; optimize institutional partnerships with intergovernmental bodies (ASEAN, SAARC, etc.); scale up advocacy efforts for agrarian reforms and targeted public policies and regulations; invest in the creation and/or strengthening of National Committees of Family Farming; strengthen forest and farm producer organizations and their service delivery capacity; and improve resilience of family farming production systems.

Some key tools and mechanisms for the way forward were identified, such as the establishment of funding facilities in support of family farming and the national action plans, and investments to support forest and farm producer organizations in promoting agroecology and the transformation of food systems.

**Ousseini Ouedraogo, Executive Secretary, Network of Peasant Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organizations of West Africa (ROPPA)**, focused on highlighting key priorities and recommendations from Africa. He argued that strong participation of forest and farm producer organizations is key, as it allows improvements in governance and collaboration with the public sector. The ROPPA network has been committed to working with governments on policy formulation since the early 2000s. Its aims include putting into practice policies for food security and implementing advocacy activities to foster recognition of family farming, as well as elaborating the policies and leveraging the solutions generated by family farmers.

Among the main challenges in the region is the weak implementation of currently existing policies, and the speaker stressed that implementation should be sustained with resource mobilization, especially for food sovereignty. He also listed weak domestic and regional markets, limited infrastructure, climate change and land degradation as key regional challenges.

Recommendations for the next period of implementation of the UNDFP include scaling up the mobilization of stakeholders at the global level and of the regional and country offices of FAO and IFAD; supporting the elaboration of national action plans; involving governments more effectively, given that they are essential for UNDFP implementation; reinforcing the capacities of the National Committees of Family Farming, their understanding of the national action plans and the path to implementation; and establishing a global fund in support of family farming and a follow-up mechanism to monitor the adoption of the recommendations in UNDFP implementation.

**Nino Tsilosani, Chairperson, Committee on Agrarian Issues at the Parliament of Georgia**, focused on the national experience in support of family farming. In 2012 the Government of Georgia implemented different programmes, but they were fragmented and highlighted the need for a more integrated approach. The main challenges faced were land fragmentation, limited access to land, and the weakness of cooperatives and organizations. The COVID-19 pandemic brought some additional issues but did not have negative impacts on production and supply, thanks to sector-wide measures implemented with the support of donor organizations.

The speaker noted that the role and position of women in family farming should be strengthened and their contribution recognized, especially in transformation and tourism-related activities.

There is ongoing work with FAO to better focus the country policy framework on small-scale family farming, thanks to the promotion of legislation to identify the categories to put in place specific policies and to establish a registry of farmers.

**Lautaro Viscay, Technical Secretariat, Specialized Meeting on Family Farming (REAF)**, highlighted the importance of policy dialogue, as shown by the experience of the REAF forum in Latin America, which offers all relevant actors an institutionalized space to interact with a formal entity of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) to jointly develop public policies.

Among the key areas of work was the definition of family farming based on agreed criteria, which was needed in order to establish registries that are the entry point for the concrete implementation of differentiated policies in support of family farming. Family farmers play a key role in transforming agrifood systems and the UNDFP should be instrumental to that and concentrate on creating institutional frameworks in support of family farming. Among the key thematic areas which work in support of family farming should concentrate on are: access to credit and to financial services; access to land and productive resources, especially for youth; promotion of gender equality; a focus on agroecology, sustainable production practices and tailored innovation; support for adaptation strategies; and remuneration for the ecosystemic services provided.

The major goal to achieve would be creating clear strategies by strengthening the dialogue with governments and their recognition of issues related to family farming, to scale up dialogue at different levels, and to promote intersectorality and interministerial coordination, as well as the formulation of flexible policies that can be reoriented in this time of uncertainty.

**Ahmed Sourani, General Coordinator, Gaza Urban & Peri-urban Agriculture Platform (GUPAP)**, reported on some of the key achievements, challenges and recommendations for the implementation of the UNDFP in the Near East and North Africa.

The drafting of a regional action plan for family farming was facilitated by FAO and IFAD with the participation of key regional actors, to contextualize the UNDFP Global Action Plan to respond to regional challenges, and the plan was validated and finalized. In Tunisia, the National Action Plan on Family Farming 2021–2028 was developed and approved through a participatory process involving governmental entities and farmers' organizations. The GUPAP platform in Palestine fostered policy dialogue with its members, including civil society organizations, community-based organizations, ministries and municipalities, to review and develop national urban and peri-urban family farming policies and frameworks.

The main recommendations on the implementation of the UNDF in the region are: focus on granting women and youth access to resources and land to address structural vulnerabilities, protecting land tenure and land rights, and address the lack of social protection in rural, urban and peri-urban areas to build resilience to crisis; address the need for more financial support by linking the Global Action Plan to different funding opportunities; focus on the local dimension of family farming to enhance resilience strategies to face crisis; define family farming within the different national context to elaborate tailored solutions and differentiated policies and interventions; support integration with the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT); encourage and support regional participatory capacity sharing and family farming platforms and networks.

**Alberto Broch, Vice-President, World Rural Forum**, recalled that, since 2008, the forum has been campaigning alongside other organizations in favour of family farmers, contributing to the establishment of the International Year of Family Farming, and then to the decade. The UNDF is an initiative that allows organizations to work together for policies, national action plans, and so on, promoting an inclusive dialogue, valuing various platforms and National Committees of Family Farming. Under its umbrella a lot has been accomplished, but these efforts are not yet enough. Progress has been unequal, and in most cases, progress does not adequately meet the institutional challenges that we face. In particular, there is a need to strengthen the institutional frameworks already in place and to build capacities among all involved actors.

There is need for a stronger commitment from governments, with the allocation of adequate resources to implement, to build this institutionalization and to strengthen forest and farm producer organizations. Among the key policy and thematic areas to address are the support for sustainable production practices, the priority of ensuring access to land and natural resources, the support for cooperatives and farmers' organizations, the focus on short food supply chains, and the territorial approach.

An **interactive discussion** followed between the participants, focused on the importance of using local languages and developing offline and online services in the field. It was highlighted that family farmers are key development agents who need support, resources and capacity building to transform their whole potential into reality. An urgent priority is promoting a shift from focusing on agribusiness policies to a more substantial recognition of family farmers, their actual contribution to food security and their productive potential, in order to promote transformation of agrifood systems and to address youth outmigration from rural areas.

#### Closing remarks

**Zainal Arifin Fuad, La Via Campesina, Member of the International Steering Committee for the International Decade of Family Farming**, recalled the main topics addressed over the four days

and expressed appreciation to all those organizing and contributing to the successful global forum. He stressed that family farmers produce 80 percent of the world's food, but there is no positive correlation between their contribution to food security and their livelihoods, as they are often poor and food insecure themselves. The different crises that are hindering family farmers' livelihoods put a spotlight on the structural weaknesses which were already present in our food systems. Family farmers can bring solutions, but policies should be developed with them and not for them. These policies should be rooted in inclusivity and should aim at strengthening family farmers' livelihoods.

The UNDFE brought together different actors who are working together, specifically under the framework of Pillar 1 on developing an enabling environment. This pillar functions as an umbrella to work towards achieving the other pillars. In order to meet the UNDFE's goals, it is important to connect and establish synergies with other existing international instruments and tools, like the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT), and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, among others.

He called for an increased commitment on behalf of FAO and IFAD, as also recommended by the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) at its 28th session, and for a more effective implementation of the UNDFE at the country level.

**Tom Mwangi Anyonge, Director, Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division, IFAD**, highlighted the rich discussion that had taken place at the forum, with over 70 speakers covering more than 40 countries, and representing a wide range of stakeholders, including ministries, farmers' organizations, civil society organizations and research institutes. During these sessions, a key recurrent topic was the importance of bolstering these multistakeholder partnerships to effectively move forward with UNDFE implementation.

Another key topic was family farmers' immense potential to act as drivers of change. IFAD is investing in small-scale family farmers, who are in need of better infrastructure; of more efficient ways to reach domestic and regional markets; of better capacity to sustain production, incomes and livelihoods; and of greater resilience.

This is where the UNDFE can play a key role, and IFAD stands ready to scale up its support for the UNDFE in close collaboration with FAO. The joint FAO–IFAD Secretariat will step up its engagement, producing global knowledge products, organizing forums like this one, and supporting with capacity building and policy engagement. But to do so, all actors should make sure to mobilize enough resources to support the implementation of the UNDFE, for which the secretariat counts on everyone's support.

**Marcela Villarreal, Director, Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division, FAO**, highlighted the impressive participation at this four-day event, with about 1 700 people registered to take part in the different sessions of the forum. The overall process that started in May 2022, including the regional and technical dialogues and culminating in the global forum, brought together more than 3 000 participants to discuss 133 experiences from countries and regions around the world. The four days of the forum discussions shed new light on good practices, successful processes, experiences and concrete policy solutions, which are extremely useful to highlight the key emerging policy and technical areas, and a concrete starting point to scale up and scale out efforts to promote the implementation of the UNDFE.

The second report on the implementation of the UNDFE will be delivered next year and will take into account all the experiences, process and recommendations that the speakers and the participants brought to the forum. Similarly, the main outcomes that emerged from the different sessions will be shared in the framework of the next meeting of the International Steering Committee for the International Decade of Family Farming, to ensure that they inform the future implementation of the UNDFE.

One of the main successes of this event was the opportunity to draw attention to the concrete implementation and the challenges that the decade entails. There are many mechanisms and processes which offer interesting opportunities and foster fruitful synergies with the activities under the umbrella of the UNDFE at the national level. The joint secretariat is committed to developing a joint FAO–IFAD resource mobilization strategy to scale up the implementation of priority areas of work. FAO remains committed to supporting governments and all other stakeholders to design and put into practice innovative actions to ensure that family farmers lead this transformation towards the world we all want.



## Web resources

Webpage of the event in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Russian](#)

Webstream: [Day 1](#) | [Day 2](#) | [Day 3](#) | [Day 4](#)

Agenda of the global forum in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Russian](#)

Concept note of the global forum in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Russian](#)

Infographic on the main results of the UNDF in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Russian](#)

More about the global forum's High-Level Opening Session: [press release](#) and [Flickr album](#)

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<sup>2</sup> FAO, SAC, AFA & ICA-AP. 2022. *UNDF regional action plan for strengthening family farming in South Asia 2021–2028*. Bangkok, FAO. <https://www.fao.org/3/cb8345en/cb8345en.pdf>

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