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CONFERENCE

Thirty-ninth Session

Rome, 6-13 June 2015

Evaluation of the International Year of Family Farming 2014

Executive Summary

The International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) was set up with the objective of supporting family farmers to reach their potential to eradicate hunger through: a) supporting the development of policies conducive to sustainable family farming; b) increasing knowledge, communication and public awareness; c) attaining a better understanding of family farmers' needs, potential and constraints, and d) creating synergies for sustainability. FAO, as requested by the United Nations General Assembly, facilitated the implementation of the IYFF, contributing to the successful achievement of all four objectives through multi-stakeholder policy dialogues in all regions and at global level, awareness raising events, production of a flagship and many other publications, advocacy and outreach. This resulted in improved knowledge, information, and public perception of family farming while generating political momentum that will last in the future. The regional and country initiatives that were undertaken brought support to the sector and further integrated family farming in the FAO Strategic Framework, and policies stemming from political commitment gained at all levels throughout the Year will carry the impact of the IYFF beyond 2014.

Suggested Action by the Conference

The Conference is invited to:

- Endorse the Report on the Evaluation of the International Year of Family Farming 2014.
- Recognize the achievements of the International Year in raising public awareness on the contribution of family farming in eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development.
- Recognize the active involvement of Member Nations and the contribution of FAO in supporting and coordinating activities of the International Year.

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I. Overview

1. The 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly declared 2014 the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) and invited FAO to facilitate its implementation. The purpose of the Year was to promote broad discussion and cooperation to increase awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by family farmers as well as to help identify the enabling policy environment to support them. The Year was officially launched on 22 November 2013 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Over the Year, UN agencies, governments, family farmers' organizations, civil society, the private sector, academia, research institutions and other actors joined efforts to carry out a successful policy dialogue at national, regional and international levels. The IYFF was concluded with a closing event, hosted by the Government of Philippines in Manila on 27 November 2014.

2. FAO set up an inter-departmental Task Force and established an International Steering Committee (ISC), chaired by the Philippines and composed of 12 representatives of FAO Members as well as of IFAD, WFP, La Via Campesina, World Farmers Organization (WFO) and World Rural Forum (WRF). The IYFF Master Plan prepared by the FAO task force and endorsed by the ISC identified four specific objectives for the IYFF:

- Support the development of policies conducive to sustainable family farming
- Increase knowledge, communication and public awareness
- Attain better understanding of FF needs, potential and constraints, and ensure technical support availability
- Create synergies for sustainability.

3. The IYFF focused on three global lines of action that were implemented at national, regional and global levels together with other partners, particularly IFAD and WFP:

- Promotion of dialogue in policy decision-making processes
- Identification, documentation and sharing lessons learned and successful experiences of existing pro-family farming policies at national and/or other levels to capitalize relevant knowledge on family farming.
- Communication, advocacy and outreach.

4. The political and social mobilization for the IYFF resulted in greater awareness of the crucial contribution of family farmers to sustainable development, food security and nutrition. Strong political commitment in favour of family farming at the highest level rose across the world throughout the IYFF-2014.

II. Financial Overview and Impact

5. The IYFF was run with the Multilateral Trust Fund of the International Year of Family Farming. The Fund received donations from Brazil (USD 150,000), IFAD (USD 150,000) and Spain (USD 17,500). The total returns and impact are significant, given the extent of events, publicity surrounding the Year and sustained efforts of partners. These and other outputs are elaborated upon below.

III. Outcomes

6. The IYFF supported the development of policies conducive to family farming through promoting dialogue in policy decision-making processes and through documenting relevant knowledge to improve a better understanding of family farmers' needs, potential and constraints.
7. Together with fostering political commitment, these actions contribute to the development of targeted policies. Lessons learned were shared through an extensive policy dialogue process with the support of governments, family farmers' organizations, UN agencies, and other stakeholders at all levels. Six Regional Dialogues on Family Farming were facilitated throughout 2013 and 2014 (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia; Near East and North Africa, North America).
8. All FAO Regional Conferences and the preceding Civil Society Consultations addressed the IYFF. Three FAO Regional Initiatives specifically addressed family farming, while the remainder involved it indirectly.
9. The Global Dialogue on Family Farming was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 27-28 October 2014, and brought to a point the major advancements of the Year, improving understanding on the enabling policy environment to support family farms.
10. FAO partnered with other organizations and provided input to a number of events throughout the Year, including the Conference on Family Farming "A dialogue towards more sustainable and resilient farming in Europe and the world", held in Brussels, Belgium, 29 November 2013, hosted by the European Commission; the Global Forum and Expo on Family Farming, held in Budapest, Hungary, 4-6 March 2014, hosted by the Government of Hungary and FAO; and the International Encounters "Family Farming & Research", hosted by Agropolis International and co-organized by the CGIAR Consortium, the Global Forum on Agriculture Research and the WRF, and supported by the French Government, held in Montpellier, France, 1-3 June 2014.
11. Recognizing the need for policies on family farming at national and regional level, an International Working Group (IWG), hosted by FAO, was created to discuss common criteria for achieving definitions and typologies for family farming at national and regional levels. A Special Event on "Innovation in Family Farming: Towards Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition" was held during the 41st Session of the FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS).
12. FAO undertook activities under the IYFF to meet the objective of increasing knowledge, communication and public awareness on the issue of family farming. This was done through a number of actions related to communication, advocacy and outreach.
 - FAO flagship publication, State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA), Innovation in Family Farming, 2014.
 - FAO provided communication materials to members and partners via its IYFF website, which provided key messages and other information to promote family farming.
 - Six Special Ambassadors of the IYFF were nominated from all the regions.
 - FAO and the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) launched a world campaign on Family Farming to raise awareness on the role of communication and community media for family farming.
 - The International Forum on Communication for Development and Community Media for Family Farming (IFCCM) was held in Rome, sharing experiences and lessons that demonstrated the role of Communication for Development methods and tools and community media as drivers for innovation and family farmers' participation in rural development.
 - UN Round Table on Communication for Development was held at FAO with the topic "Enabling social inclusion to support food and nutrition security, resilient livelihoods and Family Farming".

- Policy dialogue took place through the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN Forum) focusing on the future of family farming and empowerment and equal rights for women and youth.
- *Deep Roots* – a book published by Tudor Rose and FAO, highlighted experiences related to family farming from around the world.

13. Through the IYFF, FAO worked to ensure synergies were created to institutionalize the issue of family farming. The FAO's Committees on Fisheries (COFI), Forestry (COFO) and Agriculture (COAG) addressed the IYFF either as a discussion item or through side events and called on FAO to continue its work on family farming and its integration in the FAO Strategic Framework. In addition, World Food Day 2014 carried the theme "Family Farming: Feeding the World, Caring for the Earth."

14. National Committees for the IYFF were created in around 50 countries involving more than 650 organizations.

15. The celebration of the IYFF significantly raised the profile of family farming, including in the follow up on the Zero Hunger Challenge launched by the UN Secretary General in 2012, in the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in 2014, as well as in the preparation of the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda. Family farming has also been recognized as a major sector to mainstream biodiversity into food production sectors and for the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals.

16. The impact of the IYFF regarding political commitment was seen in a number of high-level political declarations and civil society mobilizations at national and regional levels:

- The 6th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit at the Global Forum on Food and Agriculture (GFFA) issued a declaration signed by 65 ministers in support of family farming, on 18 January 2014 (Germany).
- The Declaration of Farmers' Organizations from five continents in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 22 January 2014.
- The Declaration of the Heads of States and Governments of the Community of the Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC) gathered in Havana, Cuba, on 28-29 January 2014.
- The Declaration of twenty-four ministers of agriculture and government representatives from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America in favour of family farming, issued at the Salon de l'agriculture, Paris, France, 25 February 2014.
- The Montevideo Declaration in the framework of the Regional Dialogue for Planning and Action on the IYFF 2014, Montevideo, Uruguay, 24-25 March 2014.
- The Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, adopted by the 23rd Assembly of the African Union, 26-27 June 2014.
- The Ministerial Conference for the IYFF for Asia and the Pacific, Chennai, India, 7 August 2014.
- The Declaration on Family Farming adopted by the Latin American Parliament, 26 August 2014.
- The Recommendation n. 222 of the Andean Parliament for the implementation of differentiated public policies to foster sustainable development of the agrarian systems based on peasant households, 28 August 2013.
- The United States Senate resolution S.RES.544 to designate 2014 as the "International Year of Family Farming", 17 September 2014.
- Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming of the CELAC, Brasilia, Brazil, 10-12 November 2014;
- The Fifth Global Meeting of the Farmers' Forum hosted by IFAD, Rome, Italy, 17-18 February 2014.
- The 37th session of IFAD's Governing Council, which focused on investing in smallholder family farmers, Rome, Italy, 19-20-February 2014.

- Forum of Latin American and Caribbean IYFF National Committees, Brasilia, Brazil, 10-12 November 2014.

17. The main policy recommendations are synthesized in the Document *Legacy of the IYFF 2014 and the Way Forward* approved by the ISC-IYFF, which can be found at <http://www.fao.org/3/b-mm296e.pdf>.

IV. Sustaining the Momentum beyond the IYFF

18. Strong political commitment in favour of family farming at the highest levels emerged in every region of the world during the IYFF. The IYFF's legacy will have to materialize it in national and regional policies, programmes and activities, and institutional arrangements to continue supporting enabling policy environments for family farming.

19. FAO will assist Members at their request and stimulate international cooperation to facilitate the achievement of definitions and the creation of juridical frameworks, policies and programmes for family farming at national level.

20. FAO will continue its work on the promotion of family farming and mainstream it in its Strategic Framework, as well as facilitate the participation of the representatives of family farmers, including artisanal fisherfolk, pastoralists, indigenous peoples and mountain farmers in its work.

21. The Family Farming Knowledge Platform, hosted by FAO in collaboration with many stakeholders, was created to serve as a comprehensive and up-to-date digital collection of policy, scientific, legal and statistical information on family farming, to support policy making.

22. The National Committees for the IYFF-2014 are encouraged to continue their work beyond the year 2014. Governments and other relevant actors are encouraged to establish permanent multi-stakeholder platforms for policy dialogue at national and regional levels on family farming.