

28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture – Written Correspondence Procedure
Item 2.7: The catalyzer role of the UN Decade on Family Farmers (UNDFE) and progress
towards the implementation of the UNDFE

Secretariat response to written questions from the Committee

The Secretariat expresses its appreciation for the comments received from China, Chile, Japan, the United States of America and the European Union regarding the Document COAG/2022/11: “The catalyzer role of the UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 (UNDFE) and progress towards its implementation”. The comments are duly noted and recorded below.

Family farmers around the world have demonstrated their potential to reconcile the social, economic and environmental challenges faced in agrifood systems. The UNDFE will continue supporting family farmers to facilitate the shift towards agrifood systems that are more resilient to disruptions and crisis and considering the current global food security situation and the risks associated with the current conflicts.

The UNDFE recognizes the paramount importance of the UN Food Systems Summit and will continue supporting its follow-up in particular in the framework of the *Coalition on Family Farming and on strengthening actions in support of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (CFF)* benefiting from the over 50 national processes stimulated by the UNDFE at the national level to ensure decent livelihoods for family farmers, while protecting the planet and ensuring food security and nutrition, and access to healthy diets for all.

In relation to the synergies between the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and the UNDFE – both anchored in the multidimensionality of family farming, as highlighted in the framework of the *International Symposium on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems and Family Farming* held in October 2021 – the Secretariat highlights GIAHS’ particular relevance to Pillar 7 of the UNDFE Global Action Plan. It shows that the promotion of GIAHS is an effective mechanism to adapt the UNDFE to local contexts, and to ensure recognition and support sustainable, locally specific and long-lasting solutions. UNDFE national action plans on family farming could be pivotal to integrate and coordinate actions in support of GIAHS. The Secretariat looks forward to strengthening synergies between the UNDFE and GIAHS. Moreover, following the Japanese trust fund (GCP/GLO/283/JPN, “Support through GIAHS Programme the International Activities for Sustainable Family Farming”, the GIAHS Secretariat is planning a Symposium related to GIAHS and Family Farming later in 2022 to further seek guidance on how GIAHS can contribute to promoting family farming.

The Secretariat expresses its interest to further explore the policy instruments listed by China and Chile to incorporate those details in the upcoming biennial monitoring of the progress made in the implementation of the framework of the UNDFE for reporting to the UN General Assembly.

The UNDFE recognizes the paramount role played by cooperatives and other farmers’ organizations, and encourages the development of new organizations of family farmers and to strengthen existing ones at all levels, by enhancing their capacity to promote new services for their members and local communities. This is of vital importance to support national strategies aiming

at food security and relying on local production and consumption and to reinforce farmers' capacities to participate profitably and effectively in global value chains.

To increase women's and their organizations' advocacy skills and their meaningful participation in policymaking and implementation, the Secretariat is developing a global knowledge product aimed at strengthening women's leadership in national processes and the adoption of a gender-sensitive approach in designing and implementing national action plans of family farming and conducive public policies. These tools promote suitable mechanisms to effectively contextualize international tools and guidelines in support to family farmers and rural women, including the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Workstream on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition.

The Secretariat also reiterates the commitment of the UNDAF to promote the development of public policies and investments to strengthen the resilience of family farmers also by building on the role of science and innovation adapted to the different typologies of family farmers. The UNDAF, in synergy with both the FAO Strategy on Climate Change and the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy, can result in effective implementation of sustainable innovation and promote the use of locally adaptable technologies (through Pillars 6 and 7 of the UNDAF Global Action Plan). Joint and coordinated efforts with the UNDAF, such as the Farm-to-Fork Strategy of the European Union and other initiatives promoted by Members, can amplify success in transforming agrifood systems and achieving the 2030 Agenda by rewarding those farmers, fishers and other operators in the food chain, who apply sustainable practices and, by this, enable the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.

The UNDAF, as a suitable mechanism for the implementation of international instruments, such as the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-Scale Fisheries, built strong synergies with the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022). Furthermore, the UNDAF acknowledges the relevance of the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021 (IYFV 2021), since fruits and vegetables are mostly produced by family farmers. Indeed, farms of less than 20 hectares account for 71 percent of global vitamin A production, which is supplied mainly by fruits and vegetables.