



**REPORT
ON THE REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON FAMILY FARMING:
TOWARDS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FAMILY
FARMING**

**CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND POLICY
RECOMMENDATIONS**



**2014
International Year of
Family Farming**



REPORT

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**REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON FAMILY FARMING:
TOWARDS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FAMILY FARMING ¹
CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

BACKGROUND:

In the framework of the UN declaration of 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF), the FAO, in collaboration with the World Rural Forum (WRF), the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO), held the first Regional Dialogue on Family Farming in Santiago, Chile, on October 30-31, 2013. The objective was to improve the understanding of the role of family farming in each country and sub-region, as well as to define the main regional issues that should be addressed during the International Year of Family Farming.

The regional dialogue included 109 participants from 23 countries of LAC, including family farmers' organisations, government representatives and international organisations (see Appendix No. 1).

1. COMMON CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILY FARMING IN THE REGION:

Although family farming is characterized by being highly heterogeneous, the dialogue highlighted that most of the problems and opportunities in the sector are common across the different regions of LAC. The view that family farming is not defined only by its agricultural characteristics, but is a way of life that respects the environment, protects biodiversity, conserves cultural traditions and promotes rural development, was widely shared. This vision of the sector helps to increase awareness of the important role family farming plays in society. In this context, the dialogue identified the following main challenges and opportunities for the development of family farming in the region:

- a. **Family farming has the potential to meet the rising global demand for food:** Currently, there is agreement that family farming has the potential to increase food supply and improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable populations in rural areas. Family farmers produce up to 70% of the foods that comprise the basic food basket of some countries in the region, representing for governments a key pillar to contribute to food security and food sovereignty, as well as to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition in the region.
- b. **The contribution of family farming is undervalued by society and governments:** Society should value the potential of family farming to produce quality

¹ In the context of the IYFF, the following common principles were used to define Family Farming: Family Farming (including all family-based agricultural activities) is a way of organising agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishing and aquaculture, which is managed and operated by a family and which, above all, depends mainly on family labour, including women as well as men. The family and the farm develop together and combine economic, environmental, social and cultural functions. At the national level, in both developed and in developing countries, Family Farming is the predominant form of agriculture in the food production sector. Therefore, the development of viable forms of family farming is essential for the achievement of sustainable development in agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishing and other sectors.

goods and services. The International Year of Family Farming is an opportunity to highlight the impact of family farming on agricultural GDP, food security, employment generation, conservation of natural resources and biodiversity, preservation of cultural traditions, multi-ethnic diversity and rural poverty alleviation.

- c. **The institutional framework for the development of family farming needs to be improved:** In various LAC countries there is either no institutional framework for family farming or it is weak. Budgets for development programmes are generally insufficient and policies specific to the needs of farmers have not been implemented, especially in terms of technical assistance, research and funding. Most of the countries in the region have implemented social assistance policies and programmes but there is a lack of systems to evaluate their effectiveness.
- d. **Family farming policies, where they exist in the region, are uncoordinated resulting in a low impact on farmers:** Currently, public support for family farming through rural development policies is limited to a few countries. The development of family farming necessarily requires policies and programmes that go beyond the scope of agricultural institutions, including investment in infrastructure (road works, irrigation, electrification, telecommunications, etc.) and social projects (schools, hospitals, housing, etc.). Policy coordination and cross-sector cooperation for the development of family farming is essential to improve the effectiveness of projects in the different sectors that impact rural development. Education about sustainable production practices should play a central role in this process.
- e. **Family farmers are underrepresented in rural organisations:** In most countries of the region the participation of family farmers in rural organisations is low. Moreover, in some countries the persecution of leaders of social movements related to family farming has further weakened these organisations. Collective action is essential to overcome problems such as small volumes, high transaction costs, and limited access to markets and financing that characterize family farming, as well as to raise the political profile of the sector.
- f. **Family farmers have limited access to productive resources:** Small-scale farmers face severe limitations due to the limited availability of land and water. Many of their farms cover small areas and do not have irrigation systems. In addition, the use of land and water for purposes other than agriculture has negatively affected their access to these resources. Facing the challenge of water access is a priority for family farming in order to mitigate the potential negative impacts of droughts on crop yields.
- g. **Sources of financing for family farming are scarce in the region:** The sources of financing available to family farmers in the region are limited, and those that do exist operate within regulatory frameworks that do not respond to farmers' needs. This situation is exacerbated by the requirement of loan guarantees, which small-scale farmers without assets cannot obtain. Financing instruments are required to meet the specific needs of family farming, with regulations that facilitate their use by the farmers who need them.
- h. **Generational turnover is minimal:** The lack of public policies to encourage youth to remain in rural areas has stimulated the migration of young people to other areas where there are greater opportunities for their development. Rural development strategies are needed to improve socio-economic conditions and the welfare of rural families, which incorporate positive discrimination policies for young farmers.

- i. **Women farmers face a gender gap:** In most countries of the region, women farmers experience more restrictions than men in terms of access to productive resources and markets, which sustains the higher rates of poverty in households headed by women. The challenge is to analyse the causes underlying this inequality and establish positive discrimination policies for women farmers.
- j. **Family farmers are vulnerable to climate change:** In recent years, the region has experienced changes in patterns of rainfall and temperature, which are affecting agricultural activities and increasing the fragility of productive systems, particularly of the most vulnerable farmers. Family farmers do not have the resources to deal with this situation, especially with regards to the implementation of new technologies for irrigation and the introduction of resistant species that would allow them to adapt to new climate scenarios in a timely manner. They also do not have adequate technical assistance to adjust their harvest calendars, and lack access to timely information to prevent or mitigate the adverse effects of climatic phenomena on their productive systems.
- k. **Market access and integration into value chains is limited:** Family farmers in the region are exposed to unfavourable market conditions including high costs for their inputs and low prices for their products. However, the projection of world population growth will result, at least in the short term, in rising demand for food. In this context there is an important opportunity for trade in agricultural products generated mainly by family farming, and for the development of national and international markets for these products. However, if governments do not create programmes and instruments specifically to support family farming, large-scale farmers with greater economic resources could seize this opportunity.

2. GOOD PRACTICES FOR FAMILY FARMING IN THE REGION:

During the Dialogue, examples emerged of good organisational practices, cooperation, policies and programmes for family farming in the region. Among the most important are the following:

- **REAF (Specialized Meeting on Family Farming in MERCOSUR):** This space for dialogue between family farmers and the public sector in MERCOSUR member countries has emerged as governments have recognized the political importance and socio-economic dimension of family farming. Its objectives are to strengthen public policies for family farming in MERCOSUR and to promote trade in products produced by family farmers, with the aim of reducing market asymmetries and promoting rural development in the region. Its methodology, based on political dialogue and consensus, has achieved results that support the replication of this initiative in other countries and sub-regions. Some of these are:
 - Guidelines for gender equality in public policies for family farming (2008)
 - Regional training programme for rural youth, with the support of FAO
 - Regional gender programme, with the support of the Spanish International Development Agency (AECID)
 - Regional knowledge sharing programme
 - Rural Development Fund

It is important to explore the creation of a permanent link with this entity for the exchange of experiences and advice on key issues, as well as the feasibility of replicating its methodology in other sub-regions that wish to establish or deepen public-private dialogue on small-scale farming.
- **Public procurement systems:** A decade ago Brazil implemented a public procurement system that guarantees the participation of family farmers in the following programmes:

- Food Purchase Programme (PAA)
- National School Food Programme (PNAE)
- Institutional Purchases (for Municipalities and States, as well as the Federal Government).

The objective is to strengthen family farming by facilitating the participation of family farmers in a market with fair prices, promoting access to food for vulnerable populations and stimulating local development.

Some countries of the Southern Cone, such as Argentina, have replicated this initiative at the provincial level. Uruguay and Bolivia are studying the feasibility of implementing public procurement systems. The development of procurement programmes for family farming will generate the need for countries to exchange experiences and discuss joint proposals in relation to the sector. There are multiple challenges in the areas of food safety, farmers' cooperatives, diversification of production, etc., some of which can be overcome through coordinated actions by countries in the region.

- **Family farming registry:** Quantitative information on family farming in the region is scarce. The REAF has encouraged the establishment of National Registries of Family Farming with common criteria in all countries of MERCOSUR. This has enabled the contribution of family farming in the region to be measured, as well as facilitating the development of new policies and programmes.
- **Implementation of Rural Development Programmes:** Two initiatives were highlighted: Mexico's Integrated Rural Development Program, which includes 16 ministries and coordinates support for family farming with a systemic view of rural development; and Ecuador's Good Rural Living Plan, an inter-ministerial programme that benefits family farmers.

3. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FAMILY FARMING IN THE REGION:

The Dialogue highlighted that public policies and institutions for family farming have not developed to the same level in all countries of the region, with countries in the Southern Cone showing generally higher levels of development than countries in Central America, the Andean region and the Caribbean. There was agreement that the primary task of countries should be the creation of a new generation of public policies to promote the development of family farming by solving the structural problems of this sector. The International Year of Family Farming constitutes an historic opportunity for countries to implement such policies. During the Dialogue it was stressed that these should include concrete measures that can be implemented in the short term.

Based on this analysis, the following policy recommendations emerged:

- a. **Increase awareness of family farming:** Recognising the potential of family farming means making society more aware of its benefits. If society does not know family farmers exist, it will not appreciate their contribution. To this end, governments should perform the following actions:
 - Develop **communications strategies** that deliver information on the socio-economic and productive contribution of family farming in order to achieve a greater appreciation of the sector by society. The strategy should emphasize the contribution of groups such as women, youth and indigenous communities.

- Create **National Committees** throughout the region in the framework of the International Year of Family Farming. However, one year is insufficient to promote and strengthen family farming, which is closely related to the reduction of poverty and hunger in the world.
- b. **Develop information systems for family farming:** In some countries of the region information about family farming is scarce, which makes it difficult to quantify its real contribution or to create institutions for effective development. For this reason countries should create family farming databases including **farming registries**, which allow governments to determine the characteristics and needs of family farmers, as well as to better allocate resources. In addition, states should agree on the methodology used in order to compare information between countries of the region.
 - c. **Implement monitoring and evaluation systems for policies and programmes:** Some countries of the region are gradually applying management by results and establishing methodologies for evaluating the achievement of the desired impacts of public policies. As regards family farming, there is still a way to go since the evaluation systems are closely linked to the existence of databases, which as mentioned in the previous point are rare in the region. This means it is necessary to establish guidelines that make it possible to determine the impact of policies on the quality of life in rural areas. Governments need to address this challenge in the short term to optimize resource allocation and feedback policies and programmes, based on reliable and measurable performance indicators.
 - d. **Encourage the participation of family farmers in policy design:** The participation of farmers in the formulation of policies and programmes gives them more decision-making power and improves the effectiveness of government programmes and their validation by the beneficiaries. Therefore, it is recommended that countries create **permanent Working Groups** with the participation of governments and farmers who take part in studies and the design of policies and programmes.
 - e. **Create integrated rural development policies focused on both the farm and the family:** Overcoming the challenges faced by farmers requires actions that extend beyond the limited scope of family farming. Coordinated public administration improves efficiency by focusing resources and actions where they are needed to benefit farmers and their families (children, youth, women and the elderly). Therefore, the discussion should focus on family farming strategies within the wider context of rural development. In this context, the education of farmers deserves special mention because it generates synergies and improves the integral approach of policies and programmes, with a resulting greater impact on rural development.
 - f. **Review/reform existing institutions:** Although most countries of the region have family farming policies, institutions and/or programmes, they have not had the expected impact. An evaluation of these institutions is needed, including a review of regulatory frameworks and their impact on the development of the sector, the adequacy of budgetary resources, time horizons of public policies, the impact of programmes on the beneficiary populations, etc., in order to make necessary adjustments and to provide an institutional foundation that facilitates the development of the sector.
 - g. **Change the paternalist vision of policies and programmes:** One of the main problems of public policies aimed at family farming is their emphasis on social assistance programmes. The potential of family farmers should be developed through a new generation of public policies that promote skills development through education and training programmes.

- h. **Create an institutional framework for family farming:** This includes sector-specific policies and programmes, which differ according to the socio-economic situation and characteristics of family farmers in each country. In countries that have implemented such policies this has contributed to the alleviation of inequalities that affect the development of family farmers.
- i. **Establish measures for the development of rural women:** This requires strategies that overcome the limitations that hinder the inclusion of women in farming activities. These should include removing financial restrictions (such as guarantees for access to credit) and the design and implementation of ad-hoc policies and programmes that reconcile women's participation in farming with their domestic chores. This should be complemented by positive discrimination measures that improve access for women to productive resources, credit and investment.
- j. **Develop plans and programmes for rural youth:** Given that the sustainability of agriculture requires the existence of rural youth, this is one of the main challenges to be addressed by the countries of the region in the short term. However, progress in the region with respect to this segment of the population is minimal. Incentives are needed to encourage rural youth to continue in agriculture. This requires a holistic view of their needs, including offering work and living conditions that are better than those currently available in areas where youth tend to migrate. This is linked to the implementation of positive discrimination policies (especially regarding access to land and capital), along with policies that promote the development of the land and the socio-economic conditions of its inhabitants. The implementation of *Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance for Land Tenure, Fisheries and Forests* can be a valuable tool to promote this process, providing new opportunities for youth to stay or return to rural areas and develop their capacities.
- k. **Promote family farming organisations:** There is a consensus that individual farmers cannot achieve the development of family farming in the region. The advantages of working together for farmers in terms of decreased costs and access to markets are evident. Therefore, governments should design policies to promote the creation of family farming organisations. It is important to ensure that these policies do not impose organisational development; in other words, this should come from the farmers themselves. Key actions to achieve this are incentives for the development of rural organisations, education and training programmes for rural leaders and support for the exchange of experiences between farming organisations.
- l. **Improve access to markets:** One common reason for the failure of family farming programmes is their emphasis on production above the insertion of products in markets. Currently, small-scale farmers are not willing to increase their production if they do not have a guaranteed market, which makes lack of access to markets the most common stumbling block in their development. If new projects do not consider access to markets, family farming cannot develop. For this reason, countries must establish a marketing strategy for the sector that incorporates, amongst other things, the following strategies:
 - o Promote local markets.
 - o Promote collective marketing to overcome restrictions of volume, reduce costs, and negotiate better conditions.
 - o Raise the value of family farming products (e.g. establish rules of origin, or create labels that differentiate their produce).
 - o Improve logistical aspects, especially communication, storage and transport.
- l. **Improve access to land and water:** The low quality and limited availability of soil and water resources has undermined the productive systems of family farming, putting at risk

the sustainability of the sector. Therefore, countries should make this issue a priority through the implementation of irrigation and land purchase programmes. These should be complemented with the use of alternative technologies for water harvesting and soil conservation programmes. The state should ensure the proper use of these resources through land use planning and water management plans.

- m. **Create financing systems for family farmers:** Countries should create financing systems appropriate to the needs of family farming. These should include loan and grant instruments to finance investment and working capital specifically for family farmers. The loan guarantees can be covered through the implementation of Guarantee Funds, which have been implemented especially in Southern Cone countries.
- n. **Develop a platform for dialogue and exchange of experiences in the International Year of Family Farming:** Countries should encourage the continuation of this type of broad and inclusive dialogue at the local, national, sub-regional and regional levels with the involvement of farmers' organisations, governments, the private sector, international organisations and civil society. These efforts should be aimed at establishing an on-going dialogue about the challenges and opportunities in the sector.

This platform for dialogue should be structured through the following main actions:

- Establish National Committees to evaluate existing institutions and promote linkages between the actors involved in the development of family farming.
In light of the IYFF, these Committees should be responsible for the following actions:
 - Generate an agenda of concrete actions to be implemented in the short term to promote the development of family farming.
 - Establish the commitment of governments to allocate sufficient resources to finance actions aimed at the development of family farming.
- Create a multi-sector and inclusive public-private partnership to promote the agenda of the IYFF at all levels of government.
- Create a Regional Committee as an international platform for the development of family farming in order to promote the creation of policies conducive to the consolidation of the sector.
- Exchange of experiences: Ahead of the IYFF, REAF expressed its commitment to promote South-South cooperation, share experiences, and expand the process of integration between family farmers. REAF offers a space to coordinate actions between MERCOSUR member countries during the IYFF.
- Training for farmers: The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) has placed at the disposal of LAC countries the largest maize and wheat seed banks in the world, and has offered training to farmers' organisations in seed production.
- As part of their family farming strategy, countries should establish the Day of the Family Farmer, which will help to publicize the potential of family farming in each country.

These recommendations will be presented at the IYFF Global Dialogue, which will be held in Rome in 2014, the FAO Regional Conference and other global and regional policy forums.

Appendix N° 1

Country	Name	Position	Institution
Antigua y Barbuda	Oluwatoyin Elabanjo	Extension Officer	Ministry of Agriculture
Argentina	José Catalano	Director	Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo Tecnológico para la Pequeña Agricultura Familiar (CIPAF) del INTA
Argentina	Federico Navamuel	Coordinador de Planificación Estratégica Territorial	Dirección Nacional de Desarrollo Territorial Rural
Argentina	Renata Valgiusti	Coordinadora Área de Agroecología	Subsecretaría de Agricultura Familiar de Argentina - Ministerio de Agricultura Ganadería y Pesca
Argentina	Sebastián Alconada	Director de Gestión Territorial	Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca - Secretaría de Desarrollo Rural y Agricultura Familiar
Argentina	Fabián Sislíán		REAF
Argentina	Alicia Alem	Coordinadora Regional	Movimiento Agroecológico de Latinoamérica
Argentina	Horacio Pugnaroni	Delegado Provincial	Federación Agraria Argentina
Argentina	Gabriela Cespedes		Juventud Rural de Argentina
Argentina	Eduardo Fontenla		Agricultores Federados Argentinos
Argentina	Rodolfo González Greco	Representante	Vía Campesina Argentina
Bolivia	Boris Fernandez	Programa Agricultura Familiar	FAO - BO
Bolivia	Miguel Murillo	Director de Planificación	Ministerio de Desarrollo Rural y Tierras
Bolivia	Armando Sánchez		Ministerio de Desarrollo Rural y Tierras
Bolivia	Justino Loayza	Presidente,	Comité Integrador de Organizaciones Económicas Campesinas de Bolivia.
Bolivia	José Eduardo Rojas	Presidente Ejecutivo	Fundación Redes para el Desarrollo Sostenible
Bolivia	Juan Carlos Ortega	Coordinador Proyecto	Fundación Agrecol Andes
Brasil	Nilton Pinho de Bem	Director de Agregação de Valor	Secretaria da Agricultura Familiar do MDA
Brasil	Carolina Albuquerque	Consultora	Ministerio de Desarrollo Agrario
Brasil	Danilo Leão		Bov Control
Brasil	Sergio Schneider	Académico	Universidad Federal de Rio Grande del Sur
Brasil	Alessandra Luna	Secretaria General	Confederación de Organizaciones de productores Familiares del MERCOSUR Ampliado, COPROFAM
Brasil	Alcidir Mazutti Zanco		UNICAFES
Brasil	Exzolvildres Queiroz Neto	Coordinador en Desarrollo Rural y Seguridad alimentaria	Universidad Federal da Integracao Latino-Americana
Brasil	David Rodrigues Souza	Secretario de Políticas Agrícolas	CONTAG
Brasil	Willian da Silva Matias	Secretaria de Política Agraria	CONTAG
Brasil	Luiz Ademir Possamai		UNICAFES
Chile	Salomón Salcedo	Oficial Principal de Políticas	FAO - RLC
Chile	Byron Jara	Especialista en Agricultura Familiar	FAO - RLC
Chile	Ewe Crowley	Representante Regional Adjunta	FAO - RLC
Chile	Maria Paz Gonzalez	FF Clerck	FAO - RLC
Chile	Tania Santivanez	Oficial de Protección Vegetal	FAO - RLC
Chile	Sara Granados	Especialista en D. Rural	FAO - RLC

Country	Name	Position	Institution
Chile	Cristina Renteria	Junior Professional Officer	FAO - RLC
Chile	Lya Guzmán	Consultora	FAO - RLC
Chile	Sergio Gomez	Consultor	FAO - RLC
Chile	Dulclair Sternadt	Oficial	FAO - RLC
Chile	Victor León	Oficial de Programas	FAO - RLC
Chile	Antonieta Surawski	Consultora	FAO - RLC
Chile	Francisca Nahmias	Consultora	FAO - RLC
Chile	Melisa Aytekin	Consultora	FAO - RLC
Chile	Perla Wilson	Periodista	Radio Tierra
Chile	Juan Jiménez Cortés	Jefe de la División de Rubros Emergentes	INDAP (instituto de Desarrollo Agropecuario)
Chile	Micaela Galán	Asesora Dirección Nacional	INDAP (instituto de Desarrollo Agropecuario)
Chile	Nicolás Quiroz Sadivari	Integrante eje jóvenes del programa PMSS	SEDEJ
Chile	Rafael Goldsack	INDAP	Ministerio de Agricultura
Chile	Alberto Adib	Especialista en Desarrollo Rural Territorial	IICA
Chile	Pablo Viguera	Especialista en Desarrollo Sostenible	IICA
Chile	Alejandra Sarquis	Representante Oficina IICA en Chile	IICA
Chile	Carlos Díaz	Profesor	Universidad de Santiago
Chile	Débora Constenla		INDAP (instituto de Desarrollo Agropecuario)
Chile	Fernando Barrera	Encargado Nacional Servicio de Asesoría Técnica	INDAP (instituto de Desarrollo Agropecuario)
Chile	Héctor Bravo		INDAP (instituto de Desarrollo Agropecuario)
Chile	Constanza Santander	Asesora de Proyectos	CONAGRO
Chile	Mariana Muñoz	Investigadora	Universidad de Chile
Chile	Paloma Rivas Diaz	Integrante eje jóvenes	SEDEJ (Servicio para el Desarrollo de los Jóvenes)
Chile	Isidora Pérez	Encargada Nacional Rubro Ovino, Caprino y Equino	INDAP (instituto de Desarrollo Agropecuario)
Chile	Francisca Rodriguez	Presidenta	ANAMURI
Chile	Rafael Rincón Magro	Director	Grupo MASA
Chile	Jean Paul Lacoste		Fundación Ford
Chile	Silvia Saravia Matus	Consultora	FAO
Chile	Pablo Fernandez		Universidad de Santiago
Chile	Vania Riquelme		Universidad de Santiago
Chile	Gerhard Reinecke	Especialista Principal en Políticas de Empleo	Organización Internacional del Trabajo para el Cono Sur
Chile	Luis Saéz	Director de Departamento de Gestión Agraria	Universidad de Santiago, Chile
Chile	Mario Radrigán	Director	Centro Internacional de Economía Social y Cooperativa CIESCOOP
Chile	Juan Corvalán	Presidente	Unión Nacional de la Agricultura Familiar
Chile	Raúl Benitez	Representante Regional	FAO - RLC
Colombia	Santiago Perry Rubio		RIMISP – Corporación PBA Colombia
Colombia	Mario Moreno	Especialista en Desarrollo Rural	IICA Colombia
Colombia	Angela María Molina	Investigadora	Universidad de Santiago
Colombia	Mario Bonilla Romero	Director Ejecutivo	Confederación AgroSolidaria Colombia
Costa Rica	Dagoberto Vargas Jara	Coordinador Comisión Técnica de Agricultura Familiar en el Sector Agropecuario	Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
Costa Rica	Roger Chaves	Sostenibilidad Ambiental	ACI Américas

Country	Name	Position	Institution
Costa Rica	Gerardina Jimenez	Presidenta	Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Productoras Agroindustriales Rurales-ANAMAR / Comité Nacional AIAF-2014
Cuba	Jorge Pozo Menéndez	Investigador	Instituto de Investigaciones Fundamentales de la Agricultura Tropical
Ecuador	Hugo Dután	Asesor	Despacho del Viceministro de Desarrollo Rural
Ecuador	Byron Coral	Docente-Investigador	Universidad Laica Eloy Alfaro de Manabí "ULEAM"
El Salvador	Abel Lara	Presidente	CONFRAS
El Salvador	Edwin Romeo Cortez	Representante	FUNPROCOOP
El Salvador	Ismael Merlos	Director	Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo (FUNDE)
Guatemala	Jacobo Dardón	Director	CEDEPEM-INCEDES
Guatemala	Isaura Roldán Ortega	Presidenta	Confederación de Cooperativas Guatemaltecas CONFECOOP, R. L.
Haiti	Fresner Dorcin	Secrétaire d'Etat a la Production Vegetale	MARNDR
Haiti	Yves Marcel Coimin	Chef de cabinet SEP	Ministère de l'Agriculture des Ressources Naturelles et du Développement Rural
Italia	Francesco Pierri	Oficial de Políticas	FAO - RLC
Jamaica	Alvin Murray	General Manager	Christiana Potato Growers Association
México	Miguel Martínez	Director General de Desarrollo Territorial y Organización Rural	SAGARPA
México	Horacio Rodríguez Vázquez	Coordinador de extensionismo agrícola	CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center)
Nicaragua	Cairo Laguna	Presidente	FENICPESCA
Panamá	Hebert Lopez	Asesor Regional de Programas	Programa Mundial de Alimentos
Panamá	Jorge Stanley Icaza		Indigenous Caucus
Panamá	Pedro Gordon	Secretario	Facultad de Ciencias Agropecuaria de La Universidad de Panamá
Paraguay	Liliana Miranda	Directora, Dirección General de Planificación	Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
Paraguay	German Ruiz Aveiro	Presidente	Asociación Rural del Paraguay
Perú	Raphael Pajuelo	Gerente de Proyectos Institucionales	Santillana Perú
Perú	Alfonso Velásquez	Presidente Ejecutivo	Sierra Exportadora
Perú	Sonia Sala Domínguez	Presidenta	REDAR
Perú	Cesar Rivas Peña		Junta Nacional del Café
República Dominicana	Jesus De Los Santos	Vicepresidente Ejecutivo	Fundación Rural Economic Development Dominicana
Santa Lucia	Anne James Vernet	Oficial de Agricultura	Ministerio de Agricultura
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Jethro Greene	Chief Coordinator	Caribbean Farmers Network (CAFAN)
Trinidad and Tobago	Patricia La Borde-Grant	Planning Division	Ministry of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs
Uruguay	María Nilsa Perez	Directora	Instituto Nacional de Colonización
Uruguay	José Olascuaga	Director General de Desarrollo Rural	Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca
Uruguay	Alvaro Ramos Trigo	Coordinador	Programa FIDA MERCOSUR
Uruguay	Lautaro Viscay	Secretario Técnico	REAF
Uruguay	Graciela Fernández	Presidenta	Centro Cooperativista Uruguayo
Uruguay	Jorge Cartagena Bidondo	Coordinador	Proyecto PROCOOPSUR
Uruguay	Carlos Mermot Salvino	Asistente técnico	Programa FIDA MERCOSUR