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Regional Initiatives for Food Security and Nutrition

Specialized Meeting on Family Farming of MERCOSUL (REAF)

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MERCOSUL

Integration Process

- Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Venezuela (on course of adhesion) = 75% of South America population (266 million people);
- Recognition: reduce regional and domestic asymmetries => public policies.
- REAF: regional political dialogue
 - institutional strengthening;
 - cooperation on public policies formulation;
 - social participation assures: social control, legitimacy (at national and regional levels);



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Why Family Farming is important for food security and nutrition in MERCOSUL countries?

- 83% of farms in MERCOSUR belongs to family farmers (4.9 million family farms);
- 13 million people directly involved on production*;
- They employ 75% of the rural workforce;
- Family farming provides about 70% of all main foodstuff consumed internally, occupying just 22% of the total area (24,5 ha average);
- Main products: dairy products, meats, rice, coffee, beans, cassava, maize, fruits, horticultural products.



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Family Farming common conceptualization in MERCOSUL countries

- General and simple criteria that allows countries to identify and delivers specific public policies to different rural populations.
- Workforce is predominantly from the family, which is responsible for the production and management of the agricultural activities and must live in the same place where activities are carried out or very close to it.
- Countries can have other criteria of their own, that reflect national specificities, i.e. area's limit. These criteria must be accepted reciprocally among countries.



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REAF's main achievements

- Institutionalization: the well succeeded cases of Argentina and Uruguay;
- Family Farming recognition as an strategic economic and social segment (Brazil 10% GBP set in motion);
- National Systems for identification of family farmers (Res N° 25/07) → baseline for regional actions;
- MERCOSUL's Family Farming Fund – financial sustainability
- Regional Programmes: Rural Women; Rural Youth;
- Agreements and Guidelines for differential public policies: Credit; Insurance; Gender equality;
- Civil Society/Government Dialogue



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Challenges for the REAF

- Consolidation of the institutionalization process.
- Develop food governmental purchase programmes from family farming in each country and link them to national systems of food security.



36 Possible synergies with CSA

- Inform advances on public policies development (land access, credit, insurance, rural women, rural youth, climate change, family farming trade facilitation): challenges and lessons learned;
- Cooperate with other regional processes experiences: horizontal cooperation.
- Possible demands from CFS should be delivered at MERCOSUL's Executive Board (GMC)



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- REAF MERCOSUL National Coordinators are ready to coordinate with CFS. Their contacts will be provided to the CFS Chair and Bureau

Thanks.

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