



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Permanent delegation of
the African Union in Geneva
Délégation Permanente de
l'Union Africaine à Genève

INVITATION - FAO "FOOD FOR TALKS" SERIES, 2nd Session on

Family Farming: feeding the world, caring for the earth

Thursday 11 December 2014, 10:00-12:00, Palais des Nations, Room XIV

Coffee served from 9:30 and light lunch as from 12:00

Interpretation will be available in English-French

The FAO special "**Food for Talks**" series aims at highlighting the importance of agriculture, food and nutrition security and sustainable development, raising awareness on these multidisciplinary issues in Geneva, and sharing inspirational ideas for concrete actions.

This second event will be held with the support of the **Permanent delegation of the African Union in Geneva** in the context of the [International Year of Family Farming](#).

Introductory Remarks & Moderation

Marcela Villarreal, Director, Partnerships, Advocacy & Capacity Development, FAO

Speakers/Thinkers

Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, Commissioner for Rural Economy & Agriculture, African Union (tbc)

Auxtin Ortiz, Director General, World Rural Forum

Arne Cartridge, Senior Director, Grow Africa, World Economic Forum

Christine Bühler, Vice-President, Swiss Farmers' Union

Representative of La Via Campesina (tbc)

Background information

The FAO "Food for Talks" series takes the form of several thematic and interactive sessions in 2014 and 2015 with inspired thinkers and speakers from various fields of expertise who will give their respective perspective on a topic related to agriculture, food and nutrition security and sustainable development. The series of events aims at raising awareness on these multidisciplinary issues in Geneva and sharing inspirational ideas for concrete actions. Since food concerns all of us, these events target a broad audience composed by, among others, representatives of Governments, the UN, civil society, academia, media, private sector and the general public.

International Year of Family Farming (IYFF): in order to recognize the importance of family farming in reducing poverty, improving global food and nutrition security and protecting natural resources, the UN General Assembly has declared 2014 IYFF to raise the profile of family farming and smallholder farming by focusing world attention on its significant role in eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development, in particular in rural areas.

Family Farming: today, out of 570 million farms around the world, 500 million are run by families. Together, family farms produce at least 80% of the world's food in value terms and constitute the predominant form of agriculture in both developed and developing countries. Family farming includes all forms of agricultural activities in which food, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture production is managed by a family who controls the majority of production factors: land, labour, capital and technology. Family farms are key to sustainably respond to the food and nutrition security challenge in so far as they use sustainable ways of exploiting soils to safeguard agro biodiversity and help mitigating climate change; they spend their incomes mostly within local and regional markets creating jobs, generating income, stimulating and diversifying local economies; and they preserve traditional food products and contribute to a balance diet. Despite being the main producers of food consumed locally, family farmers face major constraints. The majority of family farms are run under 2 hectares and work about 12% of the world land. In addition to limited access to resources, family farmers are particularly vulnerable to risks such as diseases, pests, drought, floods and unpredictable rainfall. Growing competition in international markets, volatility of prices and youth disengagement are some of the other challenges faced by family farmers.



Find room XIV

From door A17, take the elevator and go to the first floor

From the 3rd floor (main floor of the Palais), take the elevator next to room XII, and go to the 1st floor

For more information & access to the Palais

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[FAO website](#)

[FAO Geneva website](#)