

***Summary Report of the***

**Regional Dialogue on Family Farming:  
*Sustainable Rural Development and Food Security***



***FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific***  
***21-22 November 2013***





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## FOREWORD

The history of agriculture began in the ancient Near East and Southwest Asia about 10 000 years ago. The transition of human beings from hunter-gatherers to a predominantly agricultural society paved the way for modern society.

With the challenge of feeding an ever-growing population, agriculture has been continuously reinventing itself, particularly in recent decades. The farming community has had to deal with a decrease in the amount of water and arable land and challenges from drastic weather patterns compounded by the effects of climate change. Add to this threats from pests and diseases, as well as demands from the industrialization of agriculture and changing value chains, and it becomes clear that the lack of actionable information and evolving policies makes agriculture one of the most challenging occupations in the world. These challenges are far too much for small resource poor farmers to cope with and FAO studies show that there are strong, direct relationships between agricultural productivity, hunger, poverty, and sustainability. Three-quarters of the world's poor live in rural areas and make their living from agriculture.

Family farming includes all family-based agricultural activities, and it is linked to several areas of the rural development. Family farming is a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family labour, including both women's and men's. It also has an important socio-economic, environmental and cultural role.

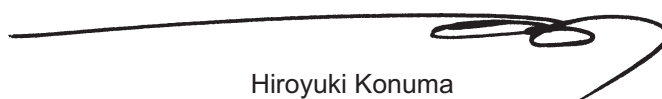
Today's family farmer lives in a challenging milieu. Every day he/she is faced with new challenges brought about by globalization, trade liberalization, climate change, desertification, drought, floods, disease and pests, lack of proper support, unfavourable policies, and the threat of losing market access and competition. In addition, other challenges are rising fuel prices, commodity futures, lack of basic storage and transport infrastructure, infrastructures, access to finance, and regulations which are difficult to predict or cope with.

It is precisely these challenges that the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) seeks to redress, with one of the major aim to raise the profile of family farming and small holder farmers by focusing world attention on the key role they play in alleviating hunger, poverty and also in promoting sustainable natural resource management and landscape.

Support to family farmers should be looked at from a holistic angle – It is therefore imperative and crucial to understanding the cultural context, social relationship, community involvement, local knowledge and linkages established in an agricultural value chain and its relationship to family farming. Understanding gender and gender roles as defined by the local culture and society are also very important when proposing practical solutions. Together we must extend successful policies, good agricultural practices and a favourable environment together with sensible solutions to support the family farmer and to address the problems of agriculture and food security.

We continue to work for the small holder, resource poor folks involved in agriculture and allied activities and express our solidarity and commitment to the cause of family farmers. The multi-stakeholder consultation on Regional Dialogue on Family Farming: Sustainable Rural Development and Food Security has facilitated promoting dialogue among different stakeholders towards better understanding of family farming and the role of small holder farmers.

I sincerely hope that this meeting result would effectively contribute to the regional consultation on Family Farming in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: Challenges and Opportunities that would be conducted in August, 2014 in Chennai, India.



Hiroyuki Konuma

*Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative  
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific*





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Background

The 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly declared 2014 the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF)<sup>1</sup> with the aim of putting family farming at the centre of agricultural, environmental and social policies in national agendas. FAO was invited to facilitate its implementation, in collaboration with Governments, the UNDP, IFAD, the CGIAR, and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system as well as relevant non-state actors.

The celebration of the IYFF is an opportunity to raise the profile of family farming by focusing world's attention on its important role in eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources and protecting the environment.

In preparation to the 2014 IYFF, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is facilitating the organization of five (5) Regional Dialogues on Family Farming in collaboration with the World Rural Forum (WRF), the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the World Farmers Organization (WFO). The Regional Dialogue in Asia and the Pacific Region was held in Bangkok from 21 to 22 November 2013 (see *Annex 1 – Programme Agenda*).

The overall objective of the Regional Dialogue on Family Farming: *Sustainable Rural Development and Food Security* is to promote awareness among diverse stakeholders on the goals and objectives of the 2014 International Year of Family Farming with specific focus on the following:

- i) Share experiences and knowledge on family farming practices in the Asia-Pacific region
- ii) Develop common understanding of family farming and its linkages with food and nutrition security, poverty reduction and sustainable development
- iii) Promote appropriate policies and enabling environment for sustainable development of family farming
- iv) Prepare a draft agenda for the upcoming RAP Regional Conference on family farming to be held in Chennai in August 2014 on the theme of *The 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Opportunities and Challenges*

The two-day Asia and the Pacific Regional Dialogue was multi-stakeholder with 60 participants representing member governments from 19 countries<sup>2</sup> from the region; the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); the World Food Programme (WFP); the three global organizing partners (WRF, ICA and WFO) and their regional and country members; regional producer/farmer organizations and their country members; regional research institutions; and regional CSOs working on food security, food sovereignty, human rights, land reform, women, youth, indigenous peoples and fishers (see *Annex 2 – List of Participants*).

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<sup>1</sup> In 2008, the initiative to declare an International Year of Family Farming was launched by the World Rural Forum (WRF) in collaboration with more than 350 organizations from 60 countries in five continents including major regional networks of family farmers' organizations in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. In 2011, taking note of a proposal put forth by the Government of the Philippines, the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference proposed that the United Nations declare 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF).

<sup>2</sup> The 19 member countries are: Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Indonesia, India, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam, Australia, Fiji, Samoa and Papua New Guinea; the three regional producer/farmers organizations are: Asian Farmers Association (AFA), La Via Campesina and the Pacific Island Farmer Organization Network (PIFON), and the two regional research institutions are: MS Swaminathan Research Foundation and APAARI.

## ***Summary of Key Recommendations and Priorities from the Discussion***

The roles and contribution of family farming for food security and nutrition in the region

Asia and the Pacific comprises 60% of the world's population. It is the region where 70% of family farmers in the world are found. At least 40% and up to 90% of farmers in each country of the region are small-scale food producers, farmers, fishers herders. They produce 80% of the region's food security. These data validate a well-founded claim that Asia and the Pacific is the global home of small-scale farmers and family farmers!

Family farmers contribute to local market development, community level cooperation and resilience, and ultimately to countries global domestic product (GDP). They have important roles and contributions in enhancing the multi-functionality of agriculture such as preserving local traditions, heritage and food systems, as well as community ecosystems and rural landscapes.

Family farming in the Asia and the Pacific region is so diverse, making it difficult to come up with a simple and comprehensive definition. Presenters and resource persons described the characteristics as still family-based and small-scale, spanning from full-time family members farming with support of wage labor as in China, to small-scale and subsistence farmers as in Pakistan and the Pacific Islands. Women play a major role in family farming. There is a need to examine family farming in the region in an inclusive way to understand the situation of marginalized small-scale family farmers and the context of power relations, structures and equity within the family farms and specific to each country. Changes in population structures such as ageing, loss of youth or youth retention in farms, and left-behind elders and women in farms, are factors to be considered when we speak about family farming in Asia and the Pacific. Therefore, defining family farming is a continuing process of increased understanding of situations at the local and national levels.

The smallholder family farmers in the region face enormous challenges due to rapid globalization of the food sector and threats from large-scale commercial farming and extractive industrial production. They are confronted with emerging environmental changes brought about by climate change, floods, diseases and pests, as well as lack of proper support, lack of access to markets, lack of access to assets, seeds and technology, and unfavourable policies.

Participants noted the need to sensitize and bring on board governments to listen and to take action during the IYFF. As such, there were a range of priority actions and key recommendations proposed and discussed by the participants on the need to establish those enabling conditions necessary in order to support family farmers by providing programmes and incentives that allow them to thrive, flourish, gain their dignity and become self-sufficient.

## ***Policies, Programmes and Effective Strategies and Partnerships***

The unfavorable macro-economic and trade policies are major obstacles in tapping the potential of family farmers to move up the value chain. There is an urgent need for governments to act accordingly in reforming legal frameworks and policies, in particular access to land and productive assets (market, credit, seeds, technology, etc.). There is also a great need to facilitate family farmers' participation in access to markets and programmes through their organizations such as producer organizations and cooperatives. This also requires enabling their participation to influence policy and decision-making processes at the national and regional levels. FAO and IFAD have an important facilitating role to play in this respect.

Participants noted a high priority should be given to support capacity development programmes that are *"family farmer-centred, owned and led"*, on the following: value-chain participation, climate change adaptation, disaster risk response, influencing and engaging in policy dialogues, among others.

## ***Organizational models for sustainable family farming, producer organizations and cooperatives***

Participants highlighted the need to avoid duplication and to clarify the roles between government, producer organizations and cooperatives, as well as other supporting organizations for collective actions, i.e., civil society, private sector, in respect to delivering agricultural services and strengthening the capacity of family farmers. They should have clear vision and set of goals to support their members. Producer organizations need

to develop income generating activities that allow family farmers to move towards self sustaining, hence, the importance of sharing experiences and ‘business models’ between producer organizations.

Examples of good practices from collective actions were presented, in particular on the successful experiences of cooperatives and self-help women’s groups, as well as advocacy and pressure groups, as key models of collective organizing that support the roles and contributions of family farmers. This requires developing and facilitating the scaling-up of existing successful grassroots collective efforts in order to gain wider and national impact.

Participants repeatedly raised issues pertaining to root causes of problems, underlying structures and issues of inequality. The major role that women play in family farming is still not recognized despite their contribution of up to 85% of the work in family farms. They barely receive 20% of the family farming income and only have 2% of the asset ownership. The presentation of a women’s association, SEWA, shed light as an example to promote the effective self-help grassroots organizing models of women farmers as a means of economic empowerment, as well as institutionalized platforms from grassroots to national levels.

Youth are abandoning the family farming as they do not want to continue to have what is perceived as a miserable life. Instead, they opt to move to industrial jobs, information technology, US dollar-paying tourism jobs, and other work geared towards “sophisticated” lifestyles. Participants proposed several proposals on the need for producer organizations to target youth and demonstrate the profitability in farming, as well as shed light on farming for our young people in order to bring them back in agriculture.

### **Key recommendations & strategies**

#### **Key Recommendations from Participants**

- 1) Sensitize and bring on-board governments to take action on family farmers during the IYFF.
- 2) Support farmer engagement in value-addition and commercialization of local produce, i.e., product branding, media, local ambassador for FFs.
- 3) Develop country-specific data on family farmers, including roles and structures of producer organizations.
- 4) Develop a strong campaign and promotion of IYFF such as through National Awards to Family Farmers.

#### **Key Strategies for consideration for the IYFF Agenda**

- 1) We need to have a long-term strategy such as International Decade of Family Farming
- 2) Build on existing producer organization networks and strategies that are making an impact on family farming – more support
- 3) Include more producer organizations and lead farmers in the IYFF activities/meetings but make it more meaningful such as organizing FF field visits.
- 4) Involvement of FOs in public programmes and their effective participation. Identify which FOs are participating in public programmes and support capacity building and other institutional development.
- 5) The issue of access to appropriate technologies of FF is necessary in order for them to achieve sustainability and get over the “drudgery” issues of farming.
- 6) Emphasis on the clarification of roles and responsibilities between the government and producer organizations and cooperatives in order to avoid duplication.

The outcome and results of the Regional Dialogue on Family Farming are expected to serve as inputs to the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) which will be held in Mongolia in March 2014, as well as to the upcoming Chennai Regional Conference. The integrated outcomes from these three events will then culminate as RAP’s contribution to the IYFF Global Initiative on “*Working towards a United Approach to promote Food Security and Nutrition*” and the Global Forum on IYFF which will be held in Rome in October 2014.

# SUMMARY REPORT OF THE REGIONAL DIALOGUE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC:

## *Sustainable Rural Development and Food Security*

**Day 1 (21 November 2013)**

### **Welcome Address from FAO and Organizing Partners**

**Mr Hiroyuki KONUMA**, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative, officially opened the Regional Dialogue and welcomed the participants. He noted the timely celebration of the Launch of the 2014 International Year of Family Farming in New York on 22 November coinciding with the holding of the Regional Dialogue in Asia and the Pacific. He highlighted the importance of the International Year as an opportunity to recognize the important role that smallholder family farmers play in eradicating hunger and poverty. He mentioned that smallholder farmers constitute 90 percent of the total agricultural labour in this region, producing 80 percent of the region's food security. This is in spite that their landholdings are far below average agricultural land sizes as compared with other regions of the world. These smallholder farmers face enormous challenges posed by the rapid globalization of the food sector as well as newly emerging environmental changes brought about by climate change, floods, diseases and pests, lack of proper support, unfavourable policies and threats to losing market access. In addition, rising fuel prices, commodity futures, technology user agreements and patents, lack of basic storage and transport, inadequate rural infrastructures and access to finance are the other constraining factors. Mr Konuma stated that *"The IYFF is a window of opportunity to raise awareness, advocate relevant policies and establish multi-stakeholder platforms for policy dialogue"... "We need to position family farming with a focus on small-scale farmers within this global context and formulate the right responses to support this crucial sector"*.

**Ms Esther PENUNIA**, Board Member of the World Rural Forum (WRF), welcomed the participants of the Regional Dialogue. She described the extensive participatory process that WRF coordinated globally with some 360 civil society organizations from 60 countries that supported the campaign. She mentioned the participation of three regional organizations from Asia including the Asian Farmers Organization (AFA), AsiaDHRRA and the Asian NGO Coalition (ANGOC), together with eight (8) countries in the region. Ms. Penunia stated that *"We want to uplift the conditions of family farmers so that they can have real dignity and be proud to be family farmers... and that the young generation will continue to go to family farming, and thereby reduce poverty and increase food security and nutrition."*

**Mr. Sung Ryun KIM**, representative of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), welcomed the participants of the Regional Dialogue and thanked the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific for its dedication in making IYFF a success. He highlighted the important role of cooperatives of family farmers as an important partner to the IYFF. He stated that: *"Together with the World Rural Forum and the World Farmers Organization, ICA looks forward to promoting the important status and roles of family farmers in agriculture."*

### **Introductions and Participant's Expectations**

*Each participant introduced themselves and their representing organization, as well as indicating the most important expectation that they wish to achieve from the regional dialogue. The following are the main expectations of the participants:*

- The majority of the participants expressed their eagerness to hear, learn and share stories and successful lessons and good practices on family farming from other countries. They expressed their desire to empower family farmers and give them the proper recognition and status.
- Representatives from member governments expressed their desire to learn how best to support an environment conducive to family farming and develop appropriate policies that aims to make family farming profitable and sustainable.
- Representatives from the Small Island States wanted to learn the applicability of their approaches from their own setting and environments with other countries in the region.

- AFA would like to bring back the message of the regional dialogue to their members on how to promote the IYFF. They would like to come up with policy agenda for farmers so that farmers can lead happy and healthy lives and be proud farmers.
- PIFON would like to learn how to best support FF to be more profitable and sustainable.
- IFAD and ANGOC made a request to come up with one concrete action that benefits small holder family farmers.
- NEDAC representative requested to come up with a Plan of Action that will improve conditions of small farmers who needs assistance and technology.
- Many participants from civil society organizations requested to touch upon key issues and existing policy gaps. They highlighted the importance of having a list of priorities of the region on how to improve family farming at country level that should be addressed urgently.
- Social movement representatives highlighted the need to bring to the attention of the general public and decision makers access and rights issues, on land tenure in particular.
- Several participants shared their concerns on how to retain youth in family farms and enable them to continue FF as a career and a profession.
- AsiaDHRRA would like to know the best approach to keep track of commitments that will be made during IYFF, i.e., accountability mechanisms to ensure that their commitments are carried out beyond 2014.
- A member government representative expressed his desire to learn how to support indigenous peoples, pastoral and livestock herders as they are challenged and forced to leave their livelihoods.
- SEWA would like to share their good practice and find a way to scale-up their activities to other parts of India.
- The Swiss Aid Agency Representative would like to learn from the experiences of the region.
- The IFAD representative would like to learn how farmers organizations can advocate on family farmers and how FOs can deliver improved services.
- The FAO India representative would like to learn and share the successful stories on family farms at the upcoming regional conference on FF in Chennai.
- FAO staff from headquarters would like to bring the outcome of the regional dialogue to the 2014 Global IYFF.

### ***Opening Presentation***

Mr. Francesco **PIERRI**, FAO Family Farming Officer, gave a powerpoint presentation on the background of the 2014 International Year of Family Farming, the context of the international consensus that supports family farmers, the role of FAO, and the other regional processes leading to the IYFF. He concluded by citing the need to prepare a Strategic Paper on Family Farming inspired by the dialogues with regional/national actors, which will be an important contribution to the global IYFF preparations. He also mentioned that the topic of Family Farming is already in the official agenda of the FAO Regional Conferences of Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. (Please see Annex 3 – Powerpoint Presentation on IYFF.)

Mr. Jean-Philippe **AUDINET**, Senior Technical Adviser at IFAD, gave his opening statement congratulating first the World Rural Forum and its members for initiating the IYFF campaign. IFAD, as an early supporter of the campaign, thanked the government of the Philippines for sponsoring the IYFF at the UN General Assembly. He also thanked FAO for its facilitating and coordinating role starting with the organization of the regional dialogues. He said that the IYFF presents an extraordinary opportunity to the millions of women and men food producers. He cited the relevant conclusion of the CFS High Level Panel of Experts on the importance of investing on smallholders in agriculture, as well as the importance of IYFF feeding into the Global Consultation of Responsible Agriculture Investment (RAI). He recommended ways and means to find solutions and to achieve political consensus through greater engagement of member-based organizations, such as cooperatives and forms of collective action. It will be important to engage them as platforms and therefore having institutionalized dialogue platforms will be necessary. He mentioned IFAD support to the farmers' organizations-led Medium-Term Cooperation Programme (MTCP) Phase II Launch in Asia and the Pacific. It aims to strengthen the capacities of farmers' organizations to deliver services and engage in policy dialogues. He also mentioned the impressive and successful agriculture development results of countries in the region like Viet Nam and Thailand



based on smallholder family farming that are food self-sufficient. He also mentioned the position of Asia as a leader in economic growth worldwide, whilst still having the biggest share of extreme poor people. Finally, he raised the prospect that the Asia Region may have a unique message to be sent to the world during the IYFF. He hopes that IYFF can be a stepping stone to inclusive agriculture development – it must be more than a year of celebration but also a year of change and acceleration towards eradicating hunger and poverty.

## **SESSION I: The importance and roles of family farmers in the Asia and Pacific region – their contribution to food security and nutrition and poverty reduction (Plenary)**

**Mr Rodrigo CASTAÑEDA**, Chief of Partnerships, Office of Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development (OPC), FAO, chaired the Session. He gave the opening statement stating the overall objective of the session that aims to increase understanding of the current status and trends of family farm approaches in the region. He mentioned the extensive literature search conducted by FAO on the definitions of the term “family farmer” and concluded that in the context of the current agricultural and rural landscape, the characteristics that define a family farm have evolved and the concept should reflect the realities, not only of family households, but of the overall agricultural systems. Therefore, he reiterated the need to have an overview of what constitutes family farming in Asia and the Pacific. He asked the presenters to provide examples of the range or types of family farming in which they are involved.

He then passed on the floor to the Facilitator of the Session, **Mr Francesco Pierri**.

### **What does Family Farming mean in Asia and the Pacific context?<sup>3</sup> Status, trends and opportunities for family farmers in Asia and the Pacific**

**Facilitator: Mr Francesco Pierri, FAO**

#### **Panel Discussion 1**

Ms. Xia **YANG**, Ministry of Agriculture, China, gave the background on how the government gave a lot of attention in the 1980s to family farming characterized with full-time waged family members in the farms and resulted in high productivity gains in cash crops. She highlighted support from government including the law on registration of family farms, promotion of transfer mortgage, provision of range of services, policy on education and training, etc. She emphasized the importance of strengthened policies so that farmers can set up cooperatives as a continuing effort to help stabilize farmers, especially the smallholders.

*Facilitator's comment:* The example shared by China was a good way to show how government supports family farmers, including an interesting approach on how government set up criteria.

**Mr. Iftikhar Ahmad RAO**, Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Pakistan, described the two types of landholdings in Pakistani family farms: i) below five (5) hectares, and ii) above five (5) hectares. He stated that 80 per cent of landholders have below five hectares. He mentioned that every farmer benefits from government support. He described the small landholders where every family member is involved in the farm. Women have a major contribution, especially on livestock raising, which is positive. There are two types of policy intervention:

- 1) *Regular policy* that provides credit with low interest rates, technical assistance through agriculture extension at the provincial level, price setting stabilization, export facilitation with a buy-back price guaranty to the farmers, elimination of custom duty on agro-technology, crop value addition training and capacity building to farmers. A recently launched scheme for smallholders provide loan incentives and technical assistance for date producers (a major agricultural export product of Pakistan) .
- 2) *Emergency policy* in case of floods that provides loans and incentives to smallholder farmers and subsidies on certified seeds in case of loss of crops.

<sup>3</sup> FAO Working Definition: “Family Farming (which includes all family-based agricultural activities) is a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family labor, including both women’s and men’s. The family and the farm are linked, co-evolve and combine economic, environmental, social and cultural functions.”

Mr. RAO mentioned the need to further improve policies given that national food security is still at the bottom of national priorities (given the national security scenario). He also mentioned the roles of middlemen (good or bad) in a place where there is no alternative financial mechanism and no bank is open. A major threat he mentioned is water shortage, particularly when transitioning from emergency to rehabilitation situations. Political will to make financial resources available is very important in order to make agriculture a profitable business.

*Facilitator's comment:* The example shared by Pakistan showed how government provides support to about 80% of landholders that are smallholders, the importance of livestock, role of women and the enabling environment of government in providing low interest rates to family farmers and setting price policy.

**Ms. Esther PENUNIA**, Secretary-General of the Asian Farmers Association (AFA), provided some statistical background on Asia and the Pacific: it comprises 60% of the world's population, at least 40% and up to 90% are family farmers who are also small-scale farmers, fishers, herders. It is the region where 70% of FFs in the world are found. Therefore, she said that Asia and the Pacific is the global home of small-scale farmers and family farmers! She further added that 60% of the world's hungriest are in Asia, especially in South Asia. Therefore, Asia region is also the poorest and the hungriest in the world! These are the issues to confront that AFA members ask each other. AFA is composed of rich farmers and also farmers from poor countries. When AFA members asked themselves "*why are we poor*", a consensus came up – "*we do not have secure access and rights to land, water, ancestral lands*". As such, AFA continues to mount campaigns for rights amidst threats from local elites who are the owners of large-scale lands or foreign big companies who have the mining activities. There are also problems of inadequate access to credit and markets and trade agreements (e.g., NAFTA) that are not supportive of small farmers. The challenge for family farmers is to have the capacity to engage with their governments and have access to policy benefits, but information does not come to farmers easily. She highlighted the great effect of climate change in a region especially to the most vulnerable like those recently affected by Yolanda Typhoon. The most affected are smallholder farmers who live in houses made of *nipa* huts that are easily blown by strong winds. She cited that their members from Korea exemplify good support from governments. However, in contrast their member from Indonesia is still having problems in identifying appropriate policies. As such, AFA sees the importance of the launching of the MTCP II which is expected to build farmer organizations' capacities to engage with their governments. She concluded that despite the many challenges they face in terms of land rights and meaningful engagement with governments on policies and processes, there are also a lot of opportunities seen like the IYFF that may be able to come up with up with new, good policies.

*Facilitator's comment:* The presentation showed the necessity to have accurate statistics for accurate policies. Given the challenges mentioned on farmers' lack of access to natural resources, it is important to establish mechanisms for dialogue not only on agricultural policies but also on macro policies that are conducive to the overall environment, like trade.

**Mr. Afamasaga TOLEAFOA**, Pacific Islands Farmer Organization Network (PIFON) Chair, Samoa Islands. He first congratulated AFA for being at the forefront on behalf of the farmers in the region. He then introduced the diversity of family farms in the big and small Pacific islands. Farming in the Pacific is family- based. Land is customarily owned, belonging to the family. You do not see people being employed – you just see families working on their farms whether for subsistence, for family or for cash. He is pleased to see the new focus on Family Farming presented in the IYFF. They are the same issues dealt in the Pacific and quite concerned that governments deal with donors who have no understanding of the kind of farming in their environment. He stated that "We come from subsistence family farming that is different from other parts of the world. It is all within family. We produce to feed the family. Increasingly, we are looking at earning cash as we try to get more young people to be involved. Family farmers have very little input of technology for intensive agriculture, control of quality of seeds, soil management for environmental sustainability – all of these fit within the new focus on family farming. In the Pacific, there is a move towards market- and commercial-oriented farming which requires technology, training, etc. We share the same needs but in the context of family-run farming. Fiji and Papua New Guinea have large commercial oriented production, such as big sugarcane producers where women play a big role." He further added that many challenges remain; that is why the role of producer organizations is extremely important which is a new way of organizing farmers in the Pacific. PIFON is a new producer organization in the region where there has been a very dominant government role in farming and the economy. Producer Organizations having a voice is a new thing. Small holders must have someone who can mobilize them. That is

different from the role of governments that do not have that capacity. Governments must stick to their role to enable farmers, and let farmers get together and mobilize themselves.

*Facilitator's comment:* The presentation expressed the need for modernization of family farming and to have different kinds of access and policies that need to be in place.

**Mr. Sug Ryun KIM**, International Alliance of Agricultural Cooperatives (ICAO), Korea, stated that family farmers and small farmers is a way of life. They can adapt more easily to changes and can contribute to the multi-functionality of agriculture, for example in the preservation of community ecosystems and rural landscapes. Agricultural cooperatives are in a better position to improve the lives of farmers. That is why during the IYFF, these issues need to be addressed.

*Facilitator's comment:* Large farmers' cooperatives can maximize the economic and environmental benefits for their members. As such, the multi-functionality of agriculture in the preservation of cultural heritage and ecosystem can very well be provided by family farmers.

**Ms. Marlene RAMIREZ**, Secretary-General of AsiaDHRRA, highlighted the strong campaign that led to the IYFF with involvement of 10 to 15 broad-based farmers groups worldwide. The uneven distribution of wealth in the region that shapes the poverty patterns have led to progressive deterioration of rural areas. Exacerbated by migration from rural areas and disaster-prone, farmers face too many risks. There is a need for small farms to have vibrant and strong organizations that will help strengthen family farmers, as well as more enabling environments such as development of legal frameworks. There are promising opportunities and initiatives with family farmers in the region that are already getting recognition for having successful and inspiring stories. Some examples are the Filipino supplier of organic rice, the Cambodian farmers' meaningful participation in public programmes, the growing solidarity among producers organizations at the national, regional and global levels through initiatives like the MTCP, increasing investment in agriculture where family farmers are capacitated and protected by rules of law. AsiaDHRRA, a member of Agricord, aims to increase the capacity of farmers organizations to mobilize resources for their direct access to funds. IYFF is an opportunity to give back dignity to family farmers that they deserve and to encourage rural youth that there is life in rural areas. There are lots of opportunities and hopes that governments will make their commitments on the implementation of the voluntary guidelines on land and the small-scale fisheries, and the RAI. IYFF should give an opportunity to engage CSOs at the regional and global dialogues and policy agenda setting.

*Facilitator's comment:* The rapidly changing context in the Asia and the Pacific presents both opportunities and challenges, especially with the youth exodus. Governments are being encouraged to provide the conducive environment through the implementation of the voluntary guidelines and the RAI.

**Mr. Ajay PARIDA**, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation from India, expressed the need to bring out the islands of success stories from specific local information that will be discussed during the Regional Dialogue. Some of the issues and examples that may be shared to take knowledge from include: conserving traditional diversity, 4Cs – value chain in the market, the power of scale which is important so that people buy from you directly instead of going to big supermarkets, technology empowerment of farmers, improved seeds and technology, crop management based on local tradition, the role of women in food and agriculture, convergence between different sectors (e.g., land reform schemes).

*Facilitator's comment:* There is a need for a holistic approach in order to achieve the principle of economies-of-scale and economies-of-scope. Similar to the earlier issue mentioned on multi-functionality, family farmers are also planting medical plants and at the same time contributing to food security and biodiversity. There is so much we can learn and take knowledge from.



## **SESSION II: Roles and contribution of women and youth and emerging issues in the future of Family Farming**

### ***Panel Discussion 2***

**Facilitator: Mr Gerard Sylvester, FAO**

**Theme: The role of youth and women: opportunities and threats for family farming in the Asia and the Pacific region**

**Ms Chandrika SHARMA**, Executive Secretary of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), Chaired the Panel Discussion. She introduced the topic to be discussed by recognizing the equity issue of family farmers given the underlying structural issues faced by small-scale producers. She posed the challenge to the presenters to address the issues of inequities, power differentials and landlessness, as well as integrate them into the concept of family farming.

**Mr. Daniel Clement ROYAN**, President of MIJARC, provided the challenge faced by youth in agriculture. He posed the question - *what can be the future of agriculture in many developing countries that concentrate on industrial activities and information technology sectors geared for a sophisticated lifestyle?* As such, no one would like to go into agriculture as a career, which leads to abandonment of agricultural lands. Young people want decent and rewarding jobs. How do you bring them in farming? The big issue is how to bring youth into agriculture and family farming. The government has to build more awareness in schools and universities to make agriculture an attractive choice as a life career. Giving a lot of training to a lot of young people is a big challenge. Youth are leaving the farms and parents do not want their child to become a farmer because they say it is a miserable life. We need to find solutions.

**Ms. Chhaya BHAVSAR**, Coordinator of Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), India, described SEWA as a member-based women's organization with 1.7 million women farmer members. She attested to their experience in the role of women in agriculture, which is 80 to 85 per cent of the work are being done by women in farms, livestock, animal husbandry, included. Hardly 20 per cent of the income goes to women, and 80 per cent of the income goes to men. One per cent of the assets go to women and 99 per cent go to men. SEWA advocates for women to have equal opportunity in the family. They help organize women among themselves so that they do not think of themselves as alone. With organized women's group like financial groups, they can get a better income which actually goes to the family eventually, and then support equal asset creation. If land is in the name of women, there is less chance to put the land in mortgage. When women gain experience with any new technology, she can easily adapt these knowledge and information for herself as well as share the knowledge with others. Women can be a very good part of organized groups and a decision-maker. How can we help them move up to the value chain? We need to recognize a woman as a farmer and within a family she also has to have an equal chance to lead within women's organizations. The combined effect is better inputs to family farming. Women are also a source of parenting to the new, young generation and can play a critical role there. The control over productive assets and income continue to be imbalanced. The power relations within households are a critical issue and should be considered within the concept of family farming.

### ***Emerging issues and future of family farming in Asia and the Pacific region***

**Mr. Ibrahim SHABAU**, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Maldives, emphasized the term "empowerment" when speaking about women and youth. He then gave the context for the Maldives, which is a small country in South-East Asia consisting of small islands, where only 10% of the country area is land. Fishing is a major agricultural activity and tourism is a major source of revenue. Youth is moving away from agriculture and fisheries because of other sectors like tourism that pay well in US dollars. No one wants to work the soil (or water) and sweat. Cultivation methods are intensive and focused only on limited market availability. For example, there are produce from the island that is marketed only in the island resort. He described the projects that the government is providing for women and youth. They learned that agriculture has to be attractive in order to attract youth. As such, they are trying to promote and increase awareness on agriculture similar to the tourism business. Loans are given to youth and women with lower interest rates. They also do branding of agricultural products such as climate smart labeling tags to make products more attractive. They also develop cooperatives with support from FAO and IFAD. A major issue is how many women take part in managerial

positions and how many of them are getting profits? There is a regulation in the country for every cooperative have women and youth as part of the governance. In the fisheries sector, women are greatly involved in processing of the high-value Maldivian fish. In order to make them profitable, the government brands the produce and supports the royalties that they get (currently being passed in the parliament). The government is also linking farmers in an E-Agriculture initiative for information-sharing, as well as promoting mobile smart phones to increase the access to the value chain. Electronic portals to get market information have thus been developed in order to easily get the price of commodities. He concluded by reminding the audience that perhaps things work well with smaller populations and questioned how to replicate such experiences in bigger population settings. He mentioned the recent workshop of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), an initiative that promotes all unique heritage systems in the world consisting of family farms. This is indeed our previous heritage and this is what we want to promote.

**Mr. Dao THE ANH**, representing the Viet Nam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS) reiterated some of the success stories from her country earlier mentioned. He presented the context of VietNam's rapid economic growth and the central role of family farming. Over the last 25 years Viet Nam has returned to family farming as the majority are small producers in more than 10 million households. All of them were given land for every family. There were investments in technology from the green revolution, investments in irrigation systems and extension. There were good experiences with policies and technology. However, there were problems with the market-driven approach. Experience indicated that food security and rapid reduction of poverty can be achieved but not income security. Monocrop farming for exportation does not increase income as seen in the Mekong River rice production fields. Food insecurity and poverty in remote and mountainous areas still exist. There are major market constraints and problems of pollution due to highly intensive agriculture. Family Farming are facing new challenges which include the following: 1) high population density, 2) climate change – the frequency of events is becoming stronger and family farmers have low resilience and lack of support, 3) the rapid increase of price of labour and material inputs, 4) Lack of farmer professional organizations and co-operative that lead to low bargaining power of family farmers, and 5) changing population with mostly old people and women only staying the in the farms. However, he also described new opportunities as there are more small farmers' participation and improvement of quality of rice, coffee, etc. due to the presence of farmer professional organizations and cooperatives developing partnership with private business. He provided specific policy solutions for the Tam Nong policy programs that deal with rural, agriculture and family farming that represents 70% of agriculture production which include: investment in technology, promotion of organic rice production, and highlighting the role of farmers organizations like cooperative groups to support farmers. He also mentioned the current IFAD-supported project on pro-poor value chain which can be replicated in other parts of the country. Finally, he emphasize that for family farming to become sustainable, land security is very important. The current revision of land law will extend the current land-use rights to 50 years (from 20 years) and the possibility for farmer to involve in land transformation negotiation that will address conflicts between farmers and government and will then achieve family farmers' investment in agriculture.

**Mr. Keshab KHADKA** representing All Nepal Peasants Federation (ANPFa), described Nepal as a country sandwiched between India and China. There are different kinds of agriculture from the Himalayas highest point to the low land, tropical areas. Agriculture is common to the Nepali population as the base of their livelihoods. When we talk about agriculture, it is talking about an industry where you can produce something sustainably. Farmers are facing many challenges to agriculture in Nepal. He thanked FAO for initiating the family farming dialogue which has been neglected. He also posed the challenge that if we want to change things, we have to change the perspective of our thinking. Policies and programmes have been developed as prescriptive, addressing only yield and production but without putting the farmers and peasants at the centre. Therefore he requested for IYFF to make a common commitment that there should be no meeting or conference without the actual farmers' equal access to the conference. Let us make IYFF a practical forum for peasants' communities by respecting the knowledge of those who produce food. It is the attitude that we all uphold as we move the IYFF activities into next year.

### ***Dialogue (facilitated)***

A CSO representatives stated the core of the problem of inequality that is happening in family farming. It is also reflected in what is happening with our society-at-large. These are mainly long-term changes. It was followed by another statement from another CSO representative questioning the structures of the society in Asia. As such, some participants felt that the discussion is still far away from recognizing the social and economic contributions

of family farmers.

One participant challenged participant as they are still acting through and for their own institutions in each of the countries. Therefore, it is necessary to get beyond individual institutional interests, perspectives and priorities. This approach should be reflected in respect to FF and taking advantage of the opportunity of IYFF. This was followed by another intervention stating that new policies would be very important because investment in FF would be very important for young people. Policy is important to change the picture so that FF can also become a valued profession.

The FAO family farming policy officer described the context of the global food crisis of 2008. He reminded the participants that countries where FF has not been dismantled and did not rely on international markets managed to escape the severe crisis. FF showed their great potential, such as conservation of seeds and thus genetic resources. He also mentioned legal frameworks such as joint land titling and supportive programmes in agriculture extension that have addressed some of the problems.

The IFAD representative stated that, given the great diversity highlighted from each country, coming up with precise definition is almost impossible. While the issue of inequality addressed by this panel is real and enormous and cannot be changed in one year, he made the challenge to the participants to focus on what can be achieved in 2014. He recommended for the group to come up with a proposal to each national committee with a general methodology on one specific measure that can reasonably be achieved in 2014. He reiterated that the IYFF is an opportunity. He encouraged the group to stick to one thing that we want to do this year so that in 2015 we can say we have done it. While achievements can be different from one region and country to another, it may be important that FF, for example, can have a recognized status as a career by the family and society. In regards to the issue of land and gender, there may be successful ideas that can be brought back to family farms or institutions. It is important to have something concrete to propose, not within 20 years but in 2014!

AFA supported the IFAD statement to have one key policy message that we can bring out – for example one policy issue to recognize that women are farmers too. For example, in Bangladesh, women farmers have identity card as farmers so that they can also access inputs.

### **SESSION III: Case studies, good practices and organizational models for family farming (Plenary)**

***Chair and Facilitator: Kevin Gallagher, FAO***

#### ***Case Studies Presentation***

#### ***Organizational models for sustainable family farming in Asia and the Pacific – Case studies and Good Practices***

**Ms. Song VOKYUNG**, Chief Executive Officer of *Consumer Korea* introduced her organization, founded in 1983 with 5,000 members. Consumer Korea (CK) is a member of *Consumer International (CI)* with 250 organizational members in 130 countries. Ms. Vokyoung is currently a council member of CI and previously served as Vice-President. She described the consumer's magazine being published by CK which provides consumers reports on three issues: 1) consumer's safety (human rights through consumer's protection); 2) fair and just market (how to define and change markets) and 3) consumption patterns (changing behavior patterns). These consumer magazines provide information in order to help consumers make the right choice, focused not only on individual behavioural change but also policy change at national level. She described the importance of linking consumer's groups that targets the end users of products with the distribution and marketing chains, and all the way to the macro policy making levels. She explained that the Korean agriculture sector depends very much on imported grains, which is the reason why the price of the meat in Korea is very high. Hence, the Korean market is integrated into the global market. She described the changing population of rural areas, with many older people married with migrant workers. She also described the negative effects of hazardous pesticides that impacted farmers and eventually consumers. She reported the success of their lobbying efforts with Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN-AP) for 10 years on the single issue to ban hazardous pesticides and to deal with the safety issues for both farmers and consumers. Since 1983, CK has pioneered

the promotion of organic and local products. It is their approach to support farmers in Korea in a moral and ethical way in order to ensure that farmers themselves receive a fair and proportional price. She compared it with the high proportion of 40 per cent mark up being charged by large distribution and marketing industries that use attractive brands. She also linked the discourse with CK concerns on what is happening with international trade and genetically modified organisms (GMOs). In closing, she strongly recommended to include consumers groups within the IYFF because their target groups are the end-users of the family farmer products. They are a supporter group that does not only focus on family farmers as such, but is an ally and important friend that supports the farmer friendly policies at stake, and for them not to lose that 40 per cent that goes to large distributors!

Ms. Chandrika **SHARMA**, Executive Secretary of *International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)* described the importance of paying attention to the fishing communities resident in the coastal and riparian zones where almost 70% of the population of the region live, and with 47% of their workforce comprised of women that are invisible in policy making and technical work. She described the problems faced by the fishing sector that are similar to the farming sector, in particular the lack of access and rights to resources. She highlighted the rapid and unprecedented grabbing of resources as a major concern to small-scale fishers. Those concerns are the issues that ICSF aims to tackle through their support to three forms of organizations: policy and advocacy groups, economic or cooperatives groups, and resource management-oriented organizations. She mentioned the success achieved by the advocacy groups and resource-management groups through their pressure and awareness efforts which have resulted in policies that have been put in place that protect small-scale fisheries. She also mentioned that the economic or fishing cooperatives groups are far weaker because they are spread out and organized by their economic activities which make them more difficult to organize. She raised the problem of fishers' indebtedness with money lenders, a problem which still remains. In closing, she mentioned the recently negotiated Voluntary Guidelines on Small-Scale Fisheries which is well placed to be promoted and implemented during the processes leading to the IYFF.

Ms. Chhaya **BHAVSAR** from *Self-Employment Women Association (SEWA)* India shared their "Sustainable Agriculture Campaign" in order to address "Why does the farmer remain hungry?" Based on the belief that there is need to improve the collective strength and bargaining power of the farmers, SEWA helped agricultural workers and their families to organize their own local organizations in the form of federated regional cooperatives. SEWA developed an integrated programme comprised of technical training of trainers programme on appropriate tools and technology, developing locally-owned organizations in the form of cooperatives, and facilitating access to financial and marketing services. She highlighted the model of building a cadre of women master trainers from grassroots level who have now managed to open their own agriculture schools like animal husbandry schools that provide knowledge and training to local women farmers, facilitate access to financial and marketing services, share/rent tools and technology, and access to processing (cleaning and packaging) facilities for their products. This integrated approach resulted in women farmers' increased access to village markets and eliminated the role of middlemen. The campaign initially began from Gujarat and has been replicated in 14 other states (Gujarat, Bihar, Delhi, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Orissa and Jammu and Kashmir) reaching a target of more than five million farmers at the national level. Gradually SEWA felt that there is a huge need to have a network of small and marginalized farmers. In order to address the need to have a platform for learning and knowledge exchange among small and marginalized farmers at the national level, SEWA initiated the All India Women's Farmers' Association (AIFWA) which is a network of women farmers at the national level. This Network has also been replicated in other South Asian countries - Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh - under the name of "Farmer's Forum". The SEWA Agriculture Campaign enabled the development of small and marginal farmers' platforms at the local, national and regional levels that share their issues and best practices among 2400 villages across Gujarat, 11 states of India and 3 countries of South Asia. These Platforms will continue to increase their visibility, voice and representation with a focus on small and marginal women farmers and also improve dialogue between them and the national policy making bodies.

Mr. Tom **BLACK**, Agriculture Counsellor of the Australian Embassy in Thailand commented on the presentations and highlighted the same issues faced by farmers and fishers in Australia. They are also facing the same pressure and currently having a big debate on the future of land tenure. Despite Australia's well regulated and mature banking sector, Australian farmers have put themselves into debt associated to their enormous risks. Despite regulations for fisheries management and lessons from past mistakes in sustainable practices, the number of fishers involved has declined due to structural changes in the industry. The Australian government



likes to talk with a single voice that represents interests around a single issue. For example, it is important that indigenous organizations are well organized professionally and have a strong sense of what they want to advocate to governments. One of the strengths of the Australian government is its ability to have an integrated approach where you find at the same table policy-makers on climate change, access to markets, etc., in its attempts to produce to a unified approach. He closed by posing the challenge faced in improving the status of family farmers as against corporate farming and asking the questions: *What is IYFF? Is it about change, awareness raising, celebration, or all three? What are we actually trying to do? Who are we trying to influence?*

### **Facilitated discussion and recap by the Facilitator**

Mr. Gallagher recapped the lessons learned from the presentations of organizational models and asked presenters how will they bring back the outcomes of the regional dialogues to their own groups. In response:

The SEWA representative will discuss with the government and FAO and then take a lead to hold activities at the national level.

The ICSF representative, as a means of recognizing small scale fisheries in the IYFF, will promote the adoption of the Fisheries Voluntary Guidelines.

The CK representative will work closely with the National Agriculture Cooperative Federation (NACF) and combine the consumer cooperatives efforts with policy influence.

Discussions among the panelists and interventions from the floor highlighted structural issues that continue to have negative impact on achieving sustainable family farming, including trade rules favoring production from developed countries. As such, there is a need to address political will and continue to link movements. The fact that so many farmers are hungry around the world is not acceptable. It has to change. With a rapidly evolving world the impacts of climate change, transformations in markets and large population moves to cities, change is necessary. The IYFF should raise awareness and also take action. Like the example of SEWA, the power of self-organization changing the situation of rural people through solidarity and innovations, it is possible to combine work on better policies with constructive change. *Who else should change and what is needed in order to make a change? What is the current status of creating national committees of FF today?* The meeting is a starting point to identify key actions on what is needed. FAO and IFAD will help facilitate but the process belongs to each country.

### **Outcome Report of Day 2 (22 November 2013)**

*At the opening, the Summary of Day 1 was provided by Rosalud de la Rosa, Gerard Sylvester and Francesco Pierri.*

## **SESSION IV: Policies and Enabling Environment for Sustainable Development of Family Farming**

**Chair : Mr Jean-Philippe Audinet**

**Facilitator : Rosalud de la Rosa**

### **Panel Discussion 3**

Mr Jean-Philippe **AUDINET**, Chaired the Session and introduced the aims which are to identify policy options and programmes in support of FF in the region, as well as strategies and initiatives on joint partnerships.

Mr. Alexandre **GHELEW**, representative of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) provided the role of his agency to bring the IYFF perspective into the national debate. He commented on the need to involve private sector in the debate such as big retailers given their supporting roles to small holder agriculture and the possibilities to bring local opportunities. He recognized the difficult questions raised including gender equity within family farms and given the multi-functionality nature of family farming. He supported the opportunity brought about by the 2014 IYFF to anchor small-holder, family farms in agriculture.

Ms. Ganchimeg **BAASANJAV**, representative of the Ministry of Industry and Agriculture of Mongolia, described the family farms in Mongolia. They are primarily in the livestock and pastoral sector, prone to climate risks given the rigors of its four seasons. Farmers are particularly vulnerable when there is no rain and without means to herd animals. The herders' cooperatives help them through service provision and access to credits. While the small scale family farms in crop production receive support from government (i.e., subsidized loans and credits, seeds and equipments provision), they cannot sustain the farms within their family means. The country imports more than 50% of its milk consumption from other countries. As such, the government started to develop the dairy sector. The country, however, exports cashmere to countries like China. She highlighted that market orientation is very important for crop production.

Ms. Diana **PRASASTWAWATI**, representative of Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesia, provided the range of policies and enabling environment for sustainable development of family farming in Indonesia. She cited the Law 16/2006 on Agriculture, Fishery & Forestry Extension and Law No.19/2013 on Farmers Protection & Empowerment. She cited a range of programmes and incentives to protect small-scale farmers with land holdings of less than 2 hectares including credit, subsidy in interest rates, provision of bank guarantees, food aid for the poor, provision of block grants through federation of farmer groups, development of community food reserves, promotion of Farmer Field Schools (FFS), sustainable food nutrition programs and organic farming. She particularly highlighted the important role of FFS in the transformation process of farmer groups and federation of farmer groups toward farmer enterprises, and in mainstreaming women in agriculture through inclusion in agricultural training and extension.

Ms. Esther **PENUNIA**, Secretary-General of Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), started her presentation with a short video on the Medium-Term Cooperation Programme (MTCP) that aims toward policies on strengthening the capacity of farmers' organizations. She then gave her presentation on the recommendations on the following range of policies (citing examples of country implementation) that should be addressed by the IYFF:

1. Policies on Asset Reform
2. Policies on Gender Equality
3. Policies that Support Sustainable, Agro-ecological Family Farming
4. Policies to Attract Youth in Agriculture
5. Policies to Support to Farmer-Owned/ Farmer-led Enterprises
6. Macro Policies on Trade
7. Policies for Voice of Farmers
8. Policies for Meaningful Involvement and Participation
9. Policies for Climate Change adaptation
10. Policies for Disaster Risk Response
11. Policies to Strengthen FO Capacity Building

Mr. Nathaniel Don **MARQUEZ** from the Asian NGO Coalition pointed to the fact that the United Nations declaring 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming is a testament that the commercialization of agriculture – that reducing to food an entirely economic commodity and its associated model of extractive production – has failed. He then mentioned some of the essential national policy imperatives that promote social equity, ecological sustainability, people's empowerment and gender balance that include the following:

1. genuine agrarian and aquatic reform
2. a system of decentralized intellectual property rights
3. a research agenda within agricultural research institutions focused on reducing poverty situation of farmers
4. agricultural investments directed towards compliance with best practice of food safety and ecological impact, with a strict process of periodic environmental and social impact assessments
5. investments in disaster mitigation and preparedness of households
6. Farmers' rights and capacity development in the entire value chain

He mentioned that the above proposals are means to implement many of the existing negotiated international instruments. While implementation largely remains an open question, beyond policy reforms, there is need for change in global governance and institutional reforms of different organizations or mechanisms dealing with agriculture, food security, and small farmers and food producers. A strong political will is needed for IYFF to become relevant. The step to sustainability requires moving towards an alternative direction and institutional framework that decentralizes, distributes and roots economic power in place and community. The ultimate test will be the extent to which food systems are democratized, and poor people are given back their true powers over their lands, resources and livelihoods. Family farming is about relationships. The broad agenda that unfolds before us is defined by the need to re-orient *“the way we produce, the way we consume, the way we live, the way we govern and the way we relate to each other.”*

## **SESSION V: Breakout Sessions in Working Groups**

The following section are highlights of the issues raised during the working groups sessions and the key recommendations.

### **Working Group 1 –The roles and contribution of family farming for food security and nutrition in the region**

How to raise their profile in IYFF 2014? What are the roles and contributions of family farming?

*FFs contribute to:*

- Household and nutrition security
- Local markets
- Conservation of bio-resources / natural resources
- Preservation of local traditions
- Coping with local vulnerability
- Community level cooperation / cooperatives
- Contribution to GDP ?!?
- Women play a major role
- Definition of FF should be according to countries.

*Priority Issues to be raised:*

- Social esteem
- What can be done to raise their income
- Recognize their contributions
- Family farming's contribution to GDP
- Vulnerability : Resilience
- Favorable Investment Climate
- Role of Women
- Self sufficiency
- Strengthen capacity

*What are the needs of FFs:*

- Enabling policy for building assets
- Addressing vulnerability : Climate, Markets, Insurance
- Social safety nets
- Skills and capacity building
- Market linkages
- Credit access

- Recognition
- Mechanization
- Farm machinery

#### *Recommendations:*

1. Sensitize and bring on-board governments to take action for FFs during the IYFF
2. Support farmer engagement in value-addition and commercialization of local produce, i.e., branding, media, local ambassador for FFs
3. Develop country-specific statistics and data on the contribution of FFs to food security in order to have evidence based actions. The conventional way of collecting statistics is necessary but should include data on the roles and structure of producers' organizations. The usual data presentations by government aims to monitor production statistics only while they should also include monitoring the roles of structures of producers organizations.
4. Organize National award/recognition for outstanding FFs
5. Develop Regional network for capacity building of FFs, i.e., knowledge portal/ platform for FFs

### **Working Group 2 – Recommendations on policies, programmes and effective strategies & partnerships on how to build policy dialogue**

#### *Discussion flow*

- Define and level off on understanding on Family Farming
- Prioritize issues and policy agenda
- Strengthen FO/CSO Dialogue Platforms/Mechanisms at national and regional level

#### *Clarify definition of Family Farming to ensure:*

- Inclusive of marginalized farmers/peasants, landless, pastoralists/shepherds, fishers, other small food producers
- That family is defined in context of gender equality and women empowerment; equal rights among family members including girl child and youth
- Continuing process of increased understanding and defining FF at local/national levels

#### *Priority Issues/Policies Agenda*

1. Access to and control over productive and natural resources; Land/Aquatic Reform
2. Access to credit/financing, other support services
3. Access to and market empowerment (trade agreement implications at national level)
4. Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
5. Institutionalize recognition of Family Farmers in official policy documents and services provided by government (where it does not exist)
6. POs should be consolidated as a collective.

#### *Dialogue Platforms*

- Strengthen/establish broad-based dialogue platform/s and mechanism/s among FOs/CSOs at national level; recognized by government
- Institutionalize national policy dialogue platforms between government and FOs/CSOs and other stakeholders (multi-stakeholder) on sustainable agriculture development; strengthen where it exists
- At sub-regional/regional levels, strengthen existing mechanisms and processes vis-à-vis ASEAN, SAARC, PIC



### *Strategies and Programs*

- Build understanding among FOs/CSOs on Family Farming
- Engage government towards the creation/strengthening of multi-stakeholder (government, FOs, CSOs, private sector, research groups) mechanism; e.g. link to existing mandate to create national mechanisms linked to CFS
- revise existing policies on Family Farming/food and agriculture sector
- discuss priority issues (according to national context)
- push for and strengthen role of FOs/CSOs in governance accountability (M&E)

### **Working Group 3 – Recommendations for Producer Organizations and Cooperatives on organizational models for sustainable family farming**

#### *Priority Issues and Policy Agenda:*

1. There needs to be a legal framework that allows producer organisations to operate freely and effectively.
  - How can government provide this?
  - Listen and act.
2. Government needs to clearly define its role in supporting family farming and acknowledge the role of producer organisations.
  - Avoid duplication and competition
3. Producer organisations need to have a clear vision and set of goals to support their members. They must act with integrity and accountability.
4. Producer organisations need to develop income generating activities that move them towards being self sustaining. The importance of sharing experiences and 'business models' between producer organizations.
5. Producer organisations need to target the youth and demonstrate the profitability in farming. Shed a new light on farming for our young people.

#### ***Strategy for considerations for the IYFF agenda***

- We need to have a long-term strategy such as International Decade of Family Farming
- Build on existing producer organisation networks and strategies that are making an impact on family farming – more support
- Include more producer organisations and lead farmers in the IYFF activities/meetings but make it more meaningful such as organizing FF field visits.
- Involvement of FOs in public programmes and their effective participation. Identify which FOs are participating in public programmes and support capacity building and other institutional development.
- The issue of access to appropriate technologies of FF is necessary in order for them to achieve sustainability and get over the “drudgery” issues of farming.
- Emphasis on the clarification of roles and responsibilities between the government and producer organizations and cooperatives in order to avoid duplication.

#### ***Facilitator's Summary of Recommendations to each stakeholder:***

##### ***Recommendations to Farmers' Organizations***

- Build understanding among FOs/CSOs on Family Farming
- Producer organisations need to have a clear vision and set of goals to support their members. They must act with integrity and accountability.
- Producer organisations need to develop income generating activities that move them towards being self sustaining.

- The importance of sharing experiences and 'business models' between producer organisations.
- Producer organisations need to target the youth and demonstrate the profitability in farming.
- Shed a new light on farming for young people.
- FOs should be involved in public programmes. Their effective participation in decision-making and policy dialogues must be ensured, including their capacity building and other institutional development.

### **Recommendations to Governments**

1. Strengthen/establish broad-based dialogue platform/s and mechanism/s among FOs/CSOs at national level; recognized by government
2. Institutionalize national policy dialogue platforms between government and FOs/CSOs and other stakeholders (multi-stakeholder) on sustainable agriculture development; strengthen where it exists
3. There needs to be a legal framework that allows producer organisations to operate freely and effectively.
4. How can government provide this? Listen and act.
5. Sensitize and bring on-board the Government to take action for FFs during the IYFF
6. Support farmer engagement in value-addition and commercialization of local produce – branding, media, local ambassador for FFs
7. Develop statistics on FF that are country-specific focused on contributions of FFs to food security. The conventional way of collecting statistics is necessary but should include data on the roles and structure of producers' organizations.
8. National award/recognition for outstanding FFs
9. Engage government towards the creation/strengthening of multi-stakeholder (government, FOs, CSOs, private sector, research groups) mechanism; *e.g. link to existing mandate to create national mechanism in CFS*
10. Revise existing policies on Family Farming/food and agriculture sector
11. Discuss priority issues (according to nat'l context)
12. Push for and strengthen role of FOs/CSOs in governance accountability (M&E)
13. Government needs to clearly define its role in supporting family farming and acknowledge the role of producer organisations. Avoid duplication and competition

### **Recommendations to International Organizations**

- Facilitate Regional network for capacity building for FFs
- Facilitate the development of Knowledge portal/platform for FFs
- At sub-regional/regional levels, strengthen existing mechanisms and processes vis-à-vis ASEAN, SAARC, PIC

### **Family Farming Events in 2014**

- Global Meeting of the Farmers' Forum at IFAD; February, Italy
- FAO Asia Pacific Regional Conference, March in Mongolia
- Asia Pacific Regional Consultation on Family Farming, August in India
- UN General Assembly considers Post-2015 Agenda, September in USA
- IYFF Global Conference, October in Italy
- Closing Event for IYFF – TBC

## CLOSING SESSION

In closing the two-day Regional Dialogue on Family Farming, Mr. Konuma highlighted the diversity of the region and the need to examine FF in an inclusive way that makes it difficult to define family farming. The IYFF is an opportunity to raise the understanding of the importance of small scale farmers for the general public, for policy and decision makers, and to hear the voice of landless farmers for their farming and survival. The importance of the topics discussed and debated during the two-day regional dialogue provided some insights on the policies needed to support FF as well as diverse ways to support FF including how to maximize the roles of farmers and producers organizations, cooperatives, women's groups. This encompasses how to promote the self-help efforts of small-scale farmers themselves and promotion of their negotiation power. The real challenge is how to translate the results of IYFF into actions at country level. IYFF should not end only as a celebration but we should build on the opportunity to translate initiatives into action. A decade for as a joint platform and the associated programme is an interesting approach to move forward in medium and long-term actions to safeguard family farmers. Small scale farmers are increasingly important to economies given large-scale investments in land – while the majority of farmers have the highest proportion of poverty and hunger. They are the people who continue to transmit the agricultural heritage, maintain ecosystems, etc. This is a great opportunity to find a way forward. The upcoming MS Swaminathan Foundation-sponsored conference will help us organize the programme of work to concretize the recommendations and actions. He thanked the participants for the fruitful discussions and looks forward to future collaboration. FF has different meanings to different people with different status, conditions and responsibilities. He called for all to bring the recommendations back to their government and discuss how best to implement the recommendations starting next year.

Mr. Jean Philip **AUDINET** representing IFAD thanked everyone and hoped that the IYFF will make a difference in actions for the group. If this year produces a result, we will have family farming for decades and many more years.

Ms. Esther **PENUNIA**, o behalf of WRF, thanked everyone for the actions in particular the promotion of the international decade on family farming. We should help family farmers as primary stakeholders. This is the beginning of our journey together with governments, civil society, FAO, IFAD... at the national, sub and regional levels... in unleashing the potential of FF for food security and poverty reduction so that they can flourish.

Mr. Sung **KIM** on behalf of ICA expressed his thanks for the great opportunity to exchange ideas. He expressed support to the follow up and recommendations for the success of the IYFF.

Mr. Gerard **SYLVESTER** on behalf of FAO RAP and organizers acknowledged and thank all participants for taking their time to travel to Bangkok and to attend this important event. He thanked the Chairs, facilitators and panelists, and the support received from the Assistant Director-General of FAO RAP, colleagues from headquarters in particular the members of the Cooperatives and Producer Organizations Team led by Nora Ourabah, Francesco Pierri and Rodrigo Castañeda, colleagues from RAP, Kevin Gallagher and Peter Kenmore, and finally the RAP staff who have worked very hard on logistics support.

**Regional Dialogue on Family Farming:  
Sustainable Rural Development and Food Security  
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
21-22 November 2013, Bangkok (Amari Watergate Hotel)**

**November 21st 2013 (Day 1)**

Time	Program	
0730-0830	Registration	
0830-0900	<b>Welcome Address</b> by Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• World Rural Forum representative</li><li>• World Farmers’ Organization representative</li><li>• International Co-operative Alliance representative</li></ul>	
0900-0945	<i>Introduction from each participant/organization</i>	<i>Each participant will introduce their organization and mention one most important expectation from the regional dialogue</i>
0945-1015	<b>Coffee Break and group photo</b>	
1015-1100	<b>Opening Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FAO Presentation on the International Year of Family Farming, Francesco Pierri, FAO Family Farming Officer</li><li>• IFAD Presentation, Jean-Philippe Audinet, Senior Technical Adviser</li></ul>	
<b>SESSION I : The importance and roles of family farmers in the Asia and Pacific region – their contribution to food security and nutrition and poverty reduction (Plenary)</b>		
1100-1230	<i>Chair: Mr Rodrigo Castañeda</i> <i>Facilitator: Mr Francesco Pierri</i> <b>What does Family Farming mean in Asia and the Pacific context?</b> <b>Status, trends and opportunities for family farmers in Asia and the Pacific</b> <b>Panel Discussion 1</b> Mr. Xia Yang, Ministry of Agriculture, China <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Jayanth P. ATAPATTU, Dept. of Agriculture, Sri Lanka</li><li>• Ms. Esther Penunia, AFA</li><li>• Mr. Zainal FUAD, La Via Campesina</li><li>• Mr. Kyle STICE, PIFON</li><li>• Mr. Sug Ryun KIM, ICAO</li><li>• Ms. Marlene Ramirez, AsiaDHRRA</li><li>• Mr. Ajay PARIDA, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation</li></ul> <b>Dialogue Session (facilitated) (15 min.)</b> <b>Recap by the Chair</b>	
1230-1330	<b>Lunch Break</b>	

<b>SESSION II: Roles and contribution of women and youth and emerging issues in the future of Family Farming</b>	
<b>1330-1500</b>	<p><b>Panel Discussion 2</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Ms Chandrika SHARMA</i></p> <p><i>Facilitator: Mr. Gerard Sylvester</i></p> <p><b>The role of women and youth: opportunities and threats for family farming in the Asia and the Pacific region</b></p> <p><i>The role of youth in family farming – Daniel Clement ROYAN, MIJARC</i></p> <p><i>The role of women in family farming – Chhaya BHAVSAR, SEWA</i></p> <p><b>Emerging issues and future of family farming in Asia and the Pacific region</b></p> <p><i>Xia Yang, Ministry of Agriculture, China</i></p> <p><i>Ibrahim SHABAU, Ministry of Fisheries &amp; Ag, Maldives</i></p> <p><i>Dao THE ANH, Academy of Ag Sciences, VietNam</i></p> <p><i>Phanuwat WANRAWAY, Cooperative League of Thailand representative</i></p> <p><i>Keshab KHADKA, All Nepal Peasants Federation (ANPFa) representative</i></p> <p><b>Dialogue (facilitated) (30 minutes)</b></p> <p><b>Recap by the Chair</b></p>
<b>1500-1530</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>SESSION III: Case studies, good practices and organizational models for family farming (Plenary)</b>	
<b>1530-1630</b>	<p><i>Chair and Facilitator: Kevin Gallagher</i></p> <p><i>Case Studies Presentation</i></p> <p><b>Organizational models for sustainable family farming in Asia and the Pacific – Case studies and Good Practices</b></p> <p>Presentation from two member governments (TBC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Song VOKYUNG, Consumer Korea</li> <li>• Chandrika SHARMA, ICSF</li> <li>• Chhaya BHAVSAR, SEWA</li> <li>• Tom BLACK, Australian government</li> </ul> <p><b>Dialogue Session (facilitated)</b></p> <p><b>Recap by the Chair</b></p>
<b>1800</b>	<b>Dinner</b>

**November 22nd 2013 (Day 2)**

<b>0830-0900</b>	<p><i>Summary of Day 1 : Outputs from the Day 1 discussions</i></p> <p><i>Francesco Pierri, Rosalud de la Rosa and Gerard Sylvester</i></p>
<b>SESSION IV: Policies and Enabling Environment for Sustainable Development of Family Farming</b>	
<b>0900-1030</b>	<p><b>Panel Discussion 3</b></p> <p><i>Chair : Mr Jean-Philippe Audinet</i></p> <p><i>Facilitator : Rosalud de la Rosa</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alexandre GHELEW, Swiss Agency for Development &amp; Cooperation</li> <li>• Ganchimeg BAASANJAV, Ministry of Industry and Agriculture, Mongolia</li> <li>• Diana PRASASTWAWATI, Indonesia</li> <li>• Esther PENUNIA, AFA</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zainal FUAD, La Via Campesina</li> <li>• Nathaniel Marquez, ANGO</li> </ul> <p><b>Dialogue Session (facilitated)</b> <b>Recap by the Chair</b></p>
<b>1030-1100</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>SESSION V: Breakout Sessions in Working Groups</b>	
<b>1100-1230</b>	<p><i>Group Discussion</i></p> <p>Introduction of Working Group Sessions – Francesco Pierri</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Working Group 1 – Recommendation on the roles and contribution of family farming for food security and nutrition in the region : How to raise their profile in IYFF 2014</b></li> <li>• <b>Working Group 2 – Recommendations on policies, programmes and effective strategies &amp; partnerships on how to build policy dialogue.</b></li> <li>• <b>Working Group 3 – Recommendations for Producer Organizations and Cooperatives on organizational models for sustainable family farming</b></li> </ul>
<b>1230-1330</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>1430-1530</b>	<p>Facilitator: Francesco Pierri</p> <p>Presentation of Group outputs: 10 minutes for each group, 5 Key points</p>
<b>1530-1600</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>SESSION VI: Way forward</b>	
<b>1600-1700</b>	<p>Facilitator: Peter Kenmore</p> <p>Plenary discussion on common recommendations from group work.</p> <p>Identifying discussion items for RAP Regional Conference on Family Farming with MSSRF in 2014.</p>
<b>1700-1730</b>	<i>Closing remarks from FAO, IFAD, WRF, ICA &amp; WFO</i>

## Annex 2: List of Participants

No.	FULL-NAME	POSITION	ORGANIZATION
1.	Ms AGARWAL, Monika	Associate	MARAG – World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP)
2.	Mr AIR, Amar Bahadur	Vice Chairperson	Food-First Information and Action Network (FIAN)
3.	Ms BAYARTSAIKHAN, Nadmid	President	NAMAC MONGOLIA
4.	Mr BHAVSAR, Chhaya	Coordinator	Self Employment Women Association – SEWA
5.	Mr DAMIAN, Jourdain		CIRAD AIT, Bangkok
6.	Ms EUGENIA, Lani	WAMTI	MTCP1 country focal points – Indonesia
7.	Ms GONZALES, Minerva	Board Chair, HRBA2J-Asia	Asia Consortium for Human Right – based Access to Justice
8.	Ms JAHAN, Rowshan	Deputy Director	Association of Land Reform and Development (ALRD)
9.	Mr KAEWJITKONGTHONG, Wikit	SorKorPor	MTCP1 country focal points – Thailand
10.	Dr KHADKA, Keshab	Head, Research Dept	All Nepal Peasants Federation (ANPFa)
11.	Mr KHAN, Waliul Islam	Program Advisor, NEDAC	Network for Dev. of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and Pacific Region
12.	Mr KIM, Sung Ryun	Manager, ICAO	International Alliance of Agricultural Cooperatives
13.	Mr LI, Erchao	Researcher	MTCP1 country focal points – China
14.	Ms MANEECHAN SOOK, Chanerin	Program Assistant	APAARI
15.	Mr MARQUEZ, Nathaniel Don		Asian NGO Coalition – ANGOC
16.	Mr PARIDA, Ajay	Executive Director	MS Swaminathan Research Foundation – MSSRF
17.	Ms PENUNIA, Ma. Estrella	Secretary General	Asian Farmers' Assoc. for Sustainable Rural Development – AFA
18.	Mr PUNYAPRASIDDHI, Kanisorn	Manager	SKP, Thailand
19.	Ms RAMIREZ, Marlene	Secretary General	Asian Partnership for the Dev. of Human Resources in Rural Asia – AsiaDHRRRA
20.	Mr ROYAN, Daniel Clement	International President	International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth – MIJARC

No.	FULL-NAME	POSITION	ORGANIZATION
21.	Ms SAYEED, Azra Talat	Executive Director	Peoples' Coalition for Food Sovereignty (PCFS)
22.	Ms SHARMA, Chandrika	Executive Secretary	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)
23.	Ms SIRI, Bunjong		Asian Partnership for the Dev. of Human Resources in Rural Asia
24.	Mr SONG, VoKyung	CEO	Consumer Korea
25.	Mr STICE, Kyle	Manager	Pacific Islands Farmer Organization Network (PIFON)
26.	Mr TOLEAFOA, Afamasaga	Chairperson	Pacific Islands Farmer Organization Network (PIFON)
27.	Mr VIROLA, Marciano Jr.		AFA Philippines
28.	Mr WIN, Khin Zaw	Director	Tampadipa Institute
29.	Mr ZHAO, Daxing	Deputy Executive Director	China Association of NGO Cooperation – CANGO
30.	Mr KHEMMARATH, Saliao	Deputy Director	<b>Lao PDR</b> Dept of Agricultural Extension and Cooperatives, MOAF
31.	Mr KONELIO, Misa	ACEO-Crops	<b>Samoa</b> MoAF, ACEO-Crops Division
32.	Ms PHETCHO, Wachira	Foreign Relations Officer	<b>Thailand</b> Planning Division, Dept of Agriculture, MoA and Cooperatives
33.	Ms PRASASTYAWATI, Diana		<b>Indonesia</b>
34.	Mr PULAMI, Ram Prasad	Joint-Secretary	<b>Nepal</b> Ministry of Agricultural Development
35.	Mr RAO, Iftikhar Ahmad	Additional Secretary	<b>Pakistan</b> Ministry of National Food Security and Research
36.	Mr RATUYAWA, Osea	Senior Economic Planning Officer	<b>Fiji</b> MOA
37.	Mr SHABAU, Ibrahim	Deputy Director General	<b>Maldives</b> Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture
38.	Dr THE ANH, Đào	Deputy Director General	<b>Viet Nam</b> Research Institute of Food Crops, (VAAS)
39.	Mr WIWAHA, Budi	International Officer	<b>Indonesia</b> Center for Agriculture Ext. Agency of Agriculture Extension and HRD



No.	FULL-NAME	POSITION	ORGANIZATION
40.	Ms YANG, Xia	Principal Staff member	<b>China</b> Department of Rural Economic System and Management, MoA
41.	Mr OKAMOTO, Koichi	First Secretary	<b>Japan</b> Japanese Embassy
42.	Mr AHUJA, Vinod		RAP
43.	Mr AUDINET, Jean-Philippe	Senior Technical Advisor	IFAD
44.	Mr CASTANEDA, Rodrigo		FAO/HQ
45.	Mr DE LARINOA, Yon Fernandez		FAO/HQ
46.	Mr DE VLEESCHAVWER, Diderik		FAO
47.	Dr DELAROSA, Rosalud	Senior Consultant for OCPP	FAO
48.	Mr GALLAGHER, Kevin	Research, Education and Extension Officer & RAP IYFF focal point	FAO RAP Res/Ext/Ed
49.	Mr KENMORE, Peter	FAO Representative	FAOR-India
50.	Mr OTTE, Joachim	SAPO	RAP
51.	Mr PIERRI, Francesco	Officer	FAO/HQ
52.	Mr VIDIITLEKARN, Suriyan	FAO RAP	FAO
53.	Mr THIERRY, Benoit	Country Programme Manager	IFAD
54.	Mr SYLVESTER, Gerard	Knowledge & Information Management Officer & RAP IYFF focal point	FAO
55.	Ms Tienpati, Supajit	FAORAP	
56.	Ms OLAT, Jennifer C.	Programme Officer	Asia-Pacific Development & Communication Centre (ADCC), Dhurakij Pundit University
57.	Ms SINGHASENEE, Nawapat	Associate Programme Officer	Asia-Pacific Development & Communication Centre (ADCC), Dhurakij Pundit University
58.	Ms RITPANITCHAJCHAVAL, Nanpassakorn	Administrative Associate	Asia-Pacific Development & Communication Centre (ADCC), Dhurakij Pundit University
59.	Mr LAGUING, George	Administrative Associate (Contract)	Asia-Pacific Development & Communication Centre (ADCC), Dhurakij Pundit University

