

1. Good afternoon. I thank the governments of France and the Philippines for organizing this side event and the invitation to present views from the Asian region in relation to public policies in favor of family farming. There are now more than 40 national IYFF committees all over the globe initiated by social movements towards the successful campaign of IYFF 2014. Officially, in the Philippines, I'm happy to share that the PH government has taken the serious task of organizing the IYFF AdHoc Working Group which was convened by the DFA, and now co-anchored by the DA and DAR. True to their commitment to engage civil society in the process, the national FO and CSO partners of AFA and Asiadhrra have been invited and have participated in the AdHocWG meetings the past three months, with the aim of broadening the process to bring in more stakeholders in the coming period.

3. As you may all know, many of the civil society organizations attending the CFS joined preparatory meetings and the CSO Forum organized by the CSM over the weekend here at the FAO. Priority issues to include agriculture investment, biofuels, protracted crisis were debated on, discussed, and recommendations were arrived at, some of which had been and will be presented as a collective voice in the on-going CFS session. Just by focusing on these issues, we can say that there are still many public policies that need to be developed, strengthened and implemented.

4. Here in Rome and from the many consultation processes from our region, we have heard from small men and women farmers and peasant groups calling for the development and implementation of laws and policies that will ensure that small food producers, particularly women, have access to, control over and ownership of land, water, and other productive resources. Likewise support to increasing farmers' market power, support to developing agro-ecological approaches and climate change adaptation measures, sustainable financing, access to information, and participation in public investments are being claimed.

5. While there remain to be a big gap in having the right public policies and having these right policies implemented, there are also examples that can be cited by which governments have responded to issues through effective policies that were translated into concrete programs and actions. With respect to responding to tenurial issues, the CARP of the Philippines, while it remains unfinished and saddled with a lot of challenges, has transformed many of the ARC communities that we work with into winning farmer producers cooperatives. One example in down south Luzon from being mere farm workers in a hacienda till the early 90s to now the biggest single source of organic rice that supplies major supermarkets in the country. In 2010, as a result of a long drawn but sustained campaign of FOs and CSOs in the country, the PH government passed the Organic Agriculture Act and created the National Organic Agriculture Board that allocated permanent seats for farmer representatives. The Act is coupled with an annual allocation in the national budget to develop and mainstream organic agriculture which is a concrete manifestation of a good public policy in support of sustainable agriculture. In Cambodia, the government has long promoted System of Rice Intensification (SRI) approach from few hundred of followers to now thousands, with documented testimonies from farmers of better income from reduced inputs to improved yields overtime and a more sustainable farming practice with less water and seeds usage. There are now about 200,000 practitioners, attesting 60% increase in yield and 50-70% reduction of production expenses.

6. I am sure that the other speakers will have much more to say on these issues and experiences. I wish to wrap up on the important issue of family farmers' access to and participation in public

investments/programs. We all agree that family farmers are the biggest food producers and investors in their own farms. A government that supports this premise and has a clear vision of agriculture, where provisions for smallholder agriculture are integrated in the country policies and strategies will not be sidetracked.

7. More and more governments recognize the importance of inclusive approach to the formulation and implementation of development interventions. With regards to public agricultural programs, effective participation of organizations representing smallholder family farmers in their design and implementation will ensure that interests of smallholders are addressed by such projects. The participation of FOs will also contribute to the inclusion of strategies and support mechanisms based on farmers' experience and knowledge in the programs under design. Given their role as representatives and advocates of small farmers' interests, the organizations have the capacity to contribute to designing programs with long-term impact on family farmers.

9. The experiences of the IFAD-funded Medium-term Cooperation Program for FOs in Asia and the Small Grant to "Supporting inclusive planning of country projects financed by the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP)", an IFAD cooperation with AgriCord in Africa and Asia, and other similar cooperation with FOs have pointed out that when there is focused intervention to build the capacities of FOs to create enabling environment for policy dialogue, opportunities are opened that allow FOs to be in strategic position to influence and actually participate in development programs that are more responsive to their members' needs.

These experiences call for a more sustained and systematic support to FO participation in order to ensure that the pledges of inclusive design and implementation of public investments on agriculture are fulfilled. Governments and donors must keep to their Development Effectiveness Principles commitments and recognize farmers organizations representing smallscale food producers important role in managing development finance directly, by themselves or together with their partner organizations. Along this public policies are also called for that will institutionalize the participation of FOs in the whole range of policy making, monitoring and implementation of public investments and programs.

Thank you.