

CLOSING REMARKS  
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Asst. Secretary for Policy and Planning  
Department of Agriculture, The Philippines

SIDE EVENT ON  
**"DEVELOPING PUBLIC POLICIES TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE  
FAMILY FARMING"**  
08 October 2013, FAO Iran Room

A pleasant afternoon to everyone.

On behalf of the Philippine Government, I wish to express utmost gratitude to the co-organizers and participants in today's side event. The interest and importance that the Philippines accords to family farming cannot be over-emphasized. Family farms constitute a majority of the farming system in our country and, similar to the farm models discussed today, form the basis of food and agricultural production and employment that greatly influence the economic, socio-cultural and environmental activities of our people.

We note from today's presentations and discussions the diversity of conditions and policy environment in the countries and regions that are represented. We observe, however, the common elements and challenges ahead in realizing sustainable family farm models:

Firstly, the development of a comprehensive set of laws, regulations, and programs that focuses on family farms, to the extent possible, at all government levels;

Secondly, the provision of sufficient public funds, incentives and support measures to family farms such as infrastructure, credit and insurance;

Thirdly, provision of assistance in the promotion of trade, investment and marketing of family farm products; and

Finally, the strengthening of family farm organizations through government research and extension work, trainings, and related capacity building measures.

The work toward the declaration of 2014 as International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) has been an exciting and rewarding experience.

For this side event, we wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the following:

- The Government of France , for its partnership and close collaboration with us in the conduct of this event, to draw attention to the importance of developing public policies to support family farms.
- The FAO Secretariat, particularly the Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development (OPC) for its full support and facilitation of the program and arrangements for this activity. In particular, we wish to thank our moderator, Ms. Marcela Villareal.
- The presenters and speakers from CIRAD, and stakeholder representatives from Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. They provided invaluable insights into the situation of family farms and the support extended for their sustainable operation in their respective countries and/or regions.
- Last but not the least, the participants who took time and effort to listen and contribute in the discussion. We are aware that there are numerous other activities simultaneously seeking your attention and we are glad you chose to join and stay with us this afternoon.

It is our fervent hope that this side event and similar activities will help raise awareness on family farming and enhance the build up to the celebration of its International Year in 2014 that would highlight the role that family farming play in achieving food security and eradicating poverty. We, therefore, enjoin everyone to continue supporting this campaign.

Thank you, *muchas gracias, merci beaucoup, maraming salamat! Mabuhay!*