Smallholders and family farms are in the region key to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

Just to mention SDG Target 2.3:
By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers
Objectives of the workshop

• Present the main conclusions and recommendations from the seven smallholder country studies as background for discussion – Albania, Armenia, FYR Macedonia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Tajikistan.
• Present the draft Regional Synthesis Report for validation.
• Ensure linkages between representatives of government institutions, FAO technical experts and FAO country offices in support of smallholders and family farms.
• Discuss enhanced FAO support to smallholders and family farms in the region.

Expected result of the workshop

• Contribute to further develop and strengthen FAO support to smallholders and family farms based on country needs and priorities and FAO comparative advantage.

Background for FAO Regional Initiative on smallholders and family farms

• Farm structures in most of the 18 FAO programme countries in the region are dominated by smallholders and family farms.
• The small farms are usually suffering at the same time from a wide range of needs, constraints and challenges.
• More than 60% of the poor live in rural areas.
• Support to smallholders and family farms is one of four regional priorities of FAO.
• Building on the legacy of the International Year of Family Farming in 2014.
Main objective of the FAO Regional Initiative on smallholders and family farms

- Continue to support smallholders and family farmers, women and men, at both the policy and farm/community level, to increase their competitiveness and improve rural livelihoods and contribute to reducing rural poverty

The two components of the FAO Regional Initiative on smallholders and family farms

1. Support policy development and innovative practices for increased sustainable agricultural production
2. Support improvement of rural livelihood and enhanced access to natural resources

Main areas of work in support of smallholders and family farms

- Promotion of sustainable production technologies in livestock, plant production, fishery and forestry
- Strengthening extension service and rural institutions
- Support good agricultural practices
- Gender assessments and mainstreaming
- Supporting preparation of rural development strategies and programmes
- Integrated community development
- Implementation of VGGT and supporting land consolidation
- Statistics including SDG indicators
- Improved access to (short) value chains
- Decent employment and social protection
Partnerships in support of smallholders and family farms

- **Resource partners** are essential to increase impact
- **Technical cooperation** on VGGT, land consolidation and land tenure through LANDNET and with UNECE WPLA
- Partnership on gender through participation in the Regional UN Issue-Based coalition on gender equality and women’s and girls' empowerment (IBC-Gender) and the EU Institute on Gender Equality
- Cooperation with the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South Eastern Europe
- Partnership with Civil Society Organizations both at regional and country level

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Background for smallholder country studies and the need to enhance FAO support

- Need to focus on 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs
- Prepare for the Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly
- Need to better understand specific needs and constraints of smallholders and family farms at country level
- Need to upscale already ongoing country programmes and to provide a programmatic approach – moving from stand-alone projects towards a coherent and comprehensive programme
- Need for formulation of more integrated projects both at national and regional level
- Need to focus on technical areas with strong FAO comparative advantage – not try to do everything in all countries
Support to smallholders has potential to contribute to achieving several SDGs and Targets including

- Target 1.4 on ensuring equal rights to land and other natural resources
- Target 1.b on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies
- SDG 4 on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education
- Target 2.3 on doubling the agricultural productivity and income of small-scale food producers
- Target 5.A to undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to land
- Target 5.B to enhance the use of enabling technology to promote the empowerment of women
- SDG 8 on promotion of sustainable and inclusive economic growth
- Target 10.2 to empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all

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Thank you very much

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