



2014 International Year of Family Farming

At the 66th session of the **General Assembly of the United Nations**, 2014 was formally declared to be the “**International Year of Family Farming**” (IYFF). The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was invited to facilitate its implementation, in collaboration with Governments, International Development Agencies, farmers’ organizations and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system as well as relevant non-governmental organizations.

The **goal of the 2014 IYFF** is to reposition family farming at the centre of agricultural, environmental and social policies in the national agendas by identifying gaps and opportunities to promote a shift towards a more equal and balanced development. The 2014 IYFF will promote broad discussion and cooperation at the national, regional and global levels to increase awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by smallholders and help identify efficient ways to support family farmers.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



feeding the world, caring for the earth

The 2014 **International Year of Family Farming (IYFF)** aims to raise the profile of family farming and smallholder farming by focusing world attention on its significant role in the fight for eradication of hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development, in particular in rural areas.

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www.fao.org/family-farming-2014

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WHAT IS FAMILY FARMING?

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.

Both in developing and developed countries, family farming is the predominant form of agriculture in the food production sector.

At national level, there are a number of factors that are key for a successful development of family farming, such as: agro-ecological conditions and territorial characteristics; policy environment; access to markets; access to land and natural resources; access to technology and extension services; access to finance; demographic, economic and socio-cultural conditions; availability of specialized education among others.

Family farming has an important socio-economic, environmental and cultural role.



WHY IS FAMILY FARMING IMPORTANT?



Family and small-scale farming are inextricably linked to world food security.



Family farming preserves traditional food products, while contributing to a balanced diet and safeguarding the world's agro-biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources.



Family farming represents an opportunity to boost local economies, especially when combined with specific policies aimed at social protection and well-being of communities.

FOUR KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR

1. Support the development of agricultural, environmental and social policies conducive to sustainable family farming
2. Increase knowledge, communication and public awareness
3. Attain better understanding of family farming needs, potential and constraints and ensure technical support
4. Create synergies for sustainability

