Supporting Family Farmers to reduce rural poverty

**WHY IS FAMILY FARMING IMPORTANT?**

- There are still 2.1 BILLION poor people and 767 MILLION living in extreme poverty.
- Worldwide, 97% of the rural poor live in East Asia, South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.
- Most of the rural poor live in rural areas, with 95% of them being smallholders or family farmers.
- Most of the rural poor are dependent on agriculture for their food and income.
- Worldwide, the 475 MILLION small farms of up to 2 HECTARES account for more than 80 PERCENT of all farms but cover only about 12 PERCENT of the world’s farmland.

**WHAT WE DO**

**POLICY LEVEL**

- FAO helps countries shape poverty reduction policies and programmes that improve family farmers’ participation in decision-making, increase their access to resources, financial services, markets and technologies while increasing decent employment opportunities and promoting better social protection coverage in rural areas.

**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LEVEL**

- FAO empowers poor family farmers to participate in policy dialogue and decision-making processes that affect their livelihoods, and improves their capacities to access resources, services, markets, technologies and economic opportunities through agricultural, organizational and entrepreneurial skills.

**POLICY SUPPORT**

- Help identify poor family farmers and allow countries to design policies and programmes that address their needs.
- Help formulate cross-sectoral policies to address the challenges that poor family farmers face in their daily lives and improve their livelihoods.
- Promote coordination among governments and non-state actors and empower producers’ organizations to become agents of change.
- Aims to reduce gender and age inequalities in rural areas and increase women and youth access to resources, assets, services, technologies and economic opportunities.
- Empowers poor family farmers and strengthens their organizational and productive capacities, while increasing their bargaining power, access to markets and entrepreneurial skills.
- Eases credit constraints and enables poor family farmers to invest more in their activities, increase their productivity and improve their livelihoods.
- Farmer field schools ensure knowledge sharing, while communication for development facilitates equitable access to information, dialogue and inclusive decision making.
- Improve the delivery of services, foster members’ active participation and raise their voice for supportive public policies.

**TOOLS TO SUPPORT FAMILY FARMERS**

- Local procurement
- Land reforms
- Entrepreneurial and occupational skills
- Increased bargaining power
- Sustainable management of natural resources
- Knowledge sharing
- Access to resources
- Access to finance
- Employment and decent work in rural areas
- Financial inclusion
- Access to natural resources
- Social protection
- Family farming knowledge platform
- Multi-stakeholders platforms for policy dialogue
- Farm registries
- Rural women’s economic empowerment
- Inclusive rural finance
- Support to Producer Organizations and Cooperatives
- Farmer field schools and ComDev
- Forest and farm facility
- Inter-ministerial collaboration

- Why is family farming important?

- What we do

- Policy level

- Family and Community level

- Policy support

- Tools to support family farmers