



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**LIFAD**  
Investing in rural people



Executive summary

# FIRST GLOBAL FORUM OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF FAMILY FARMING 2019 – 2028 (UNDF)



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**19-22 September 2022**

**12:30 – 3:30 p.m. CEST**

**Virtual event**

**Interpretation available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Russian**

## The Global Forum

The First Global Forum of the UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 was co-organized by FAO-IFAD and held in a virtual format from 19 to 22 September 2022. About 1700 participants registered for the event and participated in the different sessions during these 4 days.

The Global Forum was preceded by preparatory events, including five Regional Dialogues and three Technical Dialogues held between May 2022 and September 2022. The overall process culminated with this Global Forum brought together more than 3000 participants to discuss 133 experiences from countries and regions of the entire world.

## The High-level opening session<sup>1</sup>

**The High Level Opening Session** (19 September 2022) marked an important momentum to strengthen the commitment of governments, family farmers' organizations and of UN agencies to develop public policies and investments to support family farming, and emphasized that family farmers are the foundation of food security and are key to deliver food systems that produce enough healthy food, that brings economic benefits and development to rural people and its territories, safeguarding the environment.

Main takeaways:

- Family farmers need to be at the center of efforts to transform agri-food systems to make real progress towards ending hunger, and that this implies **turning the transformational narrative into action and implement coherent, cross-sectoral policies**, management paths and technology options for family farmers.
- The recent launch of the National Action Plan of Family Farming in Sierra Leone, the implementation of the National Action plan in Costa Rica and the Regional Action Plan developed by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation represent useful **frameworks for the development of differentiated policies for family farming** at the national and subregional level.
- States and international institutions are called to **use the UNDF to provide substantial support to family farmers' organizations**. The objectives that were set for the UNDF are today more urgent than ever, while much is to still be done.

## The technical sessions: Key topics

The **1st Session of the Forum on Developing an enabling policy environment to strengthen family farming** (19 September 2022), presented successful experiences of constructing an enabling policy environment for family farming from regional, national and local perspectives and highlighted the need to well define family farming at national level to better target public policies.

Main takeaways:

- The successful experience of Parlatino: More than 50 laws modelled after Parlatino's model law have been promoted.
- The SAARC Regional Action Plan boosts the development of national action plans and will help contextualize and incorporate regional priorities in country level policies and regulations.

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<sup>1</sup> More about the High Level Opening Session: [Press release](#) and [Flickr album](#)

- The experience of the PNAFST in Togo highlighted the **need to increase sensibilization and awareness-raising about family farming related issues, ensure effective participation of FF** and their organizations, including fisher folk and pastoralists in national dialogue processes and reinforce exchange with government actors
- The main lessons learned from the Technical Dialogue on Policy Application of the family farming concept is the **importance of defining FF from a legislative point of view, based on agreed criteria and tailored parameters**. Indeed, the multifunctionality that characterizes family farmers allows to simultaneously act on different dimensions of sustainable development, when tailored policies that clearly target them as the beneficiaries are developed.
- Building an enabling environment requires a complex **set of integrated, coherent and cross-sectoral policies, strategies and programmes** that take family farming's multidimensionality into due account with specific provisions, and address the economic, environmental and social constraints family farmers and their communities face.
- The UNDFP showed great capacity to create alliances and synergies, now **there is need to ensure coordination** to transform this potential into a better environment in support of family farmers.

The **2<sup>nd</sup> session of the Forum** (20 September 2022) brought experiences and practical and policy initiatives from around the world also focusing on the support for **youth and the generational sustainability of family farming**, highlighting the importance of intra and inter-generational knowledge exchange to foster innovation and guarantee the future of sustainable agri-food systems: risks not only losing a **generation of farmers and future food providers**, but also can lead to land speculation and **farm consolidation**, and also risks the loss of **place-specific ecological and traditional knowledge** needed for food systems resiliency

#### Main takeaways:

- **Inter-generational sustainability** means setting the conditions for new generations of farmers to enter, and continue to thrive, in the farming sector, while also supporting the needs of farmers today: this includes questions of family farm succession and inheritance, but also new pathways and entry points for youth living in urban areas and those who are willing to be involved in farming, its renewal and regeneration.
- Key challenges: young peasants are not seen as agents of change and have **limited participation in decision making and in social organizations**.
- The experience of the National Youth and Rural Succession Plan in Brazil highlights the importance to improve youth's **access to resources and assets**.
- The exchange program for youth by ROPPA and the educational programs for young farmers in the Mauritius highlighted the need to promote **inter and intra-generational exchange**, to empower young farmers by reinforcing their technical and advocacy capacities.
- **The main outcomes of the Regional Dialogue in Asia and the Pacific** stress the importance of granting youth access and control to land productive resources, and access to capacity building (including in agroecology and for climate change adaptation). It is recommended to set up a young farmers' consultation mechanism in the region and to **build leadership capacity of young farmers and their capacity to participate in the policy dialogue**.

The **3<sup>rd</sup> Session** (20 September 2022) focused on **promoting gender equity in family farming and the leadership role of rural women**, with interventions and experiences highlighting the essential contribution of women to agriculture, and a call for transformative actions to incentivize the active engagement, and the leadership and socio-economic inclusion of women for ending hunger and for sustainable and resilient agri-food systems.

### Main takeaways:

- The successful achievements of NLRF in Nepal put the spotlight on **accessing land ownership and control, and consequently, the related subsidies and finance schemes**, and on the importance of implementing already existing policies by partnering with local authorities.
- The experience of the AWFIHNET Network in Africa highlighted the need for a **gender responsive social protection and flexible financial services**, and the need to transform decision-making processes and favour women's leadership in policy making.
- The discussion focused on the **centrality of tailored capacity development**, and to have women's voices heard to identify their needs. Some of most relevant areas are investing in **technical collective capacities of women through ITCs**; investing in networks, to increase viability of women's enterprises: **increase women's leadership skills and their advocacy capacities**, as emerged by the Global process of exchange among women family farmers presented by the WRF.
- Lessons learned from the **Regional Dialogue in Latin America and the Caribbean** highlighted the need to ensure economic inclusion of rural women, with an attentive **resource- management for implementation of actions and the search for synergies with other national and regional processes** to maximize results and leverage coordination.

The 4<sup>th</sup> session (20 September 2022) on **strengthening family farmers' organizations and capacities to generate knowledge, represent farmers and provide inclusive services in the urban-rural continuum** explored, through different experiences, the fundamental importance organizations' roles, capacities and technical expertise of family farmer's organizations and cooperatives, to bolster their collective action, economic inclusion and participation in policy processes.

### Main takeaways:

- Cooperatives and other POs are making a fundamental contribution to the transition towards resilient, sustainable and inclusive agri-food systems, as they are able to **find contextualized solutions for local challenges**, create solidarity networks and provide inclusive services to support farmers' livelihoods and production.
- The Experience of the Plateforme Regionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale in Chad focused on **strengthening organizational capacities and technical expertise of family farmer's organizations** to better serve their members and communities, and to provide services to them for sustainable livelihoods and landscape.
- The work of Onda Rural highlighted the key role of **rural communication services (RCS)** in strengthening the participatory communication capacities among farmer organizations and rural institutions and giving family farmers the capacity needed for sustainability.
- Among the lessons learned from the **Regional Dialogue in Europe and Central Asia**, the importance to rely on participatory processes, with particular reference to the inclusion of POs, along all the steps of the policy-making processes, and the importance of community-led approaches and integrated community development.

The 5<sup>th</sup> session (21 September 2022) brought examples of practical and policy initiatives from Chile, Madagascar, Lebanon and the Dominican Republic illustrating different aspects and necessary steps towards **improving socio-economic inclusion, resilience and well-being of family farmers**. The session highlighted the importance of expanding social protection systems and to securing appropriate financial instruments for

family farming and for their communities while strengthen collective action leading to effective and inclusive public policies.

Main takeaways:

- Importance of a **holistic vision** to strengthen the resilience and well-being of family farming and their communities, while addressing the gender gap and lack of youth participation. The ongoing work of the MoA in Chile is focusing on **public purchasing system** for school meals, with an agroecological and gender lens.
- In Madagascar, IFAD has promoted **productive micro projects** to strengthen the most vulnerable households in the community.
- The experience of Lebanon highlighted the instrumental role of **farmers' registry** for the collection of more accurate information on vulnerable farmers and geographical distribution of farms to guarantee **social recognition to family farmers and the access to social security schemes**.
- In Dominican Republic, a successful experience demonstrated how to strengthen socio-economic inclusion of family farmers by including them **into local, high quality product markets**.
- Lessons learned from the **Regional Dialogue in Near East and North Africa** includes **the local dimension of family farming as key to enhance resilience strategies** to face crisis, and the need for interventions to address structural vulnerabilities and the lack of social protection in rural areas. Discussions also stressed the need of more and better adapted financial support by using the mechanisms put in place in the framework of the UNDF to mobilize resources by linking the GAP to different funding opportunities.

**Session 6** (21 September 2022) focused on **promoting sustainability of family farming for climate resilient food systems**, with experiences related to sanitary regulations and animal health policy issues and traditional, climate resilient crops, highlighting the increasing vulnerability of pastoralist and livestock keepers caused by their restricted mobility due to climate change.

Main takeaways:

- The road map for more sustainable and climate resilient agri-food systems need a strong engagement of local family farmers. It is important to adopt an **holistic approach considering production, processing, distribution and marketing issues** and that understand and take into account the family farmers livelihood systems. There is the need of a strong collaboration with all of actors to develop and adopt **new farming practices and techniques based on the locally specific knowledge** which promote efficient use and sustainable management of natural resources.
- The experience in Argentina underlined that **animal health and livestock raising are not just aspects of an economic activity, they are also related to human health wellbeing and culture**. However the animal health sector is many time under resourced at all level from local to national. Three key animal health policy issues were highlighted: 1) must be tailored to specific production systems considering relative risk and have to be feasible under local condition; 2) delivery animal health services and increase capacity and knowledge to prevent infectious disease; 3) Access to local and appropriate slaughter.
- The work of Réseau Billital Maroobe highlighted the economic importance of **pastoralism** in the Sahel and its key role in ensuring food security. However, it was emphasised how the **climate and security crises are strongly impacting their livelihoods**. It was also stressed how measures that

limit their mobility and transhumance are undermining their adaptation strategies and exacerbate the impact of those crises.

- The Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON) focused on the Breadfruit network to highlight the centrality of **promoting the production of traditional, climate-resilient crops**, which are rooted in traditional and cultural knowledge, ensure food security income generation for small scale family farmers. The network helped developing partnerships and synergies among members and facilitated the sharing of news and market information.

The **7<sup>th</sup> session** (21 September 2022) concluded the technical discussions by emphasizing the need to further **strengthen the multidimensionality of family farming**. Speakers from Spain, Colombia, Nicaragua and India demonstrated via diverse examples that traditional knowledge does not contradict with innovation but in fact they complement each other. The session underlined the urgent need to interconnect and integrate different policy areas in order to strengthen the multidimensional contribution of family farming to agri-food systems.

#### Main takeaways:

- Family farming has developed many successful tailored solutions related to its different environmental, social and economic functions, by interconnecting traditional, local knowledge with emerging tools and approaches. Its role in ensuring food security remains essential, considering the need to produce more with less chemical inputs and that on average family farmers use significantly less chemical inputs than other farmers. The **family farming multidimensionality is not contradictory to family farmers capacity to supply food**, and places it as an engine of conservation of natural resources that generates well-being and livelihoods in the territories.
- In Colombia a success experiences as shown how to promote **market solutions for family farmers and improve services built on local knowledge** through South-south cooperation. The exchange programme between Colombia and Brazil - with the support of FAO – was based on 5 axes: agricultural extension and innovation, agroecology, short marketing circuits, characterisation of the family farmers.
- The experience of Instituto Agroecológico Latinoamericano in Nicaragua highlighted the importance to rediscover the harmony between people and nature to **build synergies between production systems**. **Promote access to natural resources for family farmers and education and training** are necessary to bring changes. It was emphasized how the agroecology training institutions help young people to recover their agricultural, indigenous identity.
- The KAMALA initiative has shown how promoting green and sustainable lifestyle – **producing and commercializing traditional and nutritious food**, **has foster women empowerment, creates employment and also ensures fair prices** for family farmers.

## **The Closing session: recommendations and the way forward**

After the extensive sharing of experiences and good practices in the first three days, the **closing session of the Forum (22 September 2022)** aimed to contribute to the co-development of a joined agenda of action for the next period of the UNDDFF implementation, with a view to accelerate transition to context-specific, diversified, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems, for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life for rural communities. To his end,

Regional Roundtable to highlight key priorities and recommendations for the way forward:

- Focus efforts on developing and implementing legal and policy frameworks for family farming considering **agroecology, agroforestry, land right** and diversification of production.
- Provide better recognition to POs and their capacity to provide ecosystem services, and support them with **capacity building**, while at the same time promoting gender equality.
- Promote further **engagement with regional and sub-regional governmental bodies** like ASEAN or SAARC, and the creation of coordination mechanisms at the national level including local authorities.
- Intensify **awareness raising on FF and the UNDF**, to sensitize governments to invest in the creation of NCF, strengthening FFOs, improving the resilience of FF production systems.
- Promote efforts to **strengthen women's role and position** and to recognize their contribution, especially in transformation and tourism-related activities.
- Promote a greater **mobilization of stakeholders** at the global level and a leading role at the regional level, with specific reference to FAO and IFAD regional and country offices ,ad to those entities/ constituencies which have not been involved yet.
- Promote a **greater awareness and mobilization of governments** for the UNDF implementation.
- **Reinforce the capacities of the NCFs** for them to have a deeper understanding of NAPs and public policies and the path to their implementation.
- Establish a **Global Fund** in support of the UNDF and of family farming-related activities.
- Support countries in collecting and assessing **data on family farming** characteristics and performances to ensure sound policy formulation.
- Focus intervention and advocacy to provide **women and youth access to natural resources**.
- Address the need of **more and adapted financial mechanisms** in support of family farmers and their organizations.
- Promote a better **policy integration** and coordination with the **other constituencies**, pastoralists, mountain farmers, women and youth among the others.
- Better link the UNDF to other relevant international instruments such as the VGGTs.
- Promote **regional and national capacity development** and experience sharing programs (country to country, region to region)
- Strengthen the **institutional frameworks** in support of the UNDF at the national level and reinforce institutional participation to the processes
- Support the consolidation and implementation of **normative frameworks**
- Focus efforts on the topic of **access to and control over land and natural resources**
- Improve the **accessibility of the information related to the UNDF** to all family farmers around the world, including with the provision of material in local languages.
- Establish a **follow-up mechanism of the Global Forum** to monitor the adoption of the recommendations in the UNDF implementation.

## Resources:

- Webpage of the event in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), and [Russian](#)
- Agenda of the First Global Forum in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Russian](#)
- Concept note of the First Global Forum of the UNDDF in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Russian](#).
- Webstream of the event [Day 1](#) | [Day 2](#) | [Day 3](#) | [Day 4](#)
- Infographic on the main results of the UNDDF in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Russian](#).

