

# FAMILY FARMERS

## Feeding the world, caring for the earth

Family farming is inextricably linked to national and global food security. Both in developing and developed countries, family farming is the predominant form of agriculture in the food production sector.

Family farming includes all family-based agricultural activities, and it is linked to several areas of rural development.



There are more than **570 million farms** in the world of which over **500 million** are **family owned**



They are responsible for **at least 56%** of agricultural production



agricultural



forestry



fisheries

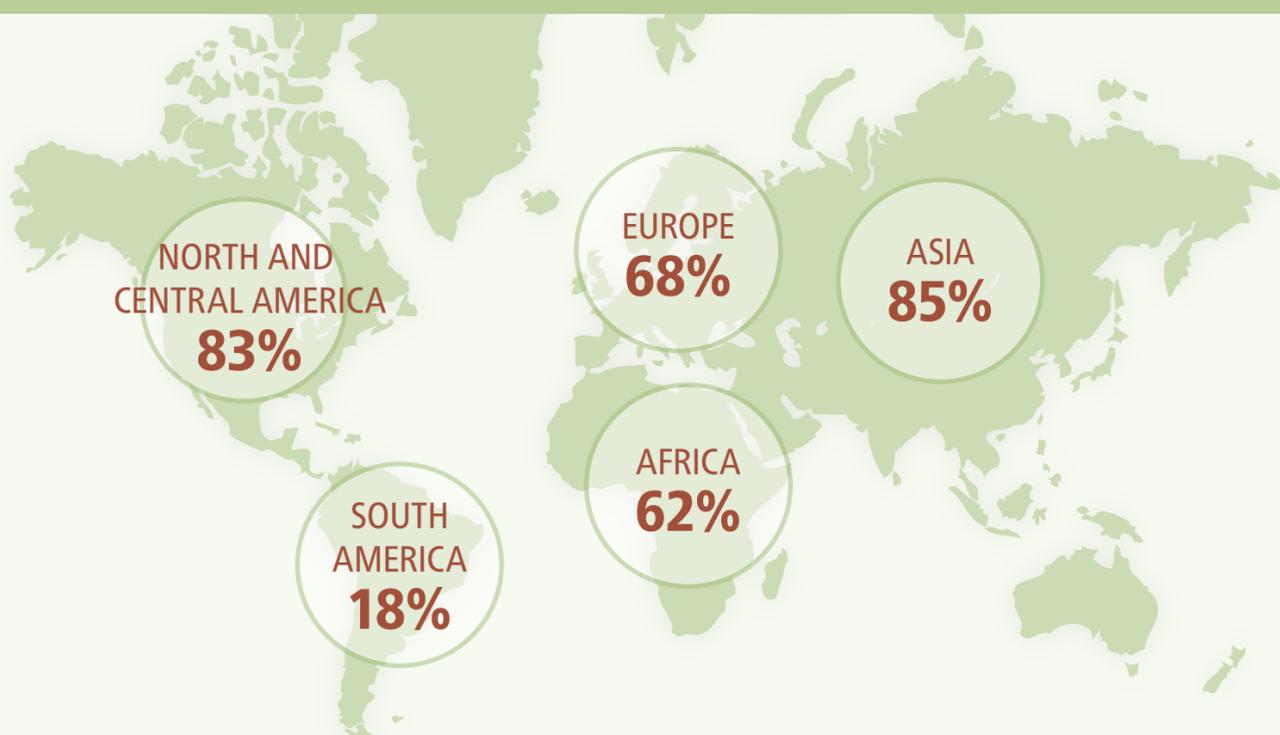


pastoral production



aquaculture production

Family farmers work on a significant portion of the world's farmland.



Family farmers manage their lands to sustain remarkably high levels of productivity despite having less access to productive resources such as agricultural inputs and support.



In Brazil, family farmers provide on average approximately **40% of the production** of a selection of major crops working on less than **25% of the farmland**



Family farmers in Fiji provide **84% of yam, rice, manioc, maize and bean** production working on only **47.4% of the farmland**



In the United States, family farmers **produce 84%** of all produce – totalling USD 230 billion in sales, working on **78% of all farmland**

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.

**More than 3.5 billion people** depend on rice for at least **20% of their daily calories**

**More than 1 billion people** depend on rice production for their livelihoods

**Family farms are the main source of rice production – especially in Asia**



2014 International Year of Family Farming

The United Nations declared 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming. FAO, in collaboration with its partners, is facilitating the implementation of the year with the following objectives:



Support the development of agricultural, environmental and social policies conducive to sustainable family farming



Increase knowledge, communication and public awareness



Attain better understanding of family farming needs, potential and constraints and ensure technical support



Create synergies for sustainability

[fao.org/family-farming-2014](http://fao.org/family-farming-2014)



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



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