



Empowering Smallholders and Family Farms

**for improved Rural Livelihoods
and Poverty Reduction**

The Smallholders Initiative

European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) – 35/1 Meeting of the Executive Committee – 24 June 2014

Rationale



One of FAO's mandate => food security and poverty reduction

Some key issues:

- Agrarian/land reform 90s
- Fragmented and dual farm structures, small farmers establishments
- Adjustment in policy of the agro-rural sector
- Improve sustainable production technologies
- Create better access to value-chains for agro producers
- Develop new employment opportunities
- Rise-up representation of rural people

Background



The Smallholders Initiative is primarily built upon:

- the UN International Year of Family Farming (2014);
- the “FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests” in the context of National Food Security;
- the established partnership in the European region;
- the priority working areas of the Country programming frameworks (CPFs) of the targeted countries.

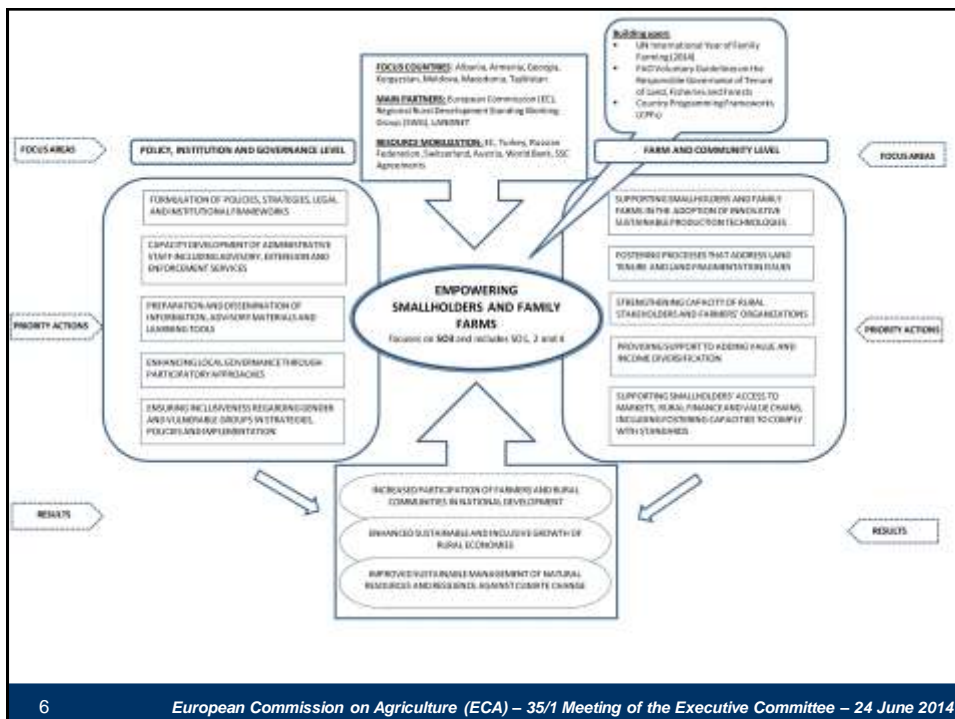
Objective of the Smallholders Initiative



- focus on the **key problems** of rural people
- achieve **improved livelihoods**
- improve the **resilience of rural population** focusing on smallholders
- inclusive **growth of rural economies** based on the sustainable use of natural resources

Approach

- Diverse region -> the Initiative follows **area-based development** approach, tailored to the region
- The Initiative aims to tackle technical, social, economic, environmental aspects-> complex **multidisciplinary, holistic** approach
- **Inclusiveness** – key principle





Expected results

The Smallholders Initiative aims to achieve the following results:

- Increased **participation** of farmers and rural communities in national development;
- Enhanced sustainable and inclusive **growth of rural economies**;
- Improved **sustainable management** of natural resources and resilience against climate change.

7

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Focus countries

- The focus of the work will be targeted towards the countries where it is expected to **achieve the most impact** with regard to resolving the problems of rural poverty and smallholders.
- Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Tajikistan.

8

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Main partners



- active **partnership** and **dialogue** with relevant partners and stakeholders in the region is main element
- This includes: EC, EU Delegations, Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group, Landnet
- In long run closer cooperation is needed with civil society organization, private sectors

Potential Resource Partners

European Commission, Turkey, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Austria, World Bank

9

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Practical examples that contribute to the Initiative



ENPARD Georgia (European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development)

- **competitiveness of the agricultural sector** through supporting policy making and effective implementation of the Strategy for Agricultural Development.
- Elaboration of programmes, fostering monitoring and implementation processes, capacity building, strengthening farmers' cooperation and agricultural extension services.
- Impact: increased food production and reduction of rural poverty.

10

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Practical examples that contribute to the Initiative



Land tenure and land consolidation in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

- The structure of the agriculture sector is based on small-scale family farms with large fragmentation.
- Supporting longer-term improvements to rural land tenure arrangements
- Implementation of the national land consolidation strategy
- Impact: sustainable rural and agricultural development implemented



**Thank you for
your attention**