



FAO Regional Initiative in Europe and Central Asia on
***Empowering Smallholders and Family Farms for Improved
Livelihood and Poverty Reduction***

- Introduction, workshop objectives and background

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13-14 March 2018, Budapest, Hungary

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**Smallholders and family farms are in the region key to achieve
the Sustainable Development Goals**

Just to mention SDG Target 2.3:

**By 2030, double the agricultural
productivity and incomes of small-
scale food producers**



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Objectives of the workshop

- Present the main conclusions and recommendations from the seven smallholder country studies as background for discussion – Albania, Armenia, FYR Macedonia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Tajikistan
- Present the draft Regional Synthesis Report for validation
- Ensure linkages between representatives of government institutions, FAO technical experts and FAO country offices in support of smallholders and family farms
- Discuss enhanced FAO support to smallholders and family farms in the region

Expected result of the workshop

- Contribute to further develop and strengthen FAO support to smallholders and family farms based on country needs and priorities and FAO comparative advantage

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Background for FAO Regional Initiative on smallholders and family farms

- Farm structures in most of the 18 FAO programme countries in the region are dominated by smallholders and family farms
- The small farms are usually suffering at the same time from a wide range of needs, constraints and challenges
- More than 60 % of the poor live in rural areas
- Support to smallholders and family farms is one of four regional priorities of FAO
- Building on the legacy of the International Year of Family Farming in 2014

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Main objective of the FAO Regional Initiative on smallholders and family farms

- Continue to support smallholders and family farmers, women and men, at both the policy and farm/community level, to increase their competitiveness and improve rural livelihoods and contribute to reducing rural poverty

The two components of the FAO Regional Initiative on smallholders and family farms

1. *Support policy development and innovative practices for increased sustainable agricultural production*
2. *Support improvement of rural livelihood and enhanced access to natural resources*

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Main areas of work in support of smallholders and family farms

- Promotion of sustainable production technologies in livestock, plant production, fishery and forestry
- Strengthening extension service and rural institutions
- Support good agricultural practices
- Gender assessments and mainstreaming
- Supporting preparation of rural development strategies and programmes
- Integrated community development
- Implementation of VGGT and supporting land consolidation
- Statistics including SDG indicators
- Improved access to (short) value chains
- Decent employment and social protection

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Partnerships in support of smallholders and family farms

- **Resource partners** are essential to increase impact
- **Technical cooperation** on VGGT, land consolidation and land tenure through LANDNET and with UNECE WPLA
- Partnership on gender through participation in the Regional UN Issue-Based coalition on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment (IBC-Gender) and the EU Institute on Gender Equality
- Cooperation with the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South Eastern Europe
- Partnership with Civil Society Organizations both at regional and country level

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Background for smallholder country studies and the need to enhance FAO support

- Need to focus on 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs
- Prepare for the Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly
- Need to better understand specific needs and constraints of smallholders and family farms at country level
- Need to upscale already ongoing country programmes and to provide a programmatic approach – moving from stand-alone projects towards a coherent and comprehensive programme
- Need for formulation of more integrated projects both at national and regional level
- Need to focus on technical areas with strong FAO comparative advantage – not try to do everything in all countries

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Support to smallholders has potential to contribute to achieving several **SDGs** and Targets including

- Target 1.4 on ensuring equal rights to land and other natural resources
- Target 1.b on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies
- SDG 4 on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education
- Target 2.3 on doubling the agricultural productivity and income of small-scale food producers
- Target 5.A to undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to land
- Target 5.B to enhance the use of enabling technology to promote the empowerment of women
- SDG 8 on promotion of sustainable and inclusive economic growth
- Target 10.2 to empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all



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Thank you very much

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Regional Initiative Website: <http://www.fao.org/europe/regional-perspectives/smallholders-family-farms/en/>



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