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**Agriculture development, food security and nutrition:  
agriculture development, food security and nutrition**

## Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028)

### Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report on the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028), prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, pursuant to Assembly resolution [72/239](#).

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\* [A/80/150](#).



## Report on the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028)\*

### *Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [72/239](#), in which the Assembly proclaimed the period 2019–2028 as the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDFF), called upon the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to lead the implementation of the Decade, and invited the Secretary-General to inform the Assembly about its implementation on the basis of biennial reports compiled jointly by FAO and IFAD.

The biennium 2023–2024 marked the end of the first half of the Decade, which closed with very positive implementation results. Four countries approved national action plans on family farming, bringing the total to have approved such plans since 2019 to 16. The drafting phase of national action plans was reached in another 16 countries, and considerable progress was made in mobilizing actors to draft such plans in 21 more. The total number of countries with an adopted national or regional policy framework for family farming driven by the Decade is 46.

At least 90 intersectoral coordination mechanisms, including 45 national committees for family farming and other multistakeholder platforms for policy dialogue, have been established or reinforced. More than 2,625 relevant actors have been involved in these processes, including 1,853 family farmers' organizations and federations, of which 770 are women's organizations and 50 youth organizations.

Since the launch of the Decade in 2019, a total of 385 policies, laws and regulations have been developed and approved to support family farming and the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems, including 90 such instruments in the last two years. The biennium also saw unprecedented progress in enacting new legal and policy frameworks aimed at promoting sustainable agrifood systems and supporting the critical role family farmers play in environmental stewardship, biodiversity conservation and adaptation to climate change.

The biennium saw an expansion in the connections between the Decade and global processes, and increasing recognition of the Decade's role as a mechanism for their uptake at the national level. Family farmers' organizations have increased their participation and visibility in national and global processes and strengthened their organizational and management capacities. At the national level, an increased engagement of actors and platforms associated with the Decade has been observed in relevant policy and legislative processes.

To build on these achievements in the second half of the Decade, effective implementation should be supported through increased financial resources and renewed political commitment to actively and meaningfully involve family farmers in processes and mechanisms at the national and global levels. Policies should be based on evidence and consultations with diverse stakeholders, and implementation must be adapted to varying conditions and the heterogeneity of family farmers dealing with different levels of development.

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

## I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028)<sup>1</sup> provides a framework for Member States to develop, improve and implement public policies and investments in support of family farming.
2. The present report has been prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), jointly serving as the secretariat of the Decade. It is based on an inclusive, voluntary consultative process involving global, regional and national actors, to collect information on the activities and results of the biennium. The process was complemented by a desk review of the relevant policies, laws, regulations and programmes, and by the compilation of successful experiences and case studies, which were presented at last year's Global Family Farming Forum and related preparatory events.
3. In total, 213 inputs from 57 countries representing all regions were collected through questionnaires, online semi-structured interviews, online group discussions and desk review. In addition, 194 successful experiences were collected and assessed to identify lessons learned from regional, global and thematic discussions, events and calls. Participants included United Nations entities, Member States, family farmers' organizations, national committees for family farming and other multistakeholder platforms for policy dialogue, civil society organizations, representatives of academia, and other relevant stakeholders.

## II. Overall contribution of the Decade to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and synergies with ongoing global processes

4. The implementation of the Decade is closely aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. During the 2023–2024 biennium, efforts included a focus on investing in youth, developing their capacities and creating income generation opportunities (Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 9); reinforcing the role of women and girls and their access to resources and opportunities (Goal 5); supporting family farmers in coping with crises (Goals 1 and 10); promoting climate-resilient agrifood systems (Goals 2, 12, 13 and 15); and ensuring access to tailored innovation for family farmers, while protecting and leveraging their traditional knowledge (Goals 9 and 10).
5. The Decade has been widely recognized as a useful mechanism for the uptake of global instruments at the national level and for exploring pathways to mainstream global policy instruments, guides and recommendations relevant to family farming into national legislative and policy interventions.
6. The Decade has also been useful to support the uptake of relevant policy products of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) by family farmers. Among the workstreams undertaken in 2023–2024, two CFS policy products contain specific references to family farmers: the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See General Assembly resolution 72/239.

<sup>2</sup> Available at <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/55f4386c-2056-42a3-8e31-79be657bbdb0/content>.

and the CFS Policy Recommendations on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition.<sup>3</sup>

7. Marking the celebration of 20 years since the issuing of the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security,<sup>4</sup> discussions highlighted that the Decade is a unique opportunity to connect instruments, mobilize participation, and prompt governments to national actions based on right to food principles.

8. The latest report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food acknowledged the Decade's potential in this regard<sup>5</sup> and acknowledged the successful case of the national action plan on family farming in the Dominican Republic, leveraging the important role of family farmers in eradicating hunger and shaping society's relationship with food in the future.

9. The follow-up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit of 2021 presents interesting opportunities for synergies with Decade-related processes at the national level. An example is offered by Indonesia, where the Directorate of Food and Agriculture at the Ministry of National Development is the national focal point for the implementation of the national action plan on family farming, as well as the national convenor in charge of formulating the national pathway on food system transformation.

10. Family farming was one of the priorities in the 2024 Group of 20 (G20) Agriculture Ministers Declaration,<sup>6</sup> held under the Brazilian presidency. The document reinforces the commitment to address pressing global issues faced by agrifood systems and unveils the crucial contribution of family farmers, artisanal fishers, fisheries and aquaculture in food production and income generation worldwide, recognizing the role of family farming policies in addressing the global poverty, hunger and environmental crises.

11. The Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty,<sup>7</sup> established as a proposal from the Brazilian presidency of the G20 in November 2024, aims to mobilize resources and knowledge for the implementation of public policies and social technologies that are proven to be effective in reducing hunger and poverty around the world. The alliance offers significant potential for collaboration with the Decade, stepping up country-owned programmes and producer organizations in developing countries, linking these programmes to national policies that empower smallholders and family farmers, and increasing the size of investments where needed.

12. The Second Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition,<sup>8</sup> convened in June 2023, brought together over 200 parliamentarians representing 64 countries. The summit adopted the Global Parliamentary Pact,<sup>9</sup> a landmark commitment to transform agrifood systems and uphold the right to adequate food, with parliamentarians committed to accelerating the development and adoption of

<sup>3</sup> Available at [https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs2324/Inequalities/Designed\\_Version/2025\\_ReducingInequalities\\_EN.pdf](https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs2324/Inequalities/Designed_Version/2025_ReducingInequalities_EN.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Available at <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/f1d1988c-0938-4b06-aa54-bfc676f3f87a>.

<sup>5</sup> Available at <https://docs.un.org/A/HRC/58/48>.

<sup>6</sup> Available at <https://g7g20-documents.org/database/document/2024-g20-brazil-sherpa-track-agricultural-ministers-ministers-language-g20-agriculture-ministers-declaration#:~:text=G20%20and%20invited%20delegations%20at,dedicated%20session%20on%20Family%20Farmingalongside>.

<sup>7</sup> See <https://globalallianceagainsthungerandpoverty.org/>.

<sup>8</sup> See <https://www.fao.org/americas/events/event-detail/Second-Global-Parliamentary-Summit-against-Hunger-and-Malnutrition/en>.

<sup>9</sup> Available at <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/8c21a395-80e9-4173-a7e1-929713ef9283/content>.

legislative and regulatory frameworks to ensure equitable rights and conditions for family farmers.

### **III. Main policy processes at the regional and subregional levels**

13. During the biennium, significant progress was made in further developing regional and subregional processes to provide guidance and stimulate implementation of the Decade at the country level.

14. Significant legislative advancements were recorded: the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) adopted a Model Law on Cooperatives<sup>10</sup> and a Model Law on Food and Nutrition Security;<sup>11</sup> the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO) endorsed a Model Law on Agroecology;<sup>12</sup> and the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) adopted a resolution recognizing agroecology as a strategic priority for sustainable agriculture, tourism, and natural resource management policies in East Africa.<sup>13</sup>

15. The XXVIII Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government in March 2023 approved the Critical Path to Achieve Inclusive and Sustainable Food Security in Ibero-America,<sup>14</sup> which identifies as priority actions the consolidation of family farming and support for the implementation of the programmes developed within the framework of the Decade.

16. The Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) approved Recommendation No. 01/23,<sup>15</sup> promoting the Decade and supporting the development of national action plans for family farming, including through the support provided by its Specialized Meeting on Family Farming (REAF). Progress in developing family farming agendas has been made in Argentina, Paraguay and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and in implementing national plans in Brazil and Uruguay.

17. The Central American Integration System's (SICA) Action Plan of Family Farming, approved in March 2022 with the aim of stimulating policy dialogue and coordinating actions among stakeholders, has resulted in striking progress in promoting laws enhancing public purchase and school feeding, in the establishment of family farming registries, and in the setup of comprehensive rural youth strategies and gender mainstreaming policy approaches.

18. In Central Africa, the Subregional Platform of Peasant Organizations of Central Africa (PROPAC) organized a regional conference on the implementation of the Decade in Douala in September 2024 to advance the process of developing a regional action plan and to promote national processes. The event brought together approximately 50 representatives from governments, regional bodies, family farmers' organizations, FAO and other key stakeholders.

<sup>10</sup> Available at [https://icaafrica.coop/sites/default/files/2024-10/model\\_law\\_on\\_cooperatives\\_for\\_africa.final\\_eng.pdf](https://icaafrica.coop/sites/default/files/2024-10/model_law_on_cooperatives_for_africa.final_eng.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> Available at <https://pap.au.int/sites/default/files/files/2024-06/papmodellawonfoodandnutritionsecurityinafricafinal.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> Available at <https://parlatino.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/ley-modelo-promocion-agroecologia.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> See <https://www.eala.org/media/view/east-african-legislative-assembly-signs-a-resolution-with-food-agriculture-organization-fao-recognizing-agro-ecology-as-a-strategic-priority-in-the-eac>.

<sup>14</sup> Available at <https://www.segib.org/?document=ruta-critica-para-alcanzar-una-seguridad-alimentaria-incluyente-y-sostenible-en-iberoamerica>.

<sup>15</sup> Available at [https://documentos.mercosur.int/simfiles/normativas/95588\\_REC\\_001-2023\\_ES\\_Decenio%20Agricultura%20Familiar.pdf](https://documentos.mercosur.int/simfiles/normativas/95588_REC_001-2023_ES_Decenio%20Agricultura%20Familiar.pdf).

#### IV. Main policy processes triggered by the Decade at national level

19. Governments, national committees for family farming, family farmers' organizations, FAO, IFAD, and other stakeholders at the national and international levels have engaged in collaboration to develop and implement national action plans.

20. During the biennium, four countries – Argentina, Madagascar, Spain and Uruguay – approved national action plans, bringing the total number adopted to 16. Another 14 countries are currently drafting plans, while 28 countries are in the initial mobilization stages.

21. Through the 45 national committees for family farming, at least 2,625 relevant actors engaged in dialogue processes or platforms. This impressive number includes 1,853 family farmers' organizations and federations, of which 770 are women's organizations and 50 youth organizations.

22. In Argentina, the national plan approved in 2023<sup>16</sup> was the result of a joint efforts led by the National Institute of Family Farming, Peasant, and Indigenous Agriculture, in collaboration with producer organizations and other stakeholders. The plan is designed to provide a comprehensive national regulatory and operational framework to support family farmers and favour the effective actuation of Law 27.118 on Historical Reparations,<sup>17</sup> as well as to provide guidance and achieve coordination among provincial and local governments, and to serve as a link with specialized international agencies and relevant United Nations bodies.

23. In Madagascar, the national action plan was finalized in 2023 thanks to effective collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the national committee for family farming, technical and financial partners, civil society organizations, and producers' organizations. The registration of the national committee as an association reinforced its legitimacy, allowing for the creation of a more structured mechanism for managing and monitoring family farming activities. During the first year of implementation, efforts focused on developing adapted information systems to analyse, monitor and evaluate the role of family farming in the country, as well as to facilitate access to finance and microfinance.

24. In Spain, the national committee drafted a proposal for a national action plan on family farming in dialogue with five ministries, which was publicly presented in April 2023.<sup>18</sup> In November 2023, the prime minister announced his commitment to promoting the approval of a law on family farming, which is one of the main priority actions of the plan. The national action plan is well connected to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) strategic plan and includes a focus on ensuring the intergenerational sustainability of family farming, with credit lines and training initiatives devoted to youth.

25. In Uruguay, Ministerial Resolution No. 717 was adopted on 12 June 2024, approving the National Plan for Family Farming 2024–2028,<sup>19</sup> which was publicly presented with the participation of the president. The plan was developed via a broad participatory process involving more than a thousand people and 40 public institutions, and with a leading role played by family farmers' organizations within the framework of the national section of the REAF.

<sup>16</sup> Available at <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/arg223571.pdf>.

<sup>17</sup> Available at <https://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/240000-244999/241352/norma.htm>.

<sup>18</sup> Available at [https://www.upa.es/notas\\_prensa/CEDAF\\_PAN\\_EspanaDNUAF.pdf](https://www.upa.es/notas_prensa/CEDAF_PAN_EspanaDNUAF.pdf).

<sup>19</sup> Available at <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/uru231489.pdf>.

26. The plan in Uruguay outlines 52 concrete, incremental measures, with implementation led by specific entities, as well as different spaces for follow-up and monitoring with the participation of organizations and public institutions. This integrated approach saw positive results in 2024, with implementation initiated for 67 percent of the measures included in the plan as of the end of the year.

27. Brazil is finalizing its National Action Plan for the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (PNAF), reinforcing the country's strategic commitment to family farming as a cornerstone of sustainable rural development. Among recent milestones, Brazil launched the largest Family Farming Harvest Plan<sup>20</sup> in its history, with significant resources allocated for 2024/2025 and directed to credit lines under the National Programme for Strengthening Family Farming (PRONAF).<sup>21</sup> The Ecoforte Programme<sup>22</sup> has allocated R\$ 100 million to agroecology and organic production networks, while initiatives such as the National School Feeding Programme and the From Land to Table programme have secured food access and market opportunities for thousands of family farmers, 68 percent of whom are women.

28. For those countries that had already adopted a national plan, the biennium has often been characterized by the definition of priority actions to be implemented and the establishment of programmes to ensure commitment of funding resources. For example, the Dominican Republic developed several programmes in 2023 to implement the national plan. The Supérate programme<sup>23</sup> supports family farming initiatives through capacity building, enhanced production, and improved market access. During the biennium, Supérate established a dedicated financing line with the Agricultural Bank and built 24 production centres in collaboration with FAO, focusing on women and youth. Additionally, it has promoted the marketing of agroecological products in institutional markets, strengthening food security, economic inclusion and rural sustainability.

29. Significant new policy frameworks are also being developed in the Dominican Republic. In 2022, Presidential Decree 610-22 was issued<sup>24</sup> to prioritize institutional public procurement from family farmers. A draft family farming law, currently in the final stages of parliamentary approval, aims to establish a legal and institutional framework for the protection, promotion and development of family farming through public policies and the coordinated actions of responsible entities.

30. In an increasing number of countries, the multistakeholder platforms involved in the formulation of national action plans have become active participants in the legislative and policy development processes related to family farming. In Madagascar, the national committee for family farming and its ministerial counterparts are working alongside land specialists from the FAO Country Office, the European Union delegation, and the World Bank on developing a new bill facilitating family farmers' access to land.

31. The committee in Nepal has been actively participating in the national dialogue on the review and revision of the country's Agricultural Development Strategy, offering critical feedback and recommendations, while the national family farming

<sup>20</sup> Available at <https://www.gov.br/mda/pt-br/acao-a-informacao/acoes-e-programas/programas-projetos-acoes-obras-e-atividades/plano-safra-da-agricultura-familiar>.

<sup>21</sup> See <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/servicos/acessar-o-programa-nacional-de-fortalecimento-da-agricultura-familiar-pronaf>.

<sup>22</sup> See <https://www.gov.br/secretariageral/pt-br/noticias/2023/novembro/governo-federal-anuncia-retomada-do-programa-ecoforte-e-instalacao-da-comissao-nacional-de-agroecologia-e-producao-organica>.

<sup>23</sup> See <https://www.superate.gob.do/>.

<sup>24</sup> Available at [https://www.dgcp.gob.do/new\\_dgcp/documentos/politicas\\_normas\\_y\\_procedimientos/leyes\\_y\\_decretos/Decreto%20610-22.pdf](https://www.dgcp.gob.do/new_dgcp/documentos/politicas_normas_y_procedimientos/leyes_y_decretos/Decreto%20610-22.pdf).

committee of Panama actively participated in the drafting of Law 352 of 18 January 2023,<sup>25</sup> which establishes the country's agrifood policy. In Kyrgyzstan, the committee actively promoted the establishment of an interdepartmental working group, which was then officially created by ministerial order to amend the Law on Peasant Farm and Family Farming, with the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry.

32. In Costa Rica, Law 24.237<sup>26</sup> promotes family farming through the creation of a National Family Farming Programme (PRONAF), with the aim of strengthening sustainable and inclusive production while promoting increased incomes for family farmers and facilitated access to markets and value chains. Article 21 of the law acknowledges the national committee of Costa Rica as a space for proactive dialogue, and outlines its role as contributing to the articulation, coordination and validation of differentiated public policies for family farming.

33. In some cases, the experience of developing national plans has led to the establishment or reinforcement of platforms for multistakeholder coordination and collaboration, or of intergovernmental mechanisms to ensure effectiveness and alignment. In Senegal, the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Equipment, and Food Sovereignty has established a technical committee, comprising several ministries and the national committee for family farming, which is working on developing a draft plan and a proposed technical road map. In Burundi, the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock has formed a technical committee, vice-chaired by FAO Burundi and including the national committee for family farming, IFAD, and other entities, to oversee the drafting of the nation action plan.

34. In some countries, support for family farming has led to the establishment of complex programmes involving different levels of government for their funding and implementation. In Germany, the Joint Task for the Improvement of Agricultural Structures and Coastal Protection, the most important national funding instrument for supporting agriculture and rural development, is implemented at the federal level, with specific provisions to improve the competitiveness of family farmers, in particular young farmers, and with the aim of establishing additional, non-agricultural income sources in rural areas.

## **V. Assessment of the main national results with regard to the pillars of the Global Action Plan**

### **A. Pillar 1: develop an enabling policy environment to strengthen family farming**

35. During the 2023–2024 biennium, significant progress was made in establishing structural and institutional frameworks conducive to supporting family farming, with emphasis on crosscutting initiatives designed to promote coherent, inclusive and sustainable policy environments.

36. Thirty-one countries enacted or revised legislative and policy frameworks explicitly designed to recognize, integrate and elevate family farming within broader national development agendas. These initiatives reflect an increasing commitment by Member States to shift towards comprehensive, integrated policy ecosystems.

<sup>25</sup> Available at <https://mida.gob.pa/documentos/ley-n-352-de-18-de-enero-2023/?csrt=5870678784588509118>.

<sup>26</sup> Available at <https://sidoc.inamu.go.cr/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=715994>.

37. One notable area of progress has been the establishment and strengthening of inclusive governance, coordination and accountability mechanisms. Ninety countries have created or reinforced national committees, interministerial platforms, rural development councils, or multistakeholder policy dialogue forums dedicated to family farming.

38. Member States have also made considerable advancements in improving data systems and evidence-based policymaking. Efforts to upgrade national information infrastructures have resulted in better availability, accessibility and utilization of disaggregated and context-specific data on family farming. Additionally, legal and institutional measures have advanced the identification and formal registration of family farmers.

## **B. Pillar 2 (transversal): support youth and ensure the generational sustainability of family farming**

39. In 2023–2024, renewed emphasis was placed on promoting the active engagement and participation of young people in rural areas and on strengthening intergovernmental collaboration, with ministries beyond the agricultural sector actively involved in developing more inclusive and comprehensive policy environments to support rural youth.

40. Under Pillar 2, targeted actions were undertaken by 32 countries during the biennium, including:

- (a) Strengthening young farmers' access to essential resources such as land, financial services, production inputs and technical assistance;
- (b) Providing targeted training and capacity-building programmes for young farmers, emphasizing agricultural skills development, entrepreneurship training, and the promotion of sustainable farming practices;
- (c) Advancing equality between men and women within rural youth policies and ensuring equitable access for young women to opportunities, resources, services and leadership positions within the agricultural sector;
- (d) Promoting youth engagement in cooperatives and producer organizations, ensuring meaningful representation of young people in decision-making processes and leadership roles;
- (e) Supporting digital innovation and promoting sustainable agricultural practices to foster increased rural youth participation and provide viable alternatives to rural out-migration.

## **C. Pillar 3 (transversal): promote gender equity in family farming and the leadership role of rural women**

41. During 2023–2024, several countries advanced legal, regulatory and policy frameworks aimed at promoting equality between men and women and strengthening the leadership capacities of women, integrating gender-sensitive approaches into broader initiatives. A total of 26 countries reported new measures, including:

- (a) Developing and implementing national and subnational legislation to establish gender-focused rural development policies and strategies that prioritize equitable access for rural women to public services and resources;

- (b) Introducing targeted policies designed to enhance rural women's economic empowerment, ensuring legal guarantees on access to land, financial subsidies, specialized training and agricultural credit;
- (c) Embedding gender equity and enhancing women's participation as foundational elements within national rural development policies, agroecology programmes and climate adaptation strategies;
- (d) Establishing institutional frameworks for gender-responsive governance, including explicit mandates for gender mainstreaming, fostering women's leadership in rural producer organizations, and addressing gender-based violence in rural areas.

**D. Pillar 4: strengthen family farmers' organizations and capacities to generate knowledge, represent farmers and provide inclusive services in the urban–rural continuum**

- 42. During the 2023–2024 biennium, several countries enacted policy frameworks and other initiatives aimed at strengthening the organizational capacities, representation and service provision of family farmers' organizations.
- 43. In total, 29 countries introduced new normative measures under Pillar 4 during this reporting period, including:
  - (a) Establishing specialized programmes and legal frameworks to provide technical assistance, rural extension services, access to credit, and targeted training in critical areas such as agroecology, business planning, food safety, cooperative governance and entrepreneurship;
  - (b) Facilitating improved access to essential equipment, productive inputs, infrastructure and institutional markets through streamlined procurement processes and focused public purchasing programmes;
  - (c) Promoting associative and cooperative models, particularly those led by women and youth, to foster knowledge exchange, collective action, and expanded access to financial services and market platforms;
  - (d) Creating intersectoral councils, consultative bodies and multistakeholder platforms to improve coordination, facilitate policy dialogue, and strengthen farmer representation in public decision-making processes;
  - (e) Empowering women and youth by promoting their leadership within producer organizations, delivering targeted training, and fostering generational renewal in rural communities.

**E. Pillar 5: improve socioeconomic inclusion, resilience and well-being of family farmers, rural households and communities**

- 44. In response to ongoing challenges such as rural poverty, climate vulnerability, and limited access to essential services and productive resources, many initiatives were designed and implemented to enhance the resilience, socioeconomic inclusion, and overall well-being of family farmers, rural households, and communities through targeted interventions.
- 45. During the biennium, 42 countries enacted legal, regulatory or policy measures under Pillar 5 in the following areas:
  - (a) Creating legal and policy frameworks aimed at fostering sustainable income diversification and generating rural employment through agroecological practices,

agroforestry, handicrafts, rural tourism, and alternative rural economic activities, including incentivized direct marketing initiatives and public procurement programmes;

- (b) Creating state-supported programmes designed to enhance local agrifood systems and improve food security and nutrition through streamlined procurement processes for purchasing food directly from family farmers;
- (c) Developing integrated strategies and responsive measures for family farmers affected by complex crises (whether climatic, economic or conflict-related), including subsidized insurance schemes, emergency procurement frameworks, targeted food aid programmes, and initiatives supporting disaster-resilient agricultural practices.

## **F. Pillar 6: promote sustainability of family farming for climate-resilient food systems**

46. The 2023–2024 biennium saw continued progress as 37 countries enacted legal and policy frameworks aimed at promoting sustainable agrifood systems and supporting climate-resilient practices within family farming. Actions primarily focused on:

- (a) Adopting and strengthening national and subnational policies that prioritize agroecology and organic agriculture, integrated farming systems, sustainable forest management, and promotion of local biodiversity;
- (b) Creating and reinforcing participatory governance mechanisms to strengthen intersectoral coordination and mainstream climate change, biodiversity and food security into rural policy agendas;
- (c) Promoting targeted investment through dedicated credit facilities, provision of equipment and programmes aimed at forest restoration, community-based tourism, and localized agrifood systems;
- (d) Enhancing resilience through national adaptation strategies, agricultural insurance programmes, and emergency response mechanisms for climatic events such as droughts and floods;
- (e) Promoting integrated educational and training programmes targeting rural youth, women, and Indigenous Peoples in the fields of agroecology, cultural preservation, entrepreneurship and climate resilience;
- (f) Promoting sustainable agricultural practices and biodiversity conservation offering payments for ecosystem services, and establishing national strategies focused on socio-bioeconomy and sustainable forest management.

## **G. Pillar 7: strengthen the multidimensionality of family farming to promote social innovations contributing to territorial development and agrifood systems that safeguard biodiversity, environment and culture**

47. During the biennium, 24 countries reported implementing measures aimed at reinforcing the social, environmental and cultural dimensions of family farming by promoting social innovation, biodiversity protection, and preservation of cultural heritage. Key actions included:

- (a) Establishing policies and programmes to support rural youth entrepreneurship through community-based forestry and sustainable agroecological practices;

- (b) Embedding agroecology, organic production, socio-biodiversity, and circular rural economy principles within national and subnational policies, with an emphasis on environmental stewardship, gender equity and cultural heritage;
- (c) Creating national plans and councils that structure rural territorial development through a multidimensional lens, including diversified non-agricultural economic activities such as community-based rural tourism;
- (d) Formulating strategic regulatory and legislative frameworks acknowledging the identity, roles and contributions of family farming, supported by institutional tools such as farmer registries, observatories and rural development funds;
- (e) Developing and enhancing regulatory frameworks for inspection, certification and commercialization of products from family farmers and small agro-industries, supporting artisanal and traditional production practices.

## VI. Family farmers' organizations: highlights of global and regional policy actions

48. The three global family farmers networks that are members of the Decade's international steering committee, namely the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO), the World Rural Forum (WRF) and La Via Campesina (LVC), have, alongside regional networks that are also committee members, carried out extensive work on key family farming issues, with the aim of fostering transformative change at the national level, as well as within international fora and processes.

### A. Supporting young farmers and women farmers

49. WFO Young is a dedicated mechanism within the World Farmers' Organisation that was created to ensure more structured representation and advocacy of young farmers at the global level. As part of these efforts, the WFO Gymnasium Program<sup>27</sup> elevated the voices of young farmers in key international debates, such as in the framework of the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), ensuring that their perspectives on climate change and agriculture were integrated into global discussions.

50. In 2024, the World Farmers' Organisation developed a position on rural women in family farming,<sup>28</sup> recognizing their vital contributions to the agricultural sector and preparing the groundwork ahead of the 2026 International Year of Women Farmers. Additionally, by sending a delegation to participate in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the World Farmers' Organisation further amplified this message on a global stage.

51. The First Asia-Pacific Young Farmers Camp and Agrilympics (YFCA), organized by the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA) in collaboration with International Cooperative Alliance and the Pacific Farmers Organization, was held in August 2024 in Los Baños. The multi-day event brought together young farmers from 20 countries across the region to strengthen their engagement in farmers' organizations, foster collaboration, and emphasize the critical role of young farmers in addressing climate-related challenges, food security and sustainable agriculture.

<sup>27</sup> See <https://www.wfo-oma.org/capacity-building/the-gymnasium/>.

<sup>28</sup> Available at <https://www.wfo-oma.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/WFO-Position-on-Women-Farmers-ENG-1.pdf>.

52. The World Rural Forum, in collaboration with Brazil's National Confederation of Agricultural Workers (CONTAG), FAO and the International Land Coalition (ILC), organized the 2nd International Meeting of the Network of Rural Women in Action in Brasília as part of the 7th Marcha das Margaridas.<sup>29</sup> The meeting aimed to strengthen global alliances of rural women, create a space for transformative dialogue, and enhance collaboration between women representatives of family farmers' organizations and women's organizations from across the five continents.

## **B. Placing family farmers at the centre of the environmental agenda**

53. During the 2023–2024 biennium, the presence and impact of family farmers' organizations within international climate forums has been considerably strengthened. As the Focal Point of the Farmers' Constituency at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the World Farmers' Organisation has been coordinating the contribution of family farmers and their organizations to the multilateral debate. Notably, the specificity of family farmers was highlighted in the Constituency's position on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on Climate Finance.

54. The World Rural Forum has established road maps to strengthen the representation of family farmers in global climate change negotiations and to identify strategic approaches with a focus on advocating for climate finance for family farmers and their meaningful engagement in climate policies and plans.

55. The active participation of both organizations, alongside La Via Campesina, in key climate forums such as COP28 and COP29 (the 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), the Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP16) and the Sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD COP16) has allowed them to successfully advocate for the role played by family farmers and their sustainable farming practices. Notably, the World Farmers' Organisation and the World Rural Forum, together with their networks, contributed to the development of special events focused on family farmers at COP28 and COP29. In October 2023, a two-day Global Conference of Family Farmers for Climate Action was hosted at the World Farmers' Organisation headquarters in Rome, resulting in the development of joint positions around climate finance.

56. Through many of its national organizations, La Via Campesina has conducted training processes on agroecology in more than 70 schools based on popular education methods and approaches. The West African Network of Peasants and Agricultural Producers (ROPPA) actively supported the call for agroecological transition in West Africa by joining collaborative platforms for bringing together actors involved in the agroecological transition in the region, sharing knowledge and solutions.<sup>30</sup>

## **C. Advocating for conducive policies and farmers' rights**

57. During the 2023–2024 biennium, the World Rural Forum continued to support national committees for family farming around the world, providing technical advice, facilitation and networking. This has resulted in the elaboration and implementation of a number of national action plans and other public policies to support family farming.

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<sup>29</sup> See <https://www.marchadasmargaridas.org.br/>.

<sup>30</sup> See <https://www.3aohub.org/en/1/home.html>.

58. The World Rural Forum convened the VIII Global Conference on Family Farming: Sustainability of Our Planet on 19–21 March 2024 in Vitoria-Gasteiz. The event focused on evaluating progress of the Decade and setting priorities for the next five years, and the resulting declaration highlighted ten priority topics for the second half of the Decade, identified and ratified by over 200 participants.<sup>31</sup>

59. During 2024, the World Farmers' Organisation developed key policies on digitalization and artificial intelligence,<sup>32</sup> food loss and waste,<sup>33</sup> and nutrition through a bottom-up development approach that involved all members, and that were then adopted by the General Assembly.

60. La Via Campesina worked to make the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP)<sup>34</sup> visible and effective, developing materials for dissemination, organizing numerous training sessions at national, regional and international levels, and translating the Declaration into over 18 languages, in addition to the six official United Nations languages.

## VII. Strategy and activities of the joint secretariat for the Decade

61. Under the overall guidance of the Decade steering committee, composed of representatives of Member States and family farmers' organizations, the joint secretariat developed and implemented a comprehensive strategy to support the implementation of the Decade, increase recognition of family farming, reinforce commitment, and promote partnerships and policy dialogues in favour of family farmers and in support of a sustainable and inclusive agrifood system transformation.

### A. The Global Family Farming Forum

62. To mark the halfway point in 2024, several events were organized by the secretariat, partners of the Decade and members of the steering committee, with the aim of collecting successful experiences from the first five years, reflecting jointly on some key themes for the future of family farming, and exploring key tools and approaches to build on during the second half of the implementation period.

63. The Global Family Farming Forum<sup>35</sup> was held at FAO headquarters on 15–18 October 2024, during the World Food Forum. Co-organized by FAO and IFAD, with the support of the governments of Italy and Brazil, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program and the Forest and Farm Facility, the forum celebrated family farming as the backbone of diverse, innovative and dynamic agrifood systems, identified supportive policy innovations, and showcased examples of successful experiences from all over the world.

64. The forum provided a platform for exchange on family farming and created links to the discussions on investment, science and innovation and youth, additionally contributing to the outcomes of the World Food Forum.

<sup>31</sup> See <https://www.ruralforum.org/en/the-viii-global-conference-of-the-wrf-concludes-with-a-final-declaration-that-recognises-the-vital-role-of-family-farmers-for-a-sustainable-planet/>.

<sup>32</sup> See [https://www.wfo-oma.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/WFO-Digitalization-AI-Policy\\_2025-GA-Adopted.pdf](https://www.wfo-oma.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/WFO-Digitalization-AI-Policy_2025-GA-Adopted.pdf).

<sup>33</sup> See [https://www.wfo-oma.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/WFO-Food-Loss-And-Waste-Policy\\_2025-GA-Adopted.pdf](https://www.wfo-oma.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/WFO-Food-Loss-And-Waste-Policy_2025-GA-Adopted.pdf).

<sup>34</sup> Available at <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1650694?ln=en&v=pdf>.

<sup>35</sup> See <https://www.fao.org/events/detail/global-family-farming-forum/en>.

65. The perspectives of women and young farmers were mainstreamed across all forum sessions. Half of the panellists were women. Young farmers were present in each of the forum's 12 technical sessions. In addition, the Young Farmers Roundtable 2024 allowed young farmers to present the outline of a toolkit being developed with the aim of supporting them and strengthening the generational sustainability of family farming, in the context of Pillar 2 of the Global Action Plan.

66. Featuring around a hundred panellists from 58 countries, the forum served as a call to action for renewed engagement from governments, organizations and stakeholders. Commitment to support family farmers at the highest levels was demonstrated through the attendance of senior figures from different countries, including ministers, vice-ministers and parliamentarians.

67. The forum also featured an onsite rural radio station which was set up to enable the worldwide livestreaming of the Voices for Change<sup>36</sup> initiative, covering a diverse range of interviews, roundtables, and discussions on communication and family farming. In total, 171 audio clips and 51 video interviews were produced and shared, enriching the dialogue on rural development and family farming.

## B. Increasing the outreach and visibility of the Decade

68. An advocacy campaign communicated macro-level key messages around the Global Family Farming Forum in six languages, both before and during the event. Social media responded positively, with an impressive estimated 76 million people reached through online media mentions and articles.

69. Participatory communication plans were developed and implemented across Africa, Asia and Latin America, in collaboration with three regional communication initiatives promoted by FAO,<sup>37</sup> alongside family farmers' organizations, community media and rural institutions.

70. During the 2023–2024 biennium, campaigns to amplify the voices of farmers and their organizations included the production of 460 radio programmes across Africa and Asia in local languages, and in English or French, reaching a potential audience of 8 million listeners. In Latin America, 104 radio programmes were produced and broadcast by 324 radio stations, with an estimated reach of 3 million listeners.

71. In 2024, the regional communication initiative in Latin America established the Family Farming Information Service to foster exchange and advance public policy proposals to support rural and agricultural communities, connecting with over 500 institutions linked to family farming, reaching an average of 3 million users in the region.

72. With almost 5,000 new pieces of content added during the year, the Family Farming Knowledge Platform's database<sup>38</sup> held a total of 42,000 items by the end of 2024. The total number of users visiting the platform in 2023 was over 551,000, while in 2024 that number had reached about 700,000, with those visitors making more than a million online searches using the platform. The platform has increased its role also as a community of practitioners on family farming related topics.

<sup>36</sup> See <https://www.fao.org/communication-for-development/events/events-detail/rural-radio--voices-for-change/>.

<sup>37</sup> The three initiatives are ComDev Asia (see <https://comdevasia.org>), YenKasa Africa (see <https://yenkas.org>) and Onda Rural (see <https://ondarural.org>).

<sup>38</sup> See <https://www.fao.org/family-farming/home/en/>.

### C. Development of global knowledge products for technical support

73. The secretariat, in collaboration with FAO experts, released the following technical publications and tools aimed at strengthening capacities for more effective design and implementation of national action plans and other legislative and regulatory frameworks, and for a more effective application of international tools and guidelines in support of family farmers:

- (a) A learning framework on public policy aimed at policymakers and other relevant stakeholders, which was published in English, French and Spanish, and is forthcoming in Arabic;<sup>39</sup>
- (b) A publication aiming at supporting decision-makers and practitioners in developing legislative measures to support family farmers;<sup>40</sup>
- (c) A guide on designing and implementing family farming registries, to promote and support the generation of these data-gathering tools;<sup>41</sup>
- (d) A comparative analysis of the Global Action Plan and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, aiming to promote policies conducive to the support of small-scale aquatic food producers;<sup>42</sup>
- (e) A research study on the inclusiveness of cooperatives that offers policy recommendations;<sup>43</sup>
- (f) A methodology to develop data on family farming, including in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, using statistically valid samples to provide knowledge to inform policymaking processes, based on the findings of a global<sup>44</sup> and two local farmer-level surveys in Brazil<sup>45</sup> and Senegal;<sup>46</sup>
- (g) A report on a survey monitoring challenges facing small-scale fishers in Ghana.<sup>47</sup>

## VIII. Overall contribution by the Organization and the Fund to the implementation of the Decade

74. In 2023 and 2024, FAO worked to increase the resilience of small-scale family farmers, while enabling them to meet the growing demands for environmental sustainability and compliance with evolving standards, providing trainings to small-scale producers in measuring and reducing the carbon and water footprints of their activities.<sup>48</sup>

75. FAO is helping to channel climate finance to farmers through the COP29 Presidency's Baku Harmoniya Climate Initiative for Farmers, launched in November 2024,<sup>49</sup> serving as a platform for farmers to ensure that their perspectives and needs

<sup>39</sup> Available at <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/837e2dbe-87a6-436a-92f3-4eaa49a25af9>.

<sup>40</sup> Available at <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/c47ff52d-0d5d-42bb-b0b9-eaf89c3268aa>.

<sup>41</sup> Available at <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/782d9a7e-d7ef-4a11-b253-8e65622bb44c>.

<sup>42</sup> Available at <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/6f7b6a4f-35ff-4c01-9563-8cd0e7a16882>.

<sup>43</sup> Available at <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/ef8076dd-eb2e-49c0-9d08-02ba9c9658bc>.

<sup>44</sup> Available at <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/08199547-5a78-4a3f-b670-044f6e5416c4>.

<sup>45</sup> Available at <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/449d64a5-24de-4a60-9d55-c9f91ef08257>.

<sup>46</sup> Available at <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/48dc3e2f-5f81-46f8-95d8-6bc58b2f40af>.

<sup>47</sup> Available at <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/004f82a4-74f0-4540-94de-aa4bba7e3b3f>.

<sup>48</sup> Available at <https://www.fao.org/world-banana-forum/projects/carbon-and-water-footprint-cwf-initiative/carbon-and-water-footprint-cwf-tool/en/>.

<sup>49</sup> See <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/fao-and-cop29-presidency-launch-baku-harmoniya-climate-initiative-19112024/en>.

are reflected in policies, climate action strategies and investments in agrifood system transformation.

76. FAO's work to enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable has focused on increasing their capacities to manage risks and impacts. In 2023, a total of 57 million people in food crises settings were reached with emergency and resilience assistance; in 2024, preliminary data indicate that approximately 41 million people in more than 50 countries were reached with emergency and resilience assistance.

77. Efforts were devoted to promoting an enabling environment for family farming, providing legal and technical assistance in reviewing or drafting legislation on family farming at country level, and enhancing the capacity of decision-makers and practitioners.<sup>50</sup> This included providing technical support for the development of Costa Rica's law on family farming<sup>51</sup> and supporting the implementation of family farming regulations in Paraguay.

78. Several countries, including Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, the Philippines, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, have been supported to develop and implement national action plans for small-scale fisheries, as a systematic approach to implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication,<sup>52</sup> reinforcing and empowering farmers' organizations, and raising awareness of the importance and needs of the sector.

79. Various initiatives contributed to increase the capacities of family farmers and their organizations. The FAO Investment Centre<sup>53</sup> delivered training on organizational strengthening and sustainable production practices. The Forest and Farm Facility<sup>54</sup> restored 531,000 hectares of land in 2024, benefiting 289,000 people by providing direct financial support and technical assistance to forest and farm producer organizations.

80. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Technical Platform for Family Farming<sup>55</sup> hosted the Dialogues of Knowledge and Practices in Family Farming series focused on agroecology in 2023. Between 2023 and 2024, two rounds of the Technical Exchanges for Family Farming to discuss good practices and solutions were held, covering family farming registers and public purchase mechanisms.

81. Action by FAO to improve the socioeconomic inclusion, resilience and well-being of family farmers has been focused on improving knowledge and developing capacities. The Resilient and Inclusive Transformation Impact Initiative (RITII) is a knowledge development initiative that aims to strengthen resilience and inclusion in select developing countries by identifying the most at-risk populations and understanding the drivers of their vulnerabilities.

82. In the Near East and North Africa, FAO and the International Labour Organization collaborated in 2024 to launch a policy incubator on extending social insurance for agriculture workers in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region,<sup>56</sup> promoting interministerial collaboration among labour, social development and agriculture ministries. Also in 2024, the Arab Forum for Rural Advisory Services<sup>57</sup> was officially

<sup>50</sup> For example, see <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/54c4d395-0f27-4fc4-9ea4-f55361137416>.

<sup>51</sup> Available at <https://sidoc.inamu.go.cr/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=715994>.

<sup>52</sup> See <https://www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/en>.

<sup>53</sup> See <https://www.fao.org/investment-centre/en>.

<sup>54</sup> See <https://www.fao.org/forest-farm-facility/en>.

<sup>55</sup> See <https://www.fao.org/platforms/family-farming/dialogues-on-knowledge-and-practices-of-family-farming/en>.

<sup>56</sup> Available at <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/63cda5cf-86e4-4f10-a927-ab8276dea251>.

<sup>57</sup> See <https://www.fao.org/platforms/afras/en>.

launched as a collaborative network, bringing together 180 entities to foster networking and knowledge sharing.

83. In Africa, FAO's work concentrated on building resilience and ending poverty by focusing on advancing youth employment and expanding social protection, particularly for poor and vulnerable households in rural areas. YenKasa Africa, a regional initiative by FAO, Farm Radio International, the Pan-African Farmers' Organization and other partners, has enhanced knowledge- and experience-sharing on agriculture and rural development in the region.

84. In Europe and Central Asia, FAO has focused on maintaining and developing the Regional Network on Integrated Community Development and other partnerships in the field of community development. FAO supported the preparation of the draft national action plan on family farming in the Republic of Moldova, in close coordination with the government, civil society, agricultural producers and other stakeholders.

85. In Asia and the Pacific, FAO directly contributed to the development of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' Guidelines for Agroecology Transitions<sup>58</sup> and to the socialization of the Master Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation. In Indonesia, FAO supported the finalization of the joint strategic plan of the national action plan on family farming, to strengthen policy dialogue and increase collaboration between stakeholders in supporting the effective and productive implementation of the national action plan.

86. The mandate of IFAD is deeply aligned with the objectives of the Decade. This commitment led to the establishment of the Farmers' Forum (FAFO) in 2005, to date the largest and most inclusive bottom-up mechanism within the multilateral system for engagement between smallholder farmers' organizations representing rural producers, and IFAD and its Member States. The last global meeting was held in 2024 and regional FAFO events are scheduled in all regions for 2026.

87. This high-level recognition of family farmers is reflected in IFAD's country operations, where the Decade's pillars are embedded into project designs, either as core foundations or as crosscutting components. In Argentina, projects like the Goat Value Chain Development Programme (PRODECCA),<sup>59</sup> the Promotion of Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems for Family Farming Programme (PROSAF),<sup>60</sup> and the Programme for Economic Insertion of Family Producers of Northern Argentina (PROCANOR)<sup>61</sup> support family farmers by enhancing their technical skills, asset ownership and socioeconomic inclusion.

88. In Brazil, IFAD promotes agroecological practices and knowledge-sharing through its Knowledge Management and South-South Triangular Cooperation Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean, while also supporting policy engagement platforms like the Northeast Consortium,<sup>62</sup> contributing to an enabling policy environment for family farming and to its sustainability. In Cuba, the Livestock Cooperatives Development Project in the Central-Eastern Region (PRODEGAN)<sup>63</sup> influenced key legislation, such as the Cooperatives Law and the Food Sovereignty Law.

89. In Cambodia, Nicaragua and Paraguay, IFAD has supported farmers' organizations through training and capacity building, boosting their market access and leadership roles. Pakistan showcases an integrated approach, with investments in

<sup>58</sup> Available at <https://www.aseanaetguidelines.org/>.

<sup>59</sup> See <https://www.ifad.org/en/w/projects/2000001527>.

<sup>60</sup> See <https://www.ifad.org/en/w/projects/2000001530>.

<sup>61</sup> See <https://www.ifad.org/en/w/projects/1100001749>.

<sup>62</sup> See <https://www.consorciordeste.gov.br/>.

<sup>63</sup> See <https://www.ifad.org/en/w/projects/2000001199>.

irrigation, farm-to-market roads, agribusiness training, and community-based agrifood systems that address multiple Decade priorities, including youth engagement and socioeconomic inclusion. IFAD also channels Decade-aligned support through grants. The Farmers' Organizations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific programme (FO4ACP),<sup>64</sup> financed by the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, is a capacity-building initiative aimed at improving the livelihoods, food security and nutrition of family farmers in the targeted geographical areas. An external evaluation of the programme's 2019–2025 phase highlighted significant results, prompting a renewed commitment by the European Union for a second phase.

90. Additionally, IFAD approved a USD 1 million grant (2023–2026) to support the Decade's implementation and its secretariat, which was co-implemented by FAO and the World Rural Forum. A significant portion of this grant is dedicated to strengthening the engagement of family farmers in policy dialogues, through national committees for family farming, in a number of countries, including Burundi, the Dominican Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar and Nepal. These countries have made marked progress on their national action plans, underscoring the critical role of funding and technical support in maximizing the impact of policy dialogue and multistakeholder engagement.

## IX. Recommendations and the way forward

91. To ensure effective implementation of the Decade, and to empower family farmers to realize their potential, governments and stakeholders should consider the following actions in the coming five-year period:

- (a) Strengthen collaboration among actors to maximize resources and capacities and to promote innovative and equitable multi-actor partnerships;
- (b) Leverage the unique opportunity the Decade provides to connect international instruments and build momentum around them, exploring possible pathways to mainstream global policy instruments, guides and recommendations relevant to family farming into national legislative and policy interventions;
- (c) Prompt governments' engagement with family farmers' organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academia and other relevant actors, involving them in the elaboration, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national action plans and other relevant policies, laws and initiatives;
- (d) Strengthen family farmers' participation in international and national fora by improving their capacity to contribute to decisions, creating and promoting spaces where they can engage more meaningfully in processes, and establishing mechanisms to facilitate the integration of their perspectives into the design, implementation and evaluation of policies;
- (e) Further recognize and promote the role of family farmers' organizations, national committees for family farming and other multistakeholder platforms in the promotion, design and implementation of national action plans and other legal frameworks, as well as in identifying policy proposals from the field;
- (f) Strengthen the capacities of national and local authorities to ensure that Decade-related activities are effectively designed and implemented;
- (g) Prompt Member States, FAO, IFAD and other relevant stakeholders to develop and implement comprehensive resource mobilization plans and to identify

<sup>64</sup> See <https://www.ifad.org/en/w/publications/the-fo4ACP-programme>.

projects based on country demands and on dialogues with family farmers' organizations;

(h) Invite all actors and donors to increasingly include family farmers and their organizations in the project formulation, implementation and monitoring phases, as well as through direct financing of projects, to emphasize their relevance and agency and to ensure resources from projects reach them effectively;

(i) Mobilize financial resources at the national level to ensure the adequate implementation of the Decade, including through the provision of priority budget lines and the integration of specific provisions of national action plans into already funded strategies and initiatives;

(j) Formulate and implement policies building on evidence and consultations with various stakeholders, tailoring their formulation and their effective implementation to the varying conditions and heterogeneity of family farmers dealing with different levels of development;

(k) Advance the development of national family farmers definitions and registries to ensure better targeting of public policies and investment of public resources;

(l) Promote synergies between different initiatives to maximize the social, economic and sustainable contributions of family farming to sustainable development, with a systems approach that underscores the multidimensional dimension of family farming;

(m) Strengthen the efforts of national parliaments to promote collective action by assessing the adequacy and completeness of existing legislation, sustaining political will and budgeting, supporting the translation of model laws and other international instruments into national legislation, and building coalitions, particularly with non-state actors, farmers' organizations and consumer groups;

(n) Address structural barriers to the empowerment of women and youth in family farming, ensuring equal access to productive resources, services, local institutions and decent employment, supporting their engagement in planning and decision-making, and strengthening technical skills and financial literacy;

(o) Develop responsive policies and programmes that address the unique challenges faced by women farmers and create synergies with the celebration of the forthcoming International Year of the Woman Farmer in 2026;

(p) Reinforce institutional mechanisms to amplify the voices of youth and to leverage the potential of young family farmers in combining local knowledge with innovative solutions to link producers and consumers;

(q) Secure family farmers' collective rights through innovative legal tools to protect communities' ownership of, access to, and use of land and natural resources, with particular attention to women and youth;

(r) Promote innovative market solutions led by family farmers, supporting access to public food procurement as well as both local and traditional food markets, and leveraging cooperatives and farmers' organizations as crucial providers of solutions and services to reinforce the positioning of family farmers in value chains;

(s) Recognize the strategic role played by family farmers in environmental protection and foster their increased involvement in mechanisms for combating climate change, desertification, and biodiversity loss, adopting affirmative action mechanisms to ensure family farmers' meaningful participation in the spaces where policies, investments and governance mechanisms are discussed and endorsed;

(t) Establish institutional, participatory and collaborative frameworks that prioritize investments in initiatives capable of generating both environmental and social benefits, avoiding the risk that climate solutions marginalize family farming, relegating it to compensatory policies or a peripheral role in ecological transition agreements and governance.

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