

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION OF THE CELAC ON FAMILY FARMING San José, Costa Rica, November 6, 2015

The Member countries of the Community of Latin and Caribbean States (CELAC), gathered in San José, Costa Rica on November 6th, 2015, on the occasion of the second Ministerial meeting on Family Agriculture (AF) of CELAC:

1. Congratulate the member countries for the realization of the II meeting of Senior Officials on Family Farming of the CELAC, which took place in San Jose, Costa Rica, on November 5th, 2015.
2. Congratulate the Heads of State and Governments of the III CELAC Summit carried out in Belen, Costa Rica, for the adoption of the Plan for Food Security and Nutrition Security and Eradication of Hunger by 2025 (SAN – CELAC) and the recognition of the direct contribution of farming to food security and sustainable development, and for endorsing the Declaration of the first Ministerial Meeting on Family Agriculture of CELAC, held in Brasilia, on November 11th, 2014.
3. Congratulate the Pro – Tempore Presidency of Ecuador and the Working Group AD HOC, for putting into action the 2015 Family Agriculture Plan of Action and its advances in three priority topics:
1) Public procurement and supply systems, ii) Rural services (technical assistance, extension, credit, insurance, markets), iii) Inclusion of youth in rural development processes.
4. Adopt as a iv) priority point, the Sustainable Intensification of the Family Farming Production, to be included in the 2016 Plan of

Action, of the AD HOC working group on Family Farming and Rural Development of CELAC.

5. Thank FAO for the support given to the Ad – Hoc Working Group on Family Agriculture and Rural Development of CELAC, and the implementation of the Plan SAN – CELAC in member countries and the support given to the Pro – Tempore Presidency of Ecuador in the achievement of the Plan of action of AF 2015, and reinforce their continued support and collaboration.
6. Recognize the importance of strengthening participatory spaces of policy dialogue for Family Farming and Rural Development of CELAC in a national, sub regional and regional level and the AF Regional Committee created in the frame of the International Year of Family Agriculture 2014.
7. Express thanks to the Regional Committee of Family Farming for its support and follow up on the implementation of the Plan of Action of Family Farming.
8. Recognize the importance of the Specialized Meeting of Family Farming-REAF- of MERCOSUR in the construction of differentiated public policies for Family Farming, highlighting programs of public procurement in the region.
9. Congratulate the creation of the Network of Public Marketing Systems and Food Supply in Latin America and the Caribbean, under the SAN CELAC Plan and the realization of its “First regional dialogue on opportunities and challenges of collaboration between Family Farming and public food supply systems in Latin America and the Caribbean”, in Brasilia, October 27 and 28, 2015.

10. Highlight the importance of expanding the mechanisms of cooperation in areas related to the strengthening of Family Farming and the territorial development between sub regional organizations such as the South American Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Integration System in Central America (SICA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
11. Reaffirm the importance of the contribution of indigenous people to the conservation of the ancestral practices of Family Farming, biodiversity conservation and sustainable production methods.
12. Recognize the progress made by the Workgroup for the Advancement of Women of the CELAC, and deepen the commitment to coordinate actions with the AD HOC Workgroup on Family Farming and Rural Development of CELAC, in that area of work and highlight the centrality of policies for the promotion of gender equity.
13. Adopted the Plan of action 2016 of the AD HOC workgroup on Family Farming and Rural Development of the CELAC under the terms of the attached document, recognizing asymmetries and national laws in annex 1 of this Declaration.
14. Highlights the importance of developing policy guidelines to strengthen the linkages between family farming to the strategies of sustainable rural development in the countries members of CELAC, based on the themes of work priority, looking for links between socioeconomic and environmental policies.

15. Instruct the AD HOC workgroup on Family Farming and Rural Development of CELAC, with support from the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, and in consultation with the Working Group of International Cooperation of CELAC, to commence the approach with the agencies of international cooperation in the process of formulating Finance and develop projects aligned with the four prioritized work themes of 2016 Action Plan.
16. Thank FAO for the creation of the Family Agriculture knowledge platform. Also the request this organism continues the support for the Governments of CELAC Member Countries.
17. Promote spaces for reflection, analysis and definition of the scope and challenges posed by the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Development and the Sustainable Development Goals adopted within the framework of the 70th United Nations General Assembly on matters relating to Family Farming, Security/Food Sovereignty, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication.
18. Congratulate the pro temper presidency of Ecuador and the government of Costa Rica for the collaboration on the achievement of this meeting as well as the given attention to the delegates.
19. Transfer this declaration to the heads of State and Government of CELAC in the IV presidential Summit expected to be held by January 27.28 2015 in Quito, Ecuador.
20. Thank to FAO for the invitation and information of FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Annex 1. Plan of action of the AD HOC family farming from the CELAC 2016 working group

1. Resume the elaboration of a regional program of Exchange and cooperation for the promotion of integration, economic autonomy and gender equity of rural women.

2. Develop project profiles based on the four lines of work prioritized to be presented to international cooperation agencies: i) procurement and supply systems, ii) rural services (technical assistance, extension, access to credit, insurance, markets and promotion of partnership iii) Inclusion of youth in rural development iv) sustainable intensification of family agricultural production processes.

3. Promote dialogue, exchange and cooperation for the development of policies in the countries of CELAC, based on priority lines of work in the field of CELAC.

4 Recognize the contribution of Family Farming to the achievement of the Plan of CELAC for food security, nutrition and eradication of hunger with the support of FAO, ALADI and ECLAC and others.

5 Work on proposals to include other lines of work within the framework of the Family Farming of CELAC: i) strengthening of Family Farming and Rural Development through financial schemes; (ii) institutional frameworks that ensure the sustainability of the works of CELAC; (iii) new sources of funding to ensure the improvement of the living conditions of peoples, food security and environmental sustainability; (v) characterization, classification and registration of family farming; vi) infrastructure and basic services for the improvement of family life

(education, road infrastructure, health, housing, water for human consumption and irrigation, energy, among others).

6. Encourage the use and development of the Knowledge Platform for Family Agriculture, designed by FAO, as a useful tool for identifying best practices and to strengthen the exchange of experiences and of the processes of South-South cooperation.

7. Propose to FAO the realization of the 2nd Regional Event of Agroecology, with the aim of continuing to promote the theme as a model of sustainable agriculture, following up the recommendations given in the "Regional Seminar on Agroecology in Latin America and the Caribbean", held in Brasilia, in November 2014.

8. Promote Family Farming as one of the pillars of integration of the Region through its articulation with public food supply systems and public territorial procurement schemes.

9. Strengthen the social protection systems for Family Farming.

10. Encourage and strengthen schemes to diminish risk to Family Farming, including agricultural insurance schemes to minimize losses caused by the effects of climate change and natural disasters.

11. Involve the academic sector and research centers as an important ally and encourage training, extension and research aimed at the strengthening of Family Farming and rural territorial development in the region, such as the network of universities that participate in the Right to Food Observatory.

12 Continue contemplating the contribution of civil society in the agenda, inviting three representatives of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty to participate in the meetings of the AD HOC workgroup on Family Farming and Rural Development of CELAC, and promote social participation in the events held in this context.

13. Consider the Family Farming Regional Committee as support/reinforcement to the Agenda to be implemented by the AD HOC working group on Family Farming and Rural Development of CELAC.

14. Encourage activities and exchanges linked to the Parliamentary Fronts Against Hunger, for food security and sustainable production cr. of countries, in favour of legal frameworks that strengthen Family Farming and Territorial Rural Development.

15. Consider the invitation of the Government of Brazil to the Ministers of Agriculture and Rural Development of CELAC to the Commemorative Seminar of the 10th anniversary of the International Conference about Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD), which will take place in Brasilia and el Dorado de Carajas, Brazil, from April 12 to 17, 2016.

16. Receive the proposal of El Salvador to conduct the III Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming of CELAC in November 2016 in coordination with the Dominican Republic.