



Implementation of the UNDF 2019-2028 through National and Regional Action Plans

Lessons Learned, Good Practices, Challenges & Opportunities



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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFA	Asian Farmers' Association
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
COPROFAM	Confederación de Organizaciones de Productores Familiares del Mercosur Ampliado
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FO	Farmers' Organization
GAP	Global Action Plan
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IICA	Inter- American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
ILC	International Land Coalition
MERCOSUR	Mercado Común del Sur
NAP	National Action Plan
NCFF	National Committee of Family Farming
NENA	Near East and North Africa
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PAFO	Panafrican Farmers' Organization
PDRR	Programa Diálogo Regional Rural
PROPAC	Plateforme Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale
RAP	Regional Action Plan
ROPPA	Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SICA	Central America Integration System
UNFFF	United Nations Decade of Family Farming
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
WFP	World Food Program
WRF	World Rural Forum

I. INTRODUCTION

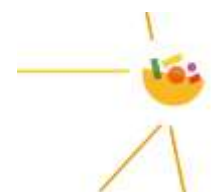
This document presents the results of the study conducted by the World Rural Forum (**WRF**) with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization (**FAO**) to monitor the progress in the implementation of the **United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 (UNDF)** through National and Regional/Sub-regional Action Plans.

The study, carried out between March and November 2020, consisted of an exhaustive mapping exercise in 61 countries and 8 sub regions of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, through a wide consultation process that included more than 50 interviews with key stakeholders and in-depth analysis of the Action Plans.

In addition to that, the WRF and FAO co-organized two online exchange sessions on the 29-30 of October: “*Developing National Action Plans of the UNDF 2019-2028: challenges and opportunities in the actual context*” in Asia and Latin America respectively. About 150 representatives of National Committees of Family Farming, Family Farming organizations, government officials, FAO, IFAD, research institutions, NGOs, and other cooperation agencies, participated in the events. Experiences on the elaboration and implementation of National and Regional/Sub-regional Action Plans were presented, and participants identified strengths, areas of improvement and strategies in the implementation of the UNDF through the Plans.

Complementing these two exchange sessions, the 23 of November 2020, the WRF and the Panafrican Farmers’ Organization (PAFO) co-organized the webinar “*UNDF in Africa: progress and challenges*” in the framework of an initiative of the International Land Coalition (ILC).

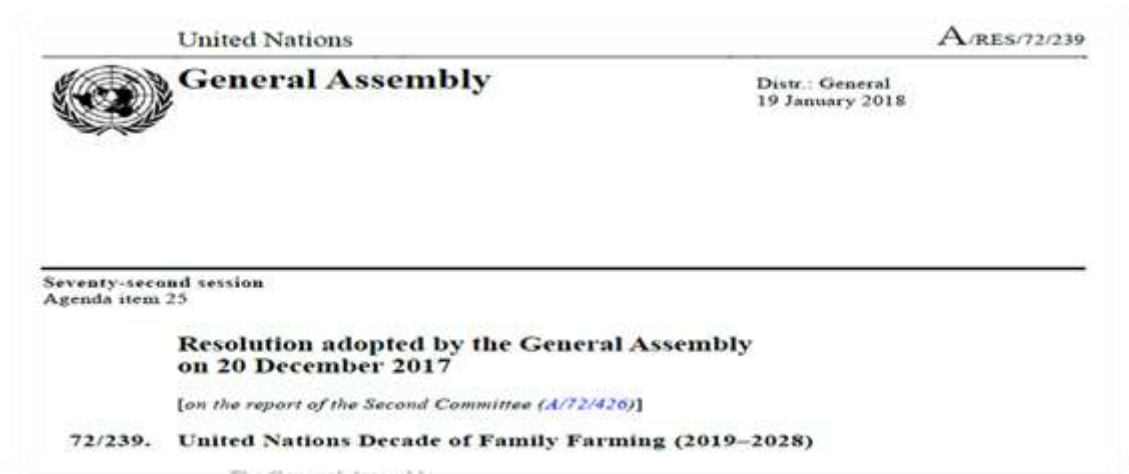
The objective of this document is to provide the reader with a global overview of the progress made in the development of UNDF National and Regional Action Plans and to **share lessons learned, and good practices** that can serve as an inspiration to other countries and stakeholders committed to Family Farming, the UNDF 2019-2028 and the achievement of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.



II. THE UN DECADE OF FAMILY FARMING 2019-2028

Family Farming is the most prevalent form of agriculture in the world: it produces more than 80% of the world's food in value terms and occupies around 70-80% of farmland¹. In addition to producing the majority of the world's food, Family Farming combines multiple economic, environmental, social and cultural functions.

On the 20th December 2017, the United Nations General Assembly adopted - **Resolution 72/239 that declared 2019 – 2028 as the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDF)**, recognizing the enormous contribution of Family Farming to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the *“role that family farms play in improving nutrition and ensuring global food security, eradicating poverty, ending hunger, conserving biodiversity and achieving environmental sustainability”*. The resolution encourages all States to develop, improve and implement public policies on family farming, and share their experiences and best practices of family farming with other States.



¹ The State of Food and Agriculture 2014, FAO.

The UNDF 2019-2028 has a **Global Action Plan (GAP)** built with the participation of the main stakeholders related to Family Farming. The GAP is structured in **7 pillars** to support family farmers—including pastoralists, fishers, foresters, indigenous people, and other groups of food producers from a comprehensive approach.

UNDF GAP

Pillar 1- Develop an enabling policy environment to strengthen family farming

Pillar 2- Youth and generational sustainability

Pillar 3- Gender equity and women's leadership

Pillar 4- Strengthen family farmers' organizations and their capacities

Pillar 5- Improve socio-economic inclusion, resilience and well-being of family farmers

Pillar 6 -Promote sustainability of family farming for climate-resilient food systems.

Pillar 7- Strengthen the multidimensionality of Family Farming

One of the main objectives foreseen in the **UNDFG GAP** is the development of **100 National Action Plans** on Family Farming by Governments in dialogue with Family Farmers’ organizations and with multistakeholder platforms for policy dialogue, including the National Committees of Family Farming. The UNDFG GAP also **envisages** a target of **5 Regional Action Plans** and **7 Sub-Regional Action Plans on Family Farming** developed in dialogue with family farmers’ organizations. Regional and sub-regional spaces can make a significant contribution promoting the implementation of the UNDFG agenda in their member countries.



What is a UNDFG National Action Plan?

A National Action Plan (NAP) is a contextualized, country-specific framework of action for the support of family farming, providing a roadmap for countries to progress in the implementation of the UNDFG. In line with the 7 pillars of the GAP, The NAP addresses the challenges and the potential of Family Farming from a comprehensive and multidimensional approach and envisages the articulation of the different sectors that intervene in the rural areas. Thus, the NAP contributes to national priorities not only in the agricultural sector, but also in nutrition, environment, or health, etc.

The NAP is an opportunity for all relevant national stakeholders to mobilize resources, consolidate, align, and reinforce their actions in support of Family Farming and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

III. PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNDF 2019-2028 ACTION PLANS

UNDF NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

TARGET 2024: 100 National Action Plans on Family Farming developed by governments in dialogue with family farmer’s organizations and with National Committees of Family Farming

Governments, Family Farmers’ organizations, National Committees of Family Farming, FAO and IFAD are promoting the implementation of the UNDF 2019-2028 agenda and the development of National Action Plans in at least **47 countries of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.**

7

UNDF NATIONAL ACTION PLANS APPROVED

Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Gambia, Indonesia, Nepal, Panamá and Perú.

4

COUNTRIES WITH ADVANCED PROCESSES

Burkina Faso, Madagascar, the Philippines and Sierra Leone.

+35 COUNTRIES WITH PROGRESS IN THE MOBILIZATION OF ACTORS FOR THE ELABORATION OF THEIR NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

Albania, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burundi, Cameroun, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Cote d’Ivoire, DR Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eswatini, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, India, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Mexico, Niger, Nigeria, Paraguay, Portugal, Senegal, Spain, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda.

The mobilization of stakeholders is taking place through a wide range of activities: meetings, workshops, and communication campaigns to inform about the UNDF 2019-2028 and engage civil society, Farmers' organizations, public institutions and cooperation agencies in the development of a NAP; the definition of a common roadmap and the methodology to elaborate the NAP; the organisation of policy dialogue forums and multistakeholder consultations to elaborate the NAP, among other activities of a very intense agenda.

The GAP indicates that the governments will develop the NAPs in dialogue with family farmers' organizations (FOs) and with **the National Committees of Family Farming (NCFF)**. The NCFF are multistakeholder policy dialogue platforms on Family Farming. They play a very active role in the promotion of the UNDF 2019-2028 agenda at the national level. There are **45 NCFF in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean** that gather more than 1,570 FOs, NGOs, public institutions, research centers, cooperation agencies, etc.; At least 925 of the members of the NCFF are Family Farmer's organizations.



✿ UNDIFF REGIONAL/SUB-REGIONAL ACTION PLANS

TARGET 2024: 5 Regional and 7 Sub-regional Action Plans on Family Farming developed in dialogue with family farmer’s organizations.

The GAP also envisages the development of **Regional and Sub-regional Action Plans (RAP)** to support Family Farming. Intergovernmental spaces have a very significant role in the implementation of the UNDIFF agenda. They bring a great contribution to the discussions on Family Farming at the national level and the development of UNDIFF NAPs. **The UNDIFF Regional and Sub-regional plans can provide guidance and stimulate the implementation of the UNDIFF agenda in the countries.** Intergovernmental organizations, regional farmers’ organizations -AFA, COPROFAM, PDRR, PROPAC, and ROPPA-, FAO, IFAD, and other partners are promoting the implementation of the UNDIFF and the development of RAPs. So far, **significant progress** has been made at sub regional level: we find 3 UNDIFF Sub-regional Action Plans drafted, 1 sub-regional process started and mobilization efforts in 3 sub-regions more.

UNDIFF Action Plans

Sub-Region

Advanced draft Plan	Near East and North Africa (NENA)
	Central America Integration System (SICA)
	Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
Process started	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
Mobilization of stakeholders	Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
	Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR)
	Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

IV. GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED IN THE ELABORATION OF UNDFF ACTION PLANS

There are very useful lessons learned in the development of UNDFF National Action Plans on Family Farming so far. Good practices and solutions developed by governments, FOs, NCFF, FAO, and IFAD can serve as leverage and inspire the processes in other countries and regions.

To facilitate reflection and discussion, this document presents **good practices around three key areas** when developing **UNDFF National Action Plans (NAP)**:



- Policy dialogue among the most relevant stakeholders;
- NAP contribution to strengthening the existing policy framework to support Family Farming;
- Effective operationalization of the NAP and monitoring system.

A) Policy dialogue among key stakeholders

Policy dialogue and collaboration among government bodies, FOs the NCFE, FAO, IFAD, etc

Policy dialogue and collaboration among government bodies, FOs, the NCFE, FAO, IFAD, etc. have been fundamental to reach the UNDFE NAPs:

- Government mobilizing state institutions, promoting interinstitutional cooperation, among existing and newly implemented programs, projects and funds.
- The NCFE providing multistakeholder policy dialogue and a strong mobilization of stakeholders (FOs, NGOs, public institutions, research centers, cooperation agencies, etc.).
- Family Farmers Organizations bringing the interests and proposals of farmers themselves and ensuring relevance to the process.
- FAO and IFAD (and other agencies) providing technical and financial support and facilitating policy dialogue thus enhancing effectiveness to processes and products.

The existence of an institutionalized multistakeholder mechanism for policy dialogue

The existence of an institutionalized multistakeholder mechanism for policy dialogue can make a very relevant contribution to an inclusive elaboration of the NAP. Namely, a policy dialogue space on Family Farming, consisting of public institutions, family farmers' organizations, private sector, academia, and cooperation agencies, officially recognized by the state through different mechanisms such as a law, executive agreement, ministerial resolution, public policy, etc.

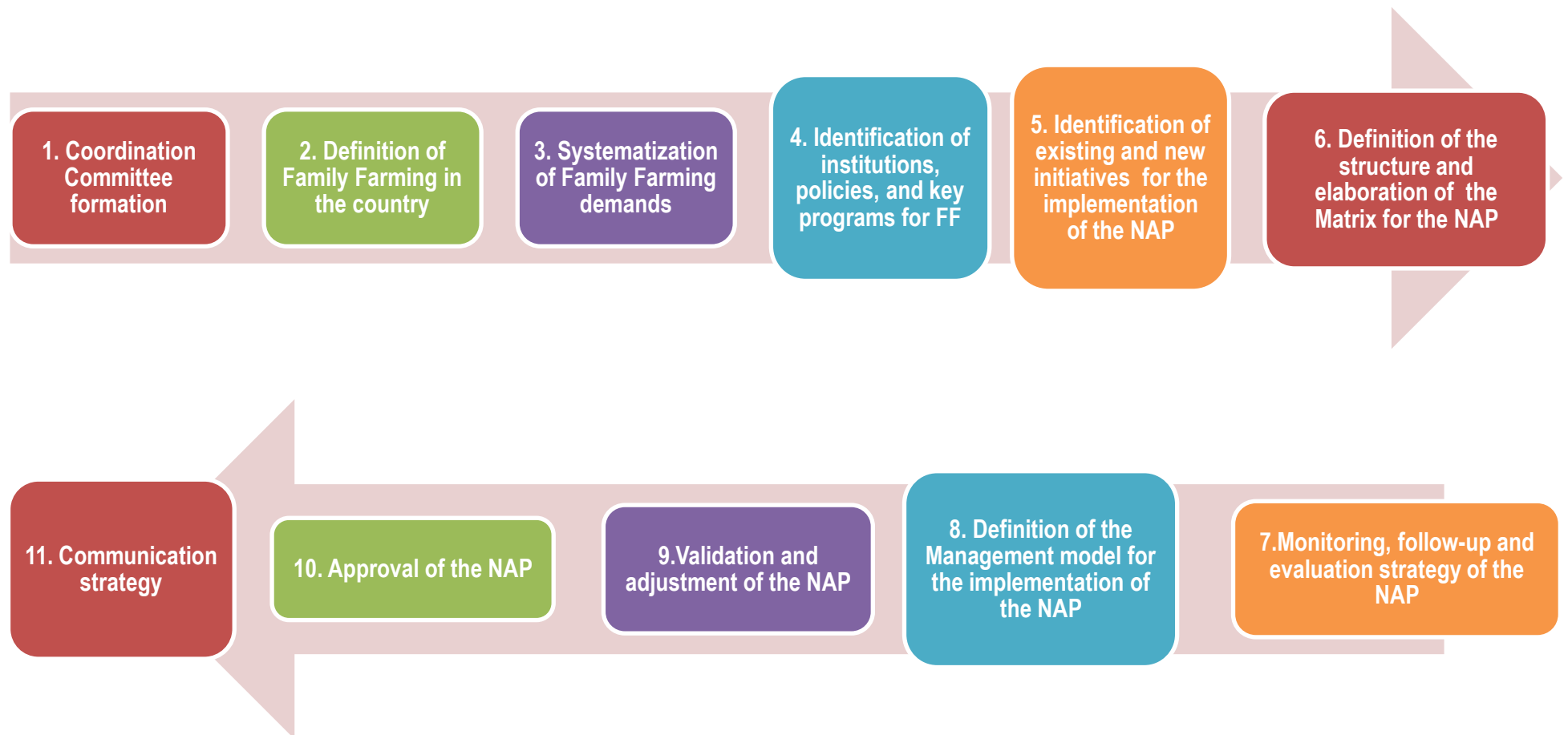
The establishment of a joint coordination Committee

In some countries, the establishment of a joint coordination Committee has hugely facilitated the collaboration between the government, civil society, FAO, IFAD, and other agencies when drafting the plan and co-organizing multistakeholder consultations.

The definition of a roadmap and methodology to elaborate the NAP

These joint coordination committees have agreed on a detailed roadmap and methodology to elaborate the NAPs. We find very interesting roadmaps in several countries. In the following page, there is a possible model coming from the analysis of the different processes.

ROADMAP FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE NAP DOCUMENT



B) Contribution of the NAP to strengthening the exiting framework

The UNDF Action Plans can significantly contribute to reinforcing the existing framework for the development of Family Farming in the countries, that is, the legislative and institutional frameworks and the financial commitments to support Family Farming.

The institutionalization of the NAP

In this sense, it is important the institutionalization of the NAP: high level in the hierarchy of the approval (presidential decree, ministerial resolution/decre) and a concrete definition of the budget can bring to a more effective contribution of the NAP to support Family Farming.

Characterization of Family Farming

Several NAPs also include differentiation of Family Farming typologies for better targeting the particular needs of the different family farms through specific policies and programs. For example, subsistence Family Farming, intermediate- stage Family Farming, consolidated Family Farming, and other forms of Family Farming based on the country-specific context, such as peasant communities and indigenous peoples.

Comprehensive and multidimensional approach

We find interesting strategies developed by countries to make sure that the NAP is formulated based on a comprehensive and multidimensional approach to Family Farming:

- ❖ Connect the structure of the NAP directly to the UNDF Global Action Plan and its seven pillars. In some countries, the NAP includes additional pillars (for example, communication) to better respond to the country specificities and priorities.
- ❖ Build on existing and expand: to conduct a previous review of the existing policy framework, literature, studies, and policy proposals coming from the different stakeholders. Based on this analysis, jointly define the actions to better implement the existing framework and to improve it through the NAP.
- ❖ Articulate the NAP with national priorities and plans: identify the national policies, programs, strategies, laws, etc., connected to the NAP. Present how the NAP contributes to the consecution of these national priorities.

- ❖ Engage a wide range of state institutions: from the Agri sector (agriculture, rural development, extension services, research, etc.) and also from other state institutions (economy, health, education, youth, women, culture, foreign affairs, etc.).
- ❖ Engage a solid representation of family farmers’ organizations, pastoralists, fishers, foresters, indigenous peoples, etc. women, and youth.
- ❖ Engage Cooperation partners (World Food Program -WFP-, the United Nations Development Program –UNDP-, the Inter- American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture – ICCA-, SAARC Agri Center), NGOs (SOS FAIM, Oxfam,) and networks (International Land Coalition).

C) Operationalization and monitoring system



When designing the NAP, it is very important to concentrate on the future implementation: **set the mechanisms for an effective operationalization and incorporate an accurate and inclusive monitoring system** to trace results and adjust the NAP over time. Here are some of the initiatives developed by countries:

Precise explanation in the NAP document

Include in the NAP document a precise explanation of the mechanisms to coordinate, operationalize, and monitor the Plan.

Define the multistakeholder mechanisms involved

Define the multistakeholder mechanism (public sector, farmers’ organizations, the NCF, academia, NGOs, private sector, cooperation agencies, etc.) that will take part in the coordination, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the NAP.

Creation of Regional Committees of Family Farming in the territories

Aiming at facilitating the implementation of the NAP in the territories, some plans foresee the creation of sub-national multistakeholder mechanisms, that is, Regional Committees of Family Farming formed by several public institutions, financial institutions, NGOs, cooperation agencies in the territory, family farmers’ organizations and local government authorities.

Definition of a project portfolio to implement the NAP

One concrete mechanism to operationalize the NAP is defining a project portfolio to mobilize resources and implement the different lines of action: State institutions, family farming organizations, along with the NCCF and other stakeholders will formulate and implement the projects, under the coordination of the state institution in charge of leading the NAP. Other countries carried out pilot projects to give the first steps in the implementation of the NAP and evaluate the actions designed.

Consistent structure of the NAP and alignment with other country indicators

A consistent structure of objectives, strategic actions, results, and measurable indicators will contribute to better monitoring and evaluate the implementation of the NAP. The alignment of the NAP indicators with other country indicators (National development Plans, SDGs, etc.) can be very useful to obtain accurate data and also to evaluate the contribution of the NAP to the national priorities.

Provide key stakeholders with sound information about the NAP

To guarantee an inclusive implementation and monitoring of the NAP, it is necessary to provide key stakeholders with sound information about the NAP and the progress in the implementation. Several countries have developed communication plans to disseminate the NAP among family farmers and other key stakeholders. There are also plans that foresee the presentation of reports on the achievements obtained every two years.

V. CONCLUSIONS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ACTUAL CONTEXT

In the first two years, significant progress has been made in the implementation of the UNDF 2019-2028. We find a huge mobilization of multiple agents- governments, Family Farmers' organizations, National Committees of Family Farming, FAO and IFAD, etc. promoting **the UNDF 2019-2028 agenda in at least 47 countries and 7 sub regions of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean**. The experience accumulated in the elaboration of UNDF Action Plans brings very interesting elements to share knowledge and scale-up the development of UNDF Action Plans in other countries and regions.

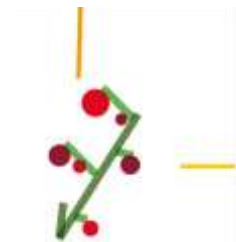
Key stakeholders welcome the progress made and consider that it is necessary to accelerate the process if we want to achieve the expected results and contribute firmly to creating an enabling policy environment for the development of Family Farming. Efforts should be oriented to:

- **Reinforce multistakeholder dialogue on Family Farming and the collaboration between the governments, FOs, the NCF, FAO, IFAD, etc.**
- **A stronger mobilization of technical and financial resources to support the elaboration and implementation of UNDF Action Plans.**
- **Strengthen stakeholders' capacities, especially Family Farmers' organizations, to participate in the elaboration of the UNDF Action Plans, to follow up its implementation and disseminate the Plan among family farmers.**



Finally, we cannot omit the fact that the **COVID-19 pandemic** marked 2020 and the years to come. Millions of family farmers have been severely affected socially and economically worldwide. Nevertheless, we have seen family farmers and their organizations and cooperatives on the front line, ensuring consumers' access to quality and healthy food. The crisis generated by the COVID- 19 has put on the table the need for states to strengthen their local food systems based on family farming.

The UNDF Action Plans on Family Farming are an opportunity and a concrete instrument to foster policy dialogue and “build back better” with measures and actions to support family farming and advance towards more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient food systems and the achievement of the SDGs.





Visit the website for more information:

[FAO website](#)

www.familyfarmingcamping.org

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