



## **LEGACY of IYFF 2014 and the WAY FORWARD<sup>1</sup>**

### **PREAMBLE**

1. On 22 December 2011 - after more than 3 years of campaigning from the Civil Society coordinated by the World Rural Forum, and supported by a resolution presented by the Philippines to the FAO Conference on 2 July 2011- the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), unanimously adopted Resolution 66/222, declaring 2014 the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF-2014).
2. UNGA Resolution 66/222 affirmed that Family Farming and smallholder farming are important bases for sustainable food production aimed at achieving food security, and recognized their important contribution in providing food security and eradicating poverty in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.
3. Over the Year, UN agencies, Governments, family farmers' organizations, Civil Society, Private Sector, academia, research institutions and other actors have joined efforts at national, regional and international levels.
4. An inclusive multi stakeholder International Steering Committee (ISC) was established in FAO. It adopted a Master Plan for the Year. It further proposed to outline common principles to serve as working definition of Family Farming (which includes all family-based agricultural activities) as "a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family capital and labour, including both women's and men's. The family and the farm are linked, co-evolve and combine economic, environmental, social and cultural functions."
5. Family farms are by far the most prevalent form of agriculture in the world. There are more than 570 million farms in the world out of which more than 500 million are family farms. Statistics show that they produce more than 80 percent of the world's food in value terms. While there is diversity, the vast majority of world's family farms are small or very small. Family farms are collectively the largest source of employment worldwide. Family Farming is much more than a mode of food production, it is also a way of life.
6. Significant contributions of Family Farming have been highlighted by the official IYFF-2014 slogan: "Feeding the World, Caring for the Earth".

---

<sup>1</sup> As agreed by the International Steering Committee (ISC) of the IYFF 2014 on 13 November 2014, [and endorsed at the Closing Event in the Philippines on 27 November 2014].



## RESULTS OF THE YEAR

7. The multi-stakeholders' policy dialogue process that has since ensued across the world has promoted greater awareness of the crucial contribution of more than two billion Family Farmers to sustainable development, food security and nutrition.
8. The Year has improved our understanding of many challenges Family Farmers face in different social, economic and environmental settings and emphasized the importance of implementing policies to secure their access and use of natural and financial resources as well as to empower them to further contribute to sustainable agriculture, support the eradication of poverty, safeguard the environment, and help nurture our planet.
9. Strong political commitment in favour of Family Farming including smallholders, has risen at the highest level across the world throughout the IYFF-2014 (Annex I). Political will and collaboration among different stakeholders that spread across the Year are the strong bases for supporting the development of Family Farming beyond 2014.
10. National Committees for the IYFF have been created in around 50 countries involving more than 650 organisations (Annex II). More than 500 meetings, workshops or conferences on Family Farming have been organised over the year across the world.
11. The celebration of the IYFF significantly raised the profile of Family Farming, including in the follow up on the Zero Hunger Challenge launched by the UN Secretary General in 2012, in the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in 2014, as well as in the preparation of the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda. Family Farming has also been recognized as a major sector to mainstream biodiversity into food production sectors and for the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals.
12. At its twenty-fourth Session in October 2014 the FAO's Committee on Agriculture called on FAO to continue its work on the promotion of family farming and its integration in the FAO's Strategic Framework and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
13. The Family Farming Knowledge Platform, hosted by FAO, in collaboration with many stakeholders such as governments, UN agencies, family farmers' networks and producers organizations as well as research institutions was created to serve as a comprehensive and up-to-date digital collection of policy, scientific, legal and statistical information on family farming, to support policy making and exchange of experiences and lessons learned.
14. An International Working Group (IWG), hosted by FAO, was created to establish common criteria for achieving definitions and typologies for family farming at national/regional level.
15. WFP has committed to purchasing 10 percent of its commodities from smallholder family farmers in developing countries, out of an over \$1 billion annual food procurement budget.



16. The main legacy of the IYFF is the national and regional policies, programs and activities, and institutional arrangements in support of Family Farming, including smallholder farming, that have been and will be formulated, improved or implemented since the declaration of IYFF - 2014 through the UNGA Resolution.

## THE WAY FORWARD

17. The ISC, building upon the Year's achievements, in particular the Global Dialogue on Family Farming, held in Rome on 27 and 28 October 2014, recommends the pursuit of joint efforts to advocate for, support, and invest in Family Farming, including smallholder farming.

A set of actions are envisaged to set the way forward beyond IYFF-2014:

18. All stakeholders are encouraged to promote and implement enabling policies for Agriculture and Rural Development, fostering the capacity of Family Farmers to supply and access markets, especially at local and domestic levels, and to generate jobs and incomes.

19. Secure access and use of land, water and other natural resources are fundamental for Family Farmers. All stakeholders are encouraged to further promote, make use of, and support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forest resources in the context of National Food Security as endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

*19bis.* More and better investment by and for Family Farming is needed. In this respect, all stakeholders are encouraged to use the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, where appropriate, as well as the recommendations on “investing in smallholder agriculture for food security and nutrition” as endorsed by the CFS.

20. Female and male farmers must have equal rights with regard to possession or tenure of land, access to natural resources, training and technical support, research, extension, advisory and financial services, and different forms of public health and other social protection policies.

21. Empowering women is a key enabling factor for sustainably increasing productivity and innovation. Affirmative actions and policies should be implemented for women farmers in order to achieve gender equality, including ensuring more inclusive access to credit and other services for women farmers.

22. Rural youth is the future of Family Farming. Rural development policies and programs, infrastructures, public goods and services that enhance the quality of life in rural areas and set the conditions for the young farmers for starting their own livelihood activities are crucial for making the life in rural areas more attractive and vibrant for young people.

23. Innovations, including those adapted to Family Farming that enhance sustainable agriculture, contribute to addressing climate change challenges, reduce the drudgery of agricultural work, and increase productivity and income are essential. Participatory methodologies and practices



that combine family farmers' traditional knowledge and practices with new technologies, research and advisory services should be strengthened.

24. Collective action and promotion of producers' organizations, farmers' associations and agricultural cooperatives are fundamental to foster economic empowerment of Family Farmers and their entrepreneurial and negotiating capacities.
25. The National Committees for the IYFF-2014 are encouraged to continue their work beyond the year 2014. Building on their experience, Governments and other relevant actors are encouraged to establish permanent multi-stakeholder platforms for policy dialogue at national and regional levels on Family Farming.
26. Building on the outcomes of the International Working Group for achieving common criteria on definitions and typologies for family farming, FAO should further develop key analysis and indicators to assist governments upon their requests to better understand the diversity of Family Farms and develop policies, accordingly. The Family Farming Knowledge Platform should ensure the capitalization and sharing of experiences, enabling innovative partnerships and active exchange mechanism.
27. To keep the momentum and follow-up on the legacy of the IYFF-2014, there is a need for maintaining partnership and collaboration at the global level on Family Farming, building upon the experience of the ISC.
28. UN Rome-based agencies as well as other international organizations and regional institutions should consider and maintain Family Farming as an integral element of their agenda, and facilitate participation of the representatives of Family Farmers, including artisanal fisherfolk, pastoralists, indigenous peoples and mountain farmers in their work.