



IYFF+10
DECADE OF
FAMILY FARMING

YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY FARMING

SUMMARY



2018

Family farming organisations have prioritised youth during the IYFF-2014 and with greater emphasis in the IYFF +10. They highlight the importance of adopting different public policies to promote inclusion, integration and the social, legal and economic recognition of youth in the agricultural sector and in rural development. This document summarises the youth and family farming study carried out by the World Rural Forum (WRF). The study, drawn up on the basis of a questionnaire sent to members of the WRF network and the YPARD network, aims to continue brainstorming ideas in the debate and creation of strategies to link young people (men and women) to family farming, especially in the framework of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028).

It is needed to institutionally strengthen a specific and comprehensive approach to the needs and demands of rural youth; ensuring youth is prioritised in the best way on the political agenda. Therefore, it is necessary to influence public policies to encourage young people to settle in rural areas: guaranteeing rights and services such as health, social policy, education, communication (internet and infrastructure) networks, tax incentives and others, facilitating access to markets and productive resources for example.

In this study, common and global challenges have been highlighted such as: urban and periurban migration; access to land and other productive resources; access to financial services; different social factors such as social protection or social image; lack of infrastructure; the question of gender inequality with reduced options for young women. These following proposals came out of this study and that could constitute a basis on which to develop advocacy strategies:

1. Actions aimed at improving economic viability

Providing added value to products through processing, marketing, labelling and sales through new marketing channels; at the same time as supporting local markets and acting to improve traceability (allowing access to more profitable markets) and innovation.

2. Promote the participation of young people in the family farming federations and associations and, in turn, in training activities and political advocacy processes

It is only through young people gaining experience and participating in decision-making forums both within their organisations and in other areas of policy advocacy, that we will ensure more adequate attention to their priorities. It is also important to create communications forums for rural youth.

3.

Promote gender equity in family farming

The legislative system to ensure equal opportunities between men and women (in terms of recruitment and salary, property rights, access to resources and training) and to promote opportunities for emancipation and socio-economic development for women has to be strengthened.

4.

Priority given to young farmers

Public policy measures that positively discriminate or prioritise youth as a distinguishing element should be encouraged.

5.

Access to capital

It is important to promote access to capital and financial services adapted and designed for young people: favourable conditions for access to credit, tax benefits and agricultural insurance, policies to support and protect young entrepreneurs so that access to capital is sustainable.

6.

Guarantee the right of access to and use of land

Access to land is one of the most important barriers to youth carrying out their agricultural activity in a sustainable way. Measures are needed against land concentration and grabbing, public organisms to control the land market, land banks, agricultural reforms, encouraging land leasing or communal uses, etc. In short, we must promote the democratisation of land and territory, ensuring that there is a rural inheritance that takes into account the contributions of different generations as well as gender equity. In addition, the process of transferring holdings within families practising family farming and communities should be improved.

7.

Greater ease in transferring family farms

The transmission of family farms between elderly farmers and young people should be facilitated, paying attention also to the role played by those who leave agricultural activity. Measures to enhance the access to ownership of farms, ownership or use of land, are necessary.

8. Promote voluntary work and collaboration within the social economy framework, for example through cooperatives¹

Voluntary work can be an interesting option for young people in agricultural activity, so we must prioritise all forms of volunteering in which young people have a high level of participation. A collaboration network allows challenges to be faced more effectively and enables better withstanding of difficulties (climate change, economic change, instability of prices, etc.).

9. Access to quality rural education

The right to quality, free, public education that values the identities, diversity, social knowledge and experiences of rural, farming, indigenous and native peoples, in terms of their social organisation, and the methods and patterns of production. These are the fundamental principles which make the learning processes effective, that recognise their relevance and participation in educational dynamics at all levels. Pluralist education in schools, universities, professional and informal training should be supported. It should be addressed the curric-

ulum in rural schools, which encompasses agricultural education, which, in turn, can promote a greater understanding of the agricultural sector and contribute to an appreciation of farming. It should be also addressed the exchange of youth training experiences through formal and informal education, meetings with local administration and other community actions and their own local innovations and initiatives must be shared.

10. Improve technical assistance and rural extension services.

Technical assistance and rural extension should be free, of good quality and be based on local realities and traditional knowledge incorporated and reproduced by contemporary rural youth.

11. Climate change

It is important to enhance the role that youth involved in family farming plays in resilience strategies and combating climate change. Climate change is a reality faced by family farmers, therefore training young people in using resilience tools for climate change is key. New dynamics towards a more sustainable practice are being developed and could be generalized giving major responsibilities to the young people.

1. Conference V Building the Future: Family Farming Seminar "Youth and employment in rural areas" 2015

12. Improve living conditions in rural areas

It is necessary to improve the rural environment where young people live, which means improving social infrastructure and educational and cultural activities in rural areas to enable young people to settle there. In addition, benefiting from the advantages and opportunities provided by a connected and globalised society to promote the exchange of good practices. ICT must be flexible and adapt to the requirements of farming. Young people must become empowered as leaders of this change because this generation was born and lives within this process of change with knowledge of technology, adaptation and less resistance to the transfer of knowledge among producers².

13. Act on the social recognition of family farming

The social recognition of youth as a subject of rights and as an actor in family farming, as well as the value of farming activity per se, are essential. To this end, in addition to economic viability, experience shows that a link with local communities and direct dialogue with political actors are neces-

sary requirements. Family farming allows young people to develop creative life projects, making their own decisions. Actions should be developed to improve how society views farming and stress the strategic dimension of agricultural activity, in its production of food and conservation of the natural environment. It is also essential to consider the current demands of rural youth, incorporating them into the image of the agricultural sector, showing it as a dynamic and up-to-date sector.

14. Promote more sustainable agricultural practices

Agricultural practices which are more compatible and balanced with the socioeconomic and environmental surroundings, decreasing the dependence on inputs, generating positive externalities and helping keep the decision-making capacity for productive projects in the hands of rural youth should be supported. Young people should be supported towards rural entrepreneurship focused on farming and sustainable processes and actions and we must create policies that support the strengthening of these development practices.

2. Contribution of Youth of the National Farmers' Table of the PDRR, Costa Rica.



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This study has been prepared by the WCC (World Coordinating Committee of the IYFF+10) and coordinated by the WRF.