

2019 - 2028 DECADE OF FAMILY FARMING

LAUNCHED BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In May 2019, the Food and Agriculture Organization FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development IFAD launched the [United Nations' Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 \(UNDF\)](#) and a Global Action Plan to boost support for family farmers.



Building on the success of the 2014 International Year of Family Farming and on the improved knowledge about the multiple contribution of family farmers to sustainable rural life, the Decade will aim at focusing the efforts of the international community to work on the design and implementation of comprehensive economic, environmental and social policies in order to create a conducive environment for family farming.

The Family Farming Decade represents a great opportunity for actors who carry out territorial development processes throughout the world, investing their efforts in creating local food systems that safeguard biodiversity, the environment and culture, in line with the Objectives of Sustainable Development of the 2030 Agenda.

The key facts presented in the UNDF website show the great impact of family farming and its potential for a sustainable future:

- Family farms produce more than 80% of the food in the world;
- 90% of fishers operate on a small-scale;
- Family farms occupy around 70-80% of farmland worldwide;
- Women hold only 15% of farmland, while they provide almost 50% of farm labor;
- More than 90% of farms are run by an individual or a family who rely primarily on family labor;
- 33% of forests are managed by indigenous peoples and local communities;
- There are more than 600M farms in the world.

Family farmers, including pastoralists, fishers, foresters, indigenous people and other groups of food producers simultaneously fulfil environmental, social and cultural functions. They improve environmental sustainability of agriculture, preserve landscape, restore biodiversity and ecosystems, produce nutritious and culturally appropriate food as part of local traditions, contributing to a balanced diet and to the maintenance of cultural heritage in rural areas.

In December 2017, the [Resolution A/RES/72/239 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly](#) proclaimed 2019-2028 the United Nations Decade of Family Farming. The UN Resolution calls upon FAO and IFAD to lead the implementation of the Decade in collaboration with other organizations of the United Nations system and invites governments and other relevant stakeholders, including international and regional organizations,



Family Farming

Family farming includes all family-based agricultural activities. It is an integral part of rural development. Family farming is agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production managed and operated by a family and is predominantly reliant on family labour, including both women's and men's.

Both in developing and developed countries, family farming is the predominant form of agriculture in the food production sector. Family farming also has an important socio-economic, environmental and cultural role.



civil society, the private sector and academia, to actively support the implementation of the Decade.

Designed around seven Pillars of work, the [Global Action Plan](#) recommends a series of interconnected actions from the local to the global level. The interventions should be adapted to regional, national, local socio-cultural and socio-economic conditions. To guarantee the success of the UNDF, [all actions should place family farmers at the center and be implemented through bottom-up, participatory and inclusive processes](#):

1. Develop an enabling policy environment to strengthen family farming;
2. Support youth and ensure the generational sustainability of family farming;
3. Promote gender equity in family farming and the leadership role of rural women;
4. Strengthen family farmers' organizations and capacities to generate knowledge, represent farmers and provide inclusive services in the urban-rural continuum;
5. Improve socio-economic inclusion, resilience and well-being of family farmers, rural households and communities;
6. Promote sustainability of family farming for climate-resilient food systems;
7. Strengthen the multi-dimensionality of family farming to promote social innovations contributing to territorial development and food systems that safeguard biodiversity, environment and culture.

The [foreword of the Global Action Plan](#) underlines that *...Agriculture today stands at a crossroads. It faces increasing pressure to provide sufficient, affordable and nutritious food for a growing population, to coping with climate change and the degradation of natural resources, including water scarcity, soil depletion and biodiversity loss.... Family farmers have proven their capacity to develop new strategies and provide innovative responses to emerging social, environmental and economic challenges.....Family farmers, when supported with affirmative policies and programs, have a unique capacity to redress the failure of a world food system that, while producing enough food for all, still wastes one third of the food produced, fails to reduce hunger and the different forms of malnutrition, and even generates social inequalities.*

To know more

[UN Decade of Family Farming website](#)

[Global Action Plan](#)

[Global Action Plan Pillars](#)

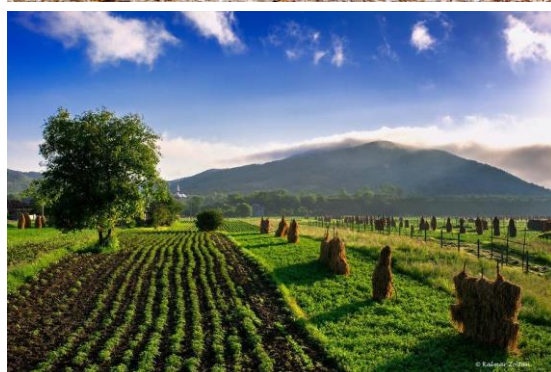
[Key messages](#)

[Communication tool kit](#)

[UN Resolution](#)

[FAO Family Farming knowledge Platform](#)

[News in IFAD website](#)



Familyfarmingcampaign.org website

