

2019 - 2028 UN DECADE OF FAMILY FARMING

FIVE NEW STORIES PUBLISHED BY FAO

June 2026

In January 2026, the [FAO Family Farming Knowledge Platform](#) published the *New Stories: Family Farmers at the heart of climate-resilient and sustainable agrifood systems*.

These stories have been selected from 273 received from 68 countries around the world through an open call held in 2025, entitled *Global Call for Stories: Family farmers at the heart of climate-resilient and sustainable agrifood systems* led by the FAO Family Farming Knowledge Platform and a coalition of Allies.

The call was part of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 (UNDF), which aims to shed new light on what it means to be a family farmer in a rapidly changing world and highlights more than ever before the important role they play in eradicating hunger and shaping the future of food, through the Family Farming Knowledge Platform.

Of these stories, five were selected for publication and the input from 10 videos was featured in a single [Video compilation](#). The selected stories are from India, the Philippines, Spain, Peru and Burundi. As part of the [United Nations Decade of Family Farming \(2019-2028\)](#) they demonstrate how family farmers are at the heart of sustainability across a variety of themes, such as mountain farming, the empowerment of women farmers, traditional knowledge, climate resilience, agroecology, agroforestry, youth leadership and sustainable water use. All stories are available in English, French, and Spanish:

New Stories: Family Farmers at the heart of climate-resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.

These five stories present the experiences and voices of family farmers leading the way towards greater sustainability in agrifood systems through a blend of traditional knowledge and innovation. The story itself showcases how family farmers are conserving and restoring biodiversity, adapting to climate change, and/or sustainably managing natural resources.

1. [Family Farming is...empowering women mountain farmers in India.](#) Story by Rohit Prashar
2. [Family Farming is...harnessing traditional knowledge to strengthen biodiversity in the Philippines.](#) Story by Nonito Timbang Malingay
3. [Family farming is... taking climate action today for a better tomorrow in Spain.](#) Story by Rosa Rullo Callau.
4. [Family farming is... transforming lives through sustainable water use in Peru.](#) Story by Víctor Carmen Núñez
5. [Family farming is... building resilience through youth leadership in Burundi.](#) Story by Joseph Ndikuriyo.



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.



Family farming is... empowering women mountain farmers in India

Story by Rohit Prashar



Family farming is... harnessing traditional knowledge to strengthen biodiversity in the Philippines

Story by Nonito Timbang Malingay

In 2024 the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-28) has reached its mid-term. To mark this important milestone, [FAO and IFAD published a Review of the First 5 Years and the Path Towards Sustainable and Resilient Food System.](#)

The key facts presented in the [United Nations Decade of Family Farming 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;
- 0033% 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.

[The FAO Family Farming Knowledge Platform](#) will continue to share stories, knowledge, and experiences of family farmers alongside its partners, including [Access agriculture](#), [Agricultural Extension in South Asia \(AESAs\)](#), [Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa \(AFSA\)](#), [Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development \(AFA\)](#), [CIRAD](#), [EncontrAR](#), [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\)](#), [Latin American Council of Social Sciences \(CLACSO\)](#), [Platform of Latin America and the Caribbean for Climate Action on Agriculture \(PLACA\)](#), [Schola Campesina](#), and [World Rural Forum \(WRF\)](#).

To know more

[News in FAO Family Farming Knowledge Platform](#)

[Video compilation](#)

[2025 Report on the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019–2028 \(UNDF\)](#)

[FAO Family Farming Knowledge Platform Publications](#)

[United Nations Decade of Family Farming UNDF website](#)

[Global Action Plan](#)

[Global Action Plan Pillars](#)

[UN Resolution](#)

[FAO Family Farming Knowledge Platform](#)

