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Organization of the
United Nations

Global Dialogue on **FAMILY FARMING**

2014  International Year of
Family Farming



Rome, 27-28 October 2014

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Foreword

by Marcela Villarreal

Following the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to declare 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) the Year witnessed an inspiring and far reaching civic mobilization enriched with the voices and hopes of family farmers, government leaders, UN officers, academicians, and other non-state actors from all around the world.

As the facilitating agency of the IYFF, FAO contributed to this worldwide campaign by setting in motion a policy dialogue process, including six Regional Dialogues on Family Farming, civil society consultations at the FAO Regional Conferences - all of which focused attention on the challenges facing family farming and the actions that need to be taken to foster their role as key drivers of food production and stewards of natural resources, territories and landscapes in all regions of the world. This year-long process culminated with the Global Dialogue on Family Farming which proved to be a phenomenal representation of the energy and action that characterized the entire Year.

The Global Dialogue, a two-day event held at FAO headquarters in October 2014, put the spotlight on the consensus reached on the importance of family farming in addressing a number of challenges, from eradicating hunger and poverty to achieving sustainable systems of food production and consumption.

This publication synthesizes the main outcomes of the Global Dialogue on Family Farming and captures the variety of views expressed throughout the event. As seen throughout the event, there is great diversity in views and experiences in relation to family farming. While embracing this diversity, the Global Dialogue also revealed the shared resolve and understanding on what needs to be done to ensure family farmers are protagonists in a more sustainable future. The Global Dialogue shed light on how governments, farmers' organizations and other non-state actors can transfer current global momentum created by the IYFF into concrete action beyond 2014.

The voices of family farmers, as heard throughout this publication and throughout the Year, demonstrated that targeted public policies that respond to their specific needs are needed. They must take account of family farming as a way of life and as key to preserving natural resources, in addition to being indispensable for food production and employment.

We hope this publication will serve as a compass of sorts, fueling our commitment to the issue of family farming far beyond 2014 in order to ensure the success of family farmers for generations to come. FAO is grateful to ILEIA for its support in producing this publication and eager to continue to build upon the momentum created as a result of the 2014 IYFF.



*Marcela Villarreal, Ph.D
Director
Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and
Capacity Development*



Photo: FAO/Giulio Napolitano

Introduction

Before you lies a summary of the many contributions to the Global Dialogue on Family Farming, held in Rome in October 2014.

When 2014 was proclaimed the *International Year of Family Farming (IYFF)*, the United Nations shone a spotlight on the essential contributions of family farmers to food security, community well being, the economy, conservation, biodiversity, sustainable resource use, and climate resilience.

However, the trend in recent decades has been for governments to focus on agricultural commodities and free markets, while the majority of the world's 500 million farming families lack the investments and policies that would allow them to grow. Family farmers and their organisations are often excluded from decision making processes, and they are finding it increasingly difficult to access land to farm and the resources to be able to so, including local seeds and breeds. Combined with climate change, this leads to increased rural poverty, chronic hunger, resource degradation, and an unprecedented outflow of people to urban areas, especially the young.

Throughout 2014, regional dialogues, civil society consultations, regional conferences and other events explored issues related to family farming, culminating in a Global Dialogue on Family Farming on 27 and 28 October. Many of these events were (co-)organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the lead agency for the International Year of Family Farming. Across the regions, a set of key, common building blocks were identified to better support family farmers, raised by representatives of

farmer organisations, governments, academia, international institutions and NGOs, amongst others. These are summarised in the publication **“Towards stronger family farms. Voices in the International Year of Family Farming”**. Its main recommendations include:

Voices in the International Year of Family Farming*. Its main recommendations include:

- **Cross-sectoral approaches:** family farming policies must be developed and implemented in a cross-sectoral, territorial manner, for example through integrated rural development programmes and through the promotion of agroecological, diversified practices. This is especially pertinent in a context of climate change.
- **Agrarian reform**, including aquatic, forestry and pastoral reform, which must incorporate the right to fair and equitable access to land, water, seeds, infrastructure, education, health and markets. FAO is also encouraged to promote an inclusive and dynamic analysis of the concept of food sovereignty.
- **Access to natural resources** should be prioritized in special programmes as well as in general land use and water management plans, and by implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests. It should be complemented by programmes for farmer-led experimentation and water harvesting and soil conservation practices.
- **Improving trade and building markets:** trade agreements should be reformed so they better serve the needs of family farmers and guaran-

tee their economic, social and cultural rights. Access to markets and fair prices can be enhanced through the promotion of local markets, public purchases from family farmers, which can also contribute to food security.

- **Access to credit and finance** can be achieved through instruments that respond to the needs and realities of family farmers such as simplified lending procedures, governmental lines of credit, insurance and guarantee facilities and farmer-centered financial institutions.
- **Gender equity:** facilitating the participation of women in decision making and in labour markets, positive discrimination regarding access to natural resources and capital.
- **Stronger farmer organizations** are important to balance the economic and political power of other actors and in consolidating the voice of family farmers. Capacity building needs to be *‘family farmer centred, owned and led’*. Farmer organizations must be involved in more inclusive decision making processes.
- **Farmer-led research and extension** is especially relevant as farmers are actively adapting to the impact of climate change. Research and extension can be helpful in strengthening these initiatives.
- **Attracting youth** is key, and vocational training should be geared more towards agriculture while policies must support youth access to productive resources. A holistic view of young people's needs is required.

Building on these discussions and recommendations, the Global Dialogue consolidated the legacy of the International Year of Family Farming. This report presents highlights and outcomes of the Global Dialogue.

* <http://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/33a0aa55-7438-48ea-a5e3-6f767acb217b/>

Day 1

Lessons Learned from the IYFF

Family farmers, ministers, academics and representatives of international agencies share their views on the contributions of family farmers to food security and to inclusive agri-food systems. In their perspective, how can the conditions of family farmers in different regions be improved? Which specific challenges do women and young family farmers face?

Welcome remarks

Chair:

- Ms Marcela Villarreal, Director, Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development, FAO

Speakers:

- Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General, FAO
- H.E. Sándor Fazekas, Minister of Agriculture, Hungary

“Welcome to this event, and more than that, welcome to FAO. You are now recognized as key actors in FAO’s efforts.”

With these words, the Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) Director-General, **José Graziano da Silva**, welcomed hundreds of family farmers, government officials, academics, and representatives of non-governmental organisations and international institutions to the Global Dialogue on Family Farming in Rome. *“As a result of the International Year of Family Farming”,* he continued, *“family farming is now fully embraced in our work... Where it used to be seen as a problem, it is now seen as part of the solution.”*

“It is a great challenge to ensure food security for the growing world population” added **Sándor Fazekas**, Hungary’s Minister of Agriculture. *“With the help of family farmers we can find solutions to these challenges.”* He pointed to the great diversity of family farms in the world, and how they are guardians of environmental sustainability and provide livelihoods in rural areas, preserving biodiversity and combining local knowledge with modern technology. Mr Fazekas called for targeted policies and programs to provide an adequate enabling environment, to give male and female farmers the same access to productive resources

and provide high quality food products to local consumers. He reported on how the Hungarian government is supporting family farming. Mr Da Silva pointed out that family farming is a part of all 15 of the FAO’s Regional Initiatives and that three of them are specifically designed to support this sector. An international working group is developing guidelines to help governments define family farming to underpin policy measures and interventions. The IYFF contributed to these achievements. He concluded, *“We must build today the future we want for tomorrow.”*



José Graziano da Silva: ‘Where family farming used to be seen as a problem, it is now seen as part of the solution.’ Photo: FAO/Giulio Napolitano



Session 1 Raising the voice of family farmers

Chair:

- Mr Jean-Philippe Audinet, IFAD

Speakers:

- Ms Chukki Najundaswamy, La Via Campesina
- Dr Evelyn Nguleka, Acting President World Farmers' Organisation
- Mr José María Ceberio, President of the World Rural Forum

“Contrary to some of the topics of other International Years, the IYFF is not about a specific crop, it is about people,” opened **Jean Philippe Audinet**. “People have their own voice, their own organizations. It’s great that we are here today with people who are representing directly, in their own way, their organizations.”

Chukki Najundaswamy then took the floor. “Family farmers were not born yesterday,” she began. “They have been feeding the world and taking care of our biodiversity for centuries. But we have forgotten them. FAO, which was created to take care of the small-scale farmers of the world, the real actors of agriculture, is remembering their role

this year, and we appreciate this.” She argued that trade liberalization and new waves of land grabbing are great challenges for family farming. After the trade liberalization of the early 90s, the suicides of farmers in India who were caught in financial traps have become much more frequent, she said. She called for continued support after this Year because “*only those born in agricultural families understand the importance of the relationship with nature and with land. Family farmers relate to these as they relate to their mothers.*” Family farming is the only way to do farming sustainably, Ms Najundaswamy added, and she asked FAO to integrate food sovereignty as a principle of its work.

Evelyn Bguleka emphasized that agriculture is not only food production: “*Being a farmer myself, I know we also play a key role in conserving the environment, protecting biodiversity, ensuring health and nutrition, fostering innovation, tackling climate change and achieving food security. Our close relationship with the land implies inner knowledge of agricultural processes and products.*” Ms Bguleka cited the challenges facing family farming: an aging population, lack of generational renewal, lack of training and financial assistance, difficult access to produc-

ive resources, exclusion from international policy and decision making, climate instability and price instability. She called for governments to give the utmost priority to supporting family farming and for FAO to maintain its role as a facilitator.

‘Our close relationship with the land implies inner knowledge of agricultural processes’
– Evelyn Bguleka

José María Ceberio stressed that the number one problem facing humankind is hunger and malnutrition. He highlighted the great paradox of the concentration of hunger in the places where food is produced. “*One of the most important things we do in the IYFF is identifying the challenges faced by family farmers and the methods for tackling them.*” He pointed out how the IYFF has been able to unite hundreds of organiza-



Ethiopia. Photo: Anteneh Tadele Ayele

tions working in rural areas and to manage heterogeneity as well as being inclusive. The Year has positioned family farming on the international agenda but it needs continued attention, Mr Ceberio concluded: *“access to food and small-scale agriculture development, will not be achieved without adequate public policies. Market forces can contribute to the generation of wealth, but not left on its own. Hence the need for public policies, to ensure equitable and fair distribution and to guarantee our future.”*

Discussion

The audience asked that both indigenous peoples and artisanal fishers be recognized and protected. Others pointed to the need for ensuring property rights, to the need for storage and transport infrastructure and for better recognition of the role of farmer organizations. Dr Nguleka agreed on the need for property rights and linked the use of new technology to making agriculture attractive to youth. She also added that all farmers should be able to survive and make money, no matter how they are classified. Mr Ceberio agreed that it was fundamental to have strong rural organizations.

Session 2 Regional perspectives on family farming

Chair:

- Mr Francesco Maria Pierri, Policy Officer, Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development, FAO

Presentation of the synthesis paper:

- Prof. Sergio Schneider, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil

Sergio Schneider summarized the synthesis of the results of academic research and regional dialogues and conferences which have taken place so far this year. He identified three main dimensions of family farming: family and land, culture (value and tradition) and rural communities. Mr Schneider highlighted the important role for income generation, and thus for economic development and local economies, and close links between family farmers, natural resource management and environmental resilience. He also pointed to the relatively hidden features of family farming,

such as cultural and symbolic aspects, gender and generational linkages and their access to specific knowledge and technology. He listed two misunderstandings about family farmers: that they can be defined just by their size and that they would all be against specific technologies and markets. Mr Schneider stated that the group is very vulnerable to climate change and the influences of the global market. He concluded: *“Family farming has to be integrated in balanced markets; social capital and cooperation must be strengthened; women and youth must be supported; and family farming must be connected to national and global rural development policy”.*



Democratic Republic of Congo. Photo: Lefebvre Matine



Sam Moyo: 'Family farmers should be seen as a key ally.' Photo: FAO

Session 3 Regional Perspectives

Latin America and the
Caribbean, Africa, North Africa
and the Near East

Speakers:

- Prof. Ray Bush, School of Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds, England
- Prof. Sam Moyo, Executive Director of the African Institute for Agrarian Studies, Harare, Zimbabwe
- Prof. Sergio Schneider, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Comments:

- Ms Myrna Cunningham, IYFF Special Ambassador for Latin America and the Caribbean
- H.E. Carlos Casamiquela, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Argentina
- Mr Ibrahima Coulibaly, IYFF Special Ambassador for Africa
- H.E. Amadou Allahoury Diallo, Minister, Haut Commissaire 3N Initiative, Niger
- Mr. Mohamed Ould Saleck, IYFF Special Ambassador for Near East and North Africa

Ray Bush identified inequalities in land holdings in the Near East and North Africa as a major issue – family farmers are predominant but have

small parcels, a small proportion of the land and their holdings are often fragmented, especially those of women. Also, the region faces high levels of rural malnutrition and high levels of obesity. He argued that the three main challenges undermining the sustainability of family farming in the region are wars, the need for economic reforms and the climate change and the reduction in rainfall that it will bring. Investment in family farming should be integrated and supported and there should be improved access to land, notably for women and youth. Extension agencies should understand family farming in all its diversity, and should listen to farmers and allow them to control their own extension services.

Sam Moyo pointed out that despite increasing recognition of family farming and of the need for an enabling environment, there is still a gap between policy makers and the population in Sub Saharan Africa. Ninety-eight percent of the farmers in the region are family farmers. Policy prescriptions are often geared towards integrating them into global value chains, with little recognition of their multifunctionality and their potential for domestic markets and food security. At the same time, a wave of arable land acquisition is underway. Combined, Mr Moyo said, these trends undermine all efforts to enable and strengthen family farming. He called for better analysis of their needs rather than facilitating the exit of those who

are not doing well. He also identified the impediments which prevent family farming from thriving: the persistent inequity in access to land, finance and inputs, the absence of state systems to support socially reproductive labour, rising food imports and a policy environment that makes investment unviable. *“Family farmers should be seen as great ally for a new strategy that includes social protection and limits inequalities in access to land. The organizations representing family farmers are the key to improved dialogue with governments”*.

The last speaker, **Sergio Schneider**, pointed out that the Latin American and the Caribbean region faces huge inequality in terms of how land is distributed. It is also very diverse due to its historical background. *“This diver-*

**‘Stimulate public procurement from family farmers, which can help to reduce dependency on external inputs’
– Sergio Schneider**

sity is our wealth”, he said. He reported several challenges, including the need for better knowledge, public policies, more participation of farmers in policy making, more support for women and youth. He also named the strong pressure of corporate interests in acquiring land in the region, global warming, and outmigration. *“It is important to have a policy on access to land and seeds, and to stimulate public*



Philippines. Photo: Erwin Embuscado

‘We need international guidelines to protect small-scale fishers, especially their way of life, their livelihoods and their access to resources’ – Ould Saleck

procurement from family farmers, which can all help to reduce dependency on external inputs. In addition, family farming has to be better institutionalized and its social organizations strengthened in order to help governments develop sound policies”, Mr Schneider stated. He also emphasized that statistics should be improved and that the privatization of rural extension services should be reconsidered.

Comments

The first commenter, **Myrna Cunningham**, stated that the region of Latin America and the Caribbean has more than 800 ethnic groups and 40 million indigenous family farmers, two thirds of all family farmers in the world. Given this, she said, it is particularly important to further study the relation between family farming and indigenous peoples. She argued that land use programs need to be more consistent and that *“family farmers must be given more voice to enhance ancestral know-how and traditional foods and must have clearly established property rights”*.

Carlos Casamiquela argued that only the state can ensure a balance in the dialogue between family farmers and other stakeholders. He called for smallholders, family farmers and indigenous peoples to have their own department in ministries. He called for improved market opportunities and pointed to the role of governments in producers’ remuneration and consumers’ ability to buy products at afford-

able prices. He further called for the introduction of new technology and skills compatible with cultural knowledge and contexts. He concluded with emphasizing the potential of south-south cooperation to share knowledge and experience.

Ibrahima Coulibaly was pleased to see the increase in research on family farming. He said it has shown how it contributes to food security, rural poverty and social protection. But, he noted, there is still a need for more investment and political will. Pointing to many projects being done on *“on behalf of family farmers but without them”*, he argued that we still do not understand what family farmers really face, and research should focus on the issues *“at the core of the vulnerability of family farmers”* such as lack of access to natural resources, productive assets, markets, information and decision making, all of which undermine their ability to thrive.

“Let’s avoid showing Africa as always in a state of misery,” proposed **H.E. Amadoe Allahoury Diallo**, *“Africa is being transformed.”* He reported on the success of the 3N initiative in Niger, based on improving access to land, water, inputs, credit, information and markets. He pointed out that 70 percent of the agriculture in Sub Saharan Africa takes place on family farms. However, *“diversity and local food are under threat, especially in West Africa where rice and tomato sauce are increasingly used.”* He made a plea for the documentation of good climate change practices carried out

jointly between pastoralists and farmers in the Sahel. He also called for proper conditions to allow family members to also engage in off-farm activities, which could make family farming more economically sustainable.

Ould Saleck, a specialist in artisanal fishing, reported that 90 percent of the world’s fishing comes from fishing families, and that they are very important for meeting strategic foods needs, as they have for generations, stretching back 1000s of years. He commented on the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries and underscored the importance of protecting small scale fisherfolk’s way of life, their livelihoods and their access to resources. He expressed satisfaction with seeing these guidelines as a priority for FAO, and called on FAO to help families that have been left desolate by drought and other troubles.



India. Photo: Luis M. Barrio



Mr Van der Ploeg, Mr Ikerd, Mr Schneider and Mr Ould Saleck
Photo: FAO/Alessandra Benedetti

Session 4 Regional Perspectives

Asia and the Pacific, Europe and
Central Asia, North America

Speakers:

- Prof. John Ikerd, Professor Emeritus University of Missouri, USA
- Prof. Jan Douwe van der Ploeg, Wageningen University, The Netherlands
- Prof. Sergio Schneider, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil

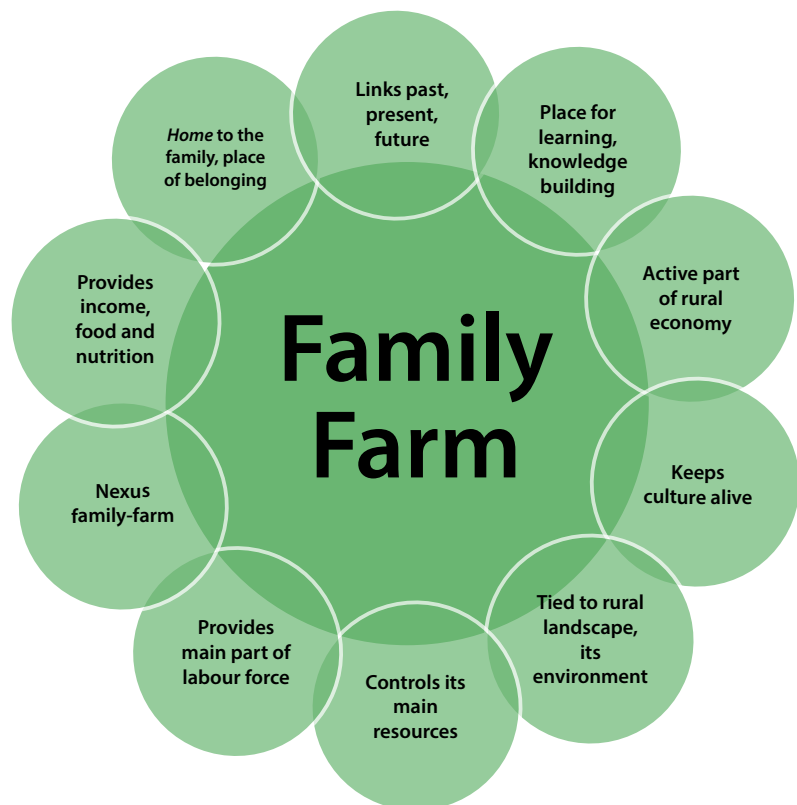
Comments:

- Mr Gerd Sonnleitner, IYFF Special Ambassador for Europe
- Ms Esther Penunia, IYFF Special Ambassador for Asia and the Pacific
- Mr Robert L. Carlson, IYFF Special Ambassador for North America

“A family is inseparable from the farm” reflected **John Ikerd**. “With a different family it would be a different farm, and vice versa. It is this connectedness that distinguishes them in an important way, as it means they do not only seek economic profit. This is reflected in the way family farms are managed.” He called for moving away from food policies that are focused on monocultures and moving more towards food sovereignty. In Mr Ikerd’s view, farmers should get holiday time and health benefits and there should be a move away from global food systems to community based local systems. “Multi-functional family farms are absolutely essential for food security in the short term and for the sustainability of humanity in the longer term” he concluded.

Jan Douwe van der Ploeg emphasized the omnipresence of family farming in Europe and Central Asia. He elaborated how it ties together the family with farm, land and labour and how it is productive and resilient. He pointed out how “*family farms combine what is separated in other forms of production: mental and physical labour, living and working, short and long-term, different generations, production and consump-*

tion, dedication and results, and skills and pride”. He also reported how the farms in the region show that family farming is not necessarily about being small. Throughout Europe and Central Asia, family farming is the cornerstone of food security and regional economies and is a way to face the looming scarcities of the water, earth and climate change. He added that the historically family farming friendly



Source: Jan Douwe van der Ploeg, as published in Farming Matters (December 2013)



‘Family farming combines both a way of life and a way to make a living’ – Robert Carlson

farmers and stated that farms need be able to make a profit to attract youth. He also argued that young farmers need a government social safety net and access to finance and land. He con-

cluded that family farming is strong because “it *combines a social unit and an economic unit. It combines both a way of life and a way to make a living*”.

Discussion

Comments from the floor focused on the need to bring consumers and producers closer together to provide good incomes and prices, good nutrition and to protect the environment.

Others talked about the need for cooperative institutions to support farmers, especially as land parcels get smaller and inputs get more expensive.

Another issue raised was the strong political and economic position that agribusiness has, despite producing only 25 percent of the world’s food.

The last commenter, from the organization Cenesta in Iran added that, “*they say we have a lack of food, but we don’t. There is a lack of good distribution and regulation.*”

In response, Professor Van der Ploeg argued that being small is not an obstacle to progress, and that it is probably the other way around, citing China, the Netherlands and France. What is needed is political commitment to create an enabling environment and therefore communities and organizations should take the lead in engaging their governments. Professor Ikerd added that what attracts young people is sustainable agriculture,

policy environment has deteriorated lately. Family farming in the region is in crisis and farmers are living below legal minimum wages. Van der Ploeg emphasized that future policies should ensure that farmers get more satisfactory incomes, that land is no longer concentrated in the hands of larger farmers, that those in agriculture can make more decisions, and that we “*keep people on the land*”.

Ye Jingzhong of the China Agricultural University was unable to attend the conference, so Sergio Schneider presented on his behalf. Professor Ye defined family farming as both a means of organizing production to adapt to scarce resources, a cultural norm (of family and social bonds) and an institutional arrangement. He pointed to the vitality of family farms, especially in the maintenance of livelihoods and biodiversity and in supporting rural-urban development. He named challenges such as contract farming and rising capitalism, land grabbing and the migration of rural youth. He argued that as a public good, agriculture should not be fully thrown into the market, and that peasants should be protected from land grabbing. He called for new decentralized markets, comprehensive rural development programmes and acknowledgement of the multiple values of agriculture.

Comments

Gerd Sonnleitner argued that agriculture should not be an object of speculation. He pointed at the lack of individual property rights and corruption as underlying causes of land grabbing. He also advocated for attracting young people to farming by promoting it as an interesting job with income opportunities.

Esther Penunia described how, for farmers in her region, it is hard to resist large scale acquisition by big companies and how seeds are not available or affordable. It is hard to get credit and loans, there is poor market information, roads are bad, the market is sometimes saturated and there are unfair trade rules. She also emphasized that the region is highly affected by climate change, with drought and unpredictable weather. She called for agrarian and aquatic reforms, investment in infrastructure and disaster preparedness, promotion of agroecology, farmer to farmer training, local seed banks and skills development. She argued that fair sharing of risks and better trade policies are needed, as well as attention to the needs of women and youth in agriculture.

Robert Carlson commented that the IYFF has been very well received in North America, where family farming is very dominant. He emphasized the promotion of a new generation of

where they can make farming a way of life and fulfil moral and ethical responsibilities, and that small scale farmers need community-based food systems and microcredits. Professor Schneider made a plea for the use of positive discrimination to stimulate women and youth to be on the farm. He also raised the point that most food is produced and consumed locally, but this does not show up on statistics yet and should be quantified. He added that we cannot spend more energy to transport food. His final point was that the IYFF has made family farming more visible and that this could be the year's most important achievement.

According to Professor Moyo, many have argued that agriculture in Africa should follow the same trajectory as in North America and Europe, but countries like Brazil and China give exam-



United States. Photo: Granja Fordyce

ples of different possibilities. He also discussed the spread of supermarkets and food chains throughout the continent, often working against the profitability of the family farm – and how this is rarely known. He concluded that *“the narrative of Africa is uniform: there is not enough investment in research and development and the critical mass of information is limited.”* Mr Bush stated that fisherfolk are among the poorest populations in the world and are now facing problems with pollution and global warming. He added that aiming for an industrial future for all of us would be heading towards *“collective suicide”* and that the only way to engage farmers is through policies that give value to farming knowledge and activities. He closed by saying that land titling is *“the policy and strategy of the most powerful”*, which is irrelevant to people who have land that is small or of poor quality, and who need more and better land rather than a title.

**‘Aiming for an industrial future for all of us would be like heading towards collective suicide’
– Sam Moyo**

Session 5 Women and Youth in Family Farming

Chair:

- Ms Danielle Nierenberg, Food Tank, USA

Speakers:

- Ms Brave Ndisale, Deputy Director, Social Protection Division, FAO
- Mr Denis Kabiito, Uganda, World Farmers’ Organisation
- Ms Karen Chaleix, French Young Farmer Association
- Ms Joan Brady, Canada, La Via Campesina & National Farmers Union, Canada
- H.E. Amadou Allahoury Diallo, Minister, High Commissary for the 3N Initiative, Niger
- H.E. Ana María Baiardi Quesnel, Minister for Women, Paraguay

Chair **Danielle Nierenberg** opened, saying that *“Farmers are business women and men, innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, stewards of the land and caretakers of the resources.”* She shared expert recommendations that gender should be addressed through community-based approaches, that universities and academic institutions should play a role in preparing youth for agriculture and that governments should play a role in creating enabling conditions for family farming.



Argentina. Photo: Martín Ré



Brave Ndisale: 'Women and youth are a force to reckon with if we are to eradicate hunger and malnutrition' Photo: FAO

"Both women and youth are a force to reckon with, if we are to eradicate hunger and malnutrition globally," observed **Brave Ndisale**. She called it essential that women and youth are provided with opportunities to contribute to sustainable development and gave several examples of how FAO is helping to do that. These included assessing labour saving technologies to reduce women's work load, strengthening women's leadership roles in rural organizations and providing junior farmer field schools.

Denis Kabiito told how he was proud to be a young farmer and how that is not the case for many others in Uganda, where family farming is seen as a sector only for the less-educated, or retired, and how this image makes youth drift away to urban centres. He added that youth, with their willingness and capacity to adapt, can play a strong role in strengthening family farming and that it is necessary to attract youth with no background in agriculture. And he called for young farmers to organize, and for vocational training to focus more on innovation, role models and the sharing of best practices. Finally, he called for investments in more 'habitable' rural areas.

Another young farmer, **Karen Chaleix** of France, said that for every two people who set up a farm, three people retire. She has been working with governments on policies to promote young people in family farms. *"Farming,"* she added, *"is a profession where everyone can find their place, a life project."* She also noted that the

IYFF is just a beginning of something she hopes will continue.

Joan Brady talked about how she works hard to ensure women and youth participation in the National Farmers Union and how youth revitalize the organization. *"Youth and Women must have equal access to land and resources including seeds, financing, markets and more,"* she argued. *"We must facilitate their participation in leadership and knowledge transfer. If they are not part of our conversations and actions, we must examine the situation and remove any barriers before it is too late. Above all we must prevent violence, inequity and power imbalance that will limit their participation in any way."*

Amadou Allahoury Diallo discussed how demographic pressure in Sub Saharan Africa is a threat to family

'Tapping into the potential of local markets can lead to economic empowerment and self-esteem for women'
– **Ana María Balardi Quesnel**

farming and to the very survival of countries in the region. *"If young people don't manage to find land, jobs, they will enter in an unstable system and we'll see this amplified,"* he said. *"We need to transform family farms so they can unlock the resources necessary to meet other needs such as education, and health."* He listed the challenges: access to land – women are the first to be kicked off the land, followed by youth; funding – financing systems are not adapted to family farming; information – community radios are widely



developed but there are issues of sustainability; education – often far below the standards needed to equip youth adequately for farming; and domestic production – finding outlets in the market. He concluded by calling for the promotion of policies that make women and young people more autonomous.

Finally, **Ana María Balardi Quesnel** said: *“It is important to empower women not only as individuals, but as agents to empower the whole family”*. She pointed out that much of women’s work does not provide economic income, but in a typical working day they haven’t stopped working for a minute. She advocated tapping into the potential of local markets, as this leads to economic empowerment and self-esteem. Other barriers she mentioned were violence against women, malnutrition, access to microfinance for women and women’s access to and ownership of land. She called for more technical support, more organizing, more role models, and the need for policies to gain recognition at highest levels.

Discussion

In the discussion, there was a question about looking at technology transfer to make farming less labour intensive. Ms. Ndisale pointed out that it is crucial to find out which technologies really work, and also that political will was needed. Mr. Kabiito said that technology could be useful to attract youth if it could enable a better work-life balance. Ms Quesnel was then asked if her department had measured the value of women’s work – she responded by asking: *“How much is child and elder care worth? Or getting up at 4 am to milk cows?”*

Session 6 Setting an Enabling Environment for Family Farming

Chair:

- Mr Jomo Sundaram, Assistant Director General, Economic and Social Development Department, FAO

Speakers:

- Ms Monique Pariat, Deputy Director General in charge of International Affairs, Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
- Mr Renaldo Chingore, Mozambique, UNAC- La Via Campesina
- Mr Luiz Ademir Possamai, Brazil, UNICAFES, World Farmers’ Organisation
- Ms Annick Sezibera, Executive Secretary, Confédération des Associations des producteurs Agricoles pour le Développement
- Mr Stephan Weise, Deputy Director General for Research, Bioversity.

Chair **Jomo Sundaram** discussed the Regional Dialogues, which recommended the following measures: (i) increase family farming representation in policy-making processes; (ii) create national level multi-stakeholder platforms; (iii) enable access to financial services, land tenure and markets; (iv) focus on women and youth. He added that the Working Group on Common Criteria for Family Farming¹ continues its work beyond the IYFF.

¹ The International Working Group on Common Criteria for Family Farming is elaborated upon on page 8.



Renaldo Chingore: ‘Single crop production, agrofuel industries and mining led to people losing their land and moving to unsuitable areas’ Photo: FAO/Alessandra Benedetti

Monique Pariat discussed how the New Common Agriculture Policy of the European Union supports the shift towards more competitive family farming which is diverse in terms of size, management and needs of farmers. It gives family farmers the means to play a major role in the



United States. Photo: Natasha Bowens



Cameroon. Photo: Julio Cueto

markets, alongside other actors of the food chain, helping them sell products and meet the demand for high quality food in an economically and environmentally sustainable way. She also discussed how the European Innovation Partnership brings together agro-advisory services and farmers on the ground to help promote innovation. She emphasized that the EU provides support to create jobs in rural areas and address land tenure issues and that 2015, the European Year of Development, will be used to further improve global and regional food security and sustainable development.

The next speaker, **Renaldo Chingore**, said that family farmers develop eco-friendly practices based on local know-how, supporting mutual learning at local, regional and global levels. However, he said, it is in a critical place due to land grabbing by major companies, liberalization and free trade. Further, the arrival in Africa of single crop production, agrofuel industries and mining, has led to local people losing their land and shifting to unsuitable surroundings. This contributes to the abandonment of the countryside by young people. He called for farmers to have more control over markets and to receive fair prices, as well as seeds and training.

Luiz Ademir Possamai stressed the importance of family farming: “A world without family farming will be a world with no environment and no people”, he said. He reported on how cooperatives of family farmers in Brazil have been able to facilitate policies and boost revenue and food production. He told how they now have a voice at the national level and provide various types of assistance to their members. He called for stimulating

the production of family farmers, for minimum price programs, for including youth and women and for better access to land.

Annick Sezibera then talked about some of the successes of the National Committee on Family Farming in Burundi, which has the highest population density in the world. The IYFF generated greater recognition of family farming as a model of development. Family farming has been put on the frontline of public and private enterprise, capacity building, technologies, infrastructure, roads, energy and access to markets, and has been made a focus for researchers and extension workers. This commitment can help family farmers to increase production, introduce innovation, create jobs and help youth to stay on the land.



Ukraine. Photo: Lidia Kozhevnikova



The final speaker, **Stephan Weise** discussed how the IYFF has provided a great opportunity for agricultural biodiversity and how family farming protects scarce resources, integrates forestry, fisheries and livestock in farming, and protects migratory birds. He stated that especially the agroecological approach preserves the land and maintains biodiversity. Mr Weise reported how the IYFF has documented the whole range of family farming system. Although some still see family farming as archaic, others, like Brazil, have done a good job in considering it as innovative. He concluded that it is important to conserve family farmers' knowledge, management practices and resilience to climate change and to value their gender perspective and diversity.

Discussion

The president of a rural cooperative in Paraguay reported how the control of international trade by multinationals hinders the contribution of family farmers to the world. Another commenter, from India, pointed out that the focus should be on safe food and food quality, and the prevention of GMO seeds. This speaker also called for locating all family farmers around

the world. The following commenter, from France, was critical of bigger farms in Europe receiving more assistance than smaller farms. This was echoed by the next commenter, who pointed out that EU assistance is not reaching youth, which increases imbalances in the region. The last comment came from a Brazilian, who pointed out that 2012 was the International Year of Cooperatives and 2014 was the IYFF, but that there still was not a global vision to strengthen small family farming cooperatives.

Ms Pariat responded by asserting that the role of the Common Agriculture Policy of the EU is evolving toward greater support for sustainable farming and that they are working with farming organizations to improve prices. Mr Chingore and Mr Possamai agreed that the work of IYFF needs to continue and that family farmers need support to be able to stay in the field, with the help of cooperatives and associations. Mr Weise pushed for support to farmer seed exchanges. Mr Sundaram concluded the session considering the role of government and the role of international trade, and asked the question whether the latter was a problem or a solution.

Concluding remarks

- Ms Marcela Villarreal, Director, Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development, FAO

Family farming is the “backbone of agriculture,” began **Marcela Villarreal**, “It is impossible to think about what we eat, and what we are, without family farming.” It brings more value to the world than it is likely given credit for, she remarked, adding that it is more than a simple economic unit of production, it is a place where people live and work together and where they connect between generations, from past to present and future. Family farming makes better use of biodiversity, is more resilient, uses energy

**‘It is impossible to think about what we eat, and what we are, without family farming’
– Marcela Villarreal**



Bangladesh. Photo: Gazi Sarowar

more efficiently and tends to produce more diversified food. It is a place where production and consumption come together. Apart from producing 80 percent of the food, family farmers are the biggest employer in the world. But even if it is one of the most trusted professions it is not attracting enough youth.

“There is huge diversity in every single aspect of family farming,” she continued, *“And this is a source of value and knowledge.”* She recognized the gendered nature of knowledge and the complexity of the needs of family farmers and the different sizes of farms and how all need to be supported. She argued that farmer organizations and cooperatives need to be supported as they bring solutions and a balance of power in society. Family farming faces challenges, she added. Improved access to many resources and policies is needed and there is inequality of all sorts; land grabbing, climate change, outmigration, war, conflict, lack of infrastructure and demo-

graphic pressure. Opportunities and voices for women and youth are needed, reducing violence against women and providing real careers in agriculture and innovation. *“Family farming needs a good, solid state to guarantee equity”* she continued, *“the risks should not fall on farmers.”* The state should provide inclusive policies, good governance, transparency and participation. All actors need to work together, and the state should provide an enabling environment that pro-

motes innovation with the use of traditional knowledge, as well as providing incentives for cooperatives.

“The IYFF will not end here,” she concluded. *“It has united family farmers in their diversity and has been participatory. Now we need to move into action and implementation. We hope to have concrete actions to take this Year forward to ensure better family farming and better lives for everybody on the planet.”* ■



India. Photo: Puranjit Gangopadhyay

Day 2

The Way Forward

What is the legacy of the IYFF? It has given visibility to family farming and put it on the policy agenda, both nationally and internationally. But this can only be the beginning. Policies have to enable family farmers' rights to land, financial resources, infrastructure, and access to markets, and enhance collective action. Research and advisory services should be oriented to the needs of family farmers and facilitate participatory approaches. How can we move this forward?

Welcome remarks

Chair:

- Ms [Ann] Tutwiler, Director General, Bioversity International

Speakers:

- Mr Kanayo Nwanze, President, IFAD
- Ms Elisabeth Rasmusson, Assistant Executive Director, WFP

and caring for the earth. Mr Nwanze made a plea for strong farmer organizations like cooperatives, and for incentives for family farmers to manage their land more sustainably. *“Potential does not feed people”*, he concluded, *“only action does.”*

‘Potential does not feed people. Only action does.’
– Kanayo Nwanze

As chair **Ann Tutwiler** reminded the audience that family farmers should not just be thought of as food producers, but also as biodiversity keepers.

Kanayo Nwanze said that many people do not understand the contribution family farmers make to food security, rural development and economic and political stability. Five years ago, he added, the terms smallholder producer and family farmer were hard to find in the literature. *“The IYFF has mobilized many smallholder and family farmers and their organizations. Policies going forward should address their issues and allow them to be key actors of sustainable and resilient food systems.”* He summarized four key areas for the future: investment, nutrition, recognition that *“food security is not only about producing more but also about wasting less”*,



Colombia. Photo: Ruperto Chabarro



Francesco Pierri and Alvaro Ramos. Photo: FAO/Giulio Napolitano

Elisabeth Rasmusson also called for leadership and organizational capacity building. She stressed that public purchasing policies can directly benefit smallholders and boost the economy. She closed by saying women’s participation can improve by better infrastructure in rural areas, increasing their control they have over inputs and access to services, and by improving policies.

typology of family farming at the local, national and international level. He stressed that the goal of the group was not to reach one direction for family farmers, which is neither possible nor desirable. Rather, it aimed to develop criteria and guidelines to support countries in establishing definitions and typologies and characterizing family farming. Mr Pierri emphasized that criteria for family farming have to encompass multiple contexts, shaped by historical, cultural and economic

factors, and be practical enough to be informing regular data collection.

Alvaros Ramos reported that the working group was made up of a broad range of stakeholders. In addition to finding a broad consensus on criteria, it looked to create tools for governments to use them and to give guidelines for the better allocation of resources. *“The lack of a clear definition is part of a vicious circle that leads to little being known about family farmers, which means it is difficult to design policies to support them”*, he said. Thus, gaps in existing instruments mean that they do not reach the farmers who need them, and a lack of criteria and quantitative information means that other people take advantage of programmes designed for

Session 1 Progress report on the IWG-FF

Chair:

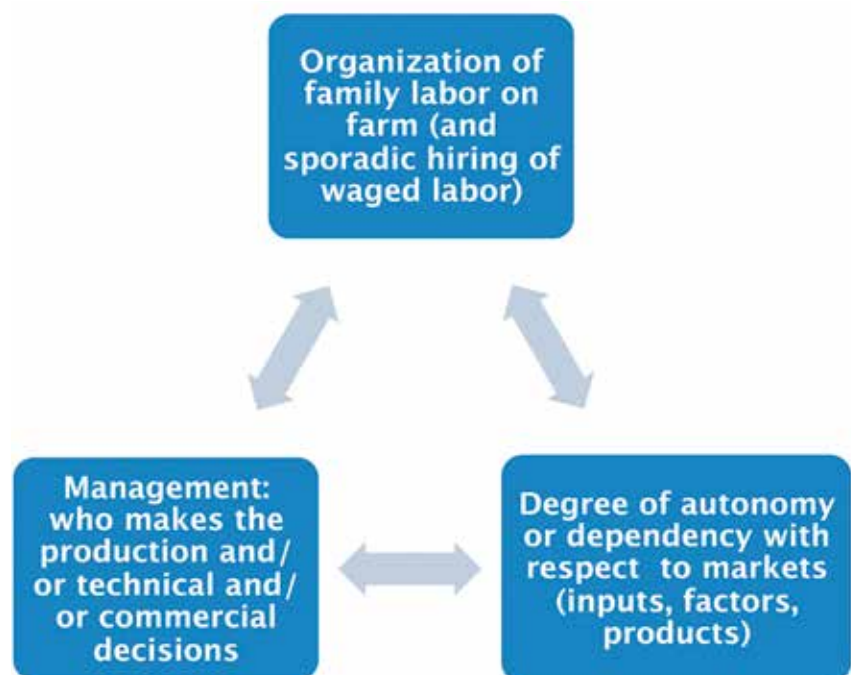
- Mr Francesco Maria Pierri, Policy Officer, Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development, FAO

Speaker:

- Mr Alvaro Ramos, coordinator of the IWG-FF (International Working Group for achieving common criteria on definitions and typologies for Family Farming)

Francesco Maria Pierri introduced the International Working Group for achieving common criteria on definitions and typologies for Family Farming (IWG-FF), which was set up to deepen the knowledge of family farming by providing guidelines and criteria on the vision, definition and

Criteria for family farming as a multidimensional construction



Source: Alvaro Ramos, Coordinator IWG-FF



India. Photo: Kuntal Kumar Roy

family farmers. Another issue is the complex nature of developing policies for family farming, as it is linked with other topics such as climate, investment, rural territory development, food security and nutrition and natural resources management.

The group is working on four main criteria for defining family farming, Mr Ramos shared. These are: the labour (including off-farm), the origin of its capital, the management, and the scale and scope of production. At the academic and social levels, family farming is understood as an umbrella concept, closely linked with land tenure, water and indigenous peoples. Mr Ramos ended by quoting Professor

Ye Jingzhong of China: *“The concept of family farming is under constant change, hand in hand with the different periods of development and the different social forces”.*

Discussion

The audience concurred with Mr Ramos about the complexity of defining family farming and the need for it to consider many factors, emphasizing the need for a definition for fisherfolk. Comments were also made about the need to simplify, and to develop concrete instruments. Finally it was stated that political will and resources are crucial to move forward.

low-cost ICTs, and the FCCM raised awareness of the potential of communication in agriculture and rural development, giving voice to farmers and civil society organizations, rural institutions, the private sector and community media. However, she stressed, there is a need for more enabling policies and institutional frameworks.

Ms Matta then shared the recommendations of the FCCM, which were: allow equitable access to information and ensure the participation of farmers; analyze the needs of women, men and youth and enable access to affordable infrastructure for all; and engage in multi-stakeholder partnership.

Session 2 Conclusions on the FCCM

Speaker:

- Ms Maria Pia Matta, World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC)

Maria Pia Matta summarized the conclusions of the Focum on Communication for Development and Community Media for Family Farming (FCCM). She said community media has contributed to innovations in marketing and finance information through mobile phones and

Session 3 Projection of 'Those who sow'

A projection of *“Those who sow”*², a film by Agro & Sac-à-Dos in collaboration with Agreenium, and directed by Pierre Fromentin was well appreciated. The film provides an overview of the diversity of family farming and addressed its principal challenges, drawing from experiences in India, Cameroon, Ecuador and France.

² The film can be found at <http://www.vimeo.com/111400519>



Dominican Republic. Photo: Lesley Alba



Chile. Photo: Oscar Fuentes Mardones

Session 4 Research and advisory services for family farming

Chair:

- Mr Kostas Stamoulis, Director, Agricultural Development Economics Division, FAO

Speakers:

- Mr Pierre Fabre, Scientific Director, French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development
- Ms Kristin Davis, Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services
- Ms Dayana Cristina Mezzonato Machado, La Via Campesina
- Mr Dyborn Charlie Chibonga, World Farmers' Organisation
- Mr Fernando López, COPROFAM, General Secretary

“Research institutions are not the sole source of solutions but they are the key to creating new, efficient solutions,” began **Pierre Fabre**. He described how over 300 people from all over the world came to the conference in Montpellier in June on ‘Family

farming and research’³. They developed a research agenda that looks at the co-existence of different types of family farming and acknowledges diversity and different scales. Three themes were identified:

- 1 Going beyond yield indicators to measuring viable, liveable and reproducible farming and to recognize the multifunctionality of family farming.
- 2 Developing new agricultural practices on the basis of expressed needs, including in the management of natural resources.
- 3 Providing assistance to family farming through research, advice, training, raising awareness, and asking family farmers to assist in the research.

Mr Fabre also called for the coordination of research. “*The needed transformation of agriculture goes beyond family farming,*” he concluded, “*and the ownership needs to be with the actors themselves.*”

³ For conference reports and videos see <http://www.agropolis.org/news/2014-review-international-encounters-family-farming-research.php>

‘Go beyond
yield indicators
to recognize the
multifunctionality
of family farming.’
– **Pierre Fabre**

Kristin Davis then said that the concept of family farming helps to focus the debate on sustainable development because it takes social, cultural and gender aspects into consideration, not just the agricultural technology used. She defined advisory services as all of the institutions that provide farmers with skills and knowledge to improve livelihoods and well-being, with both clients and providers being very diverse. She proposed key roles for governments in advisory services: coordinating the different actors, regulating service providers, ensuring public goods, protecting the environment and striving for goals like the reduction of hunger and poverty and providing food security. According to Ms Davis, the role for advisory service providers is disseminating information,

developing farmers' management and marketing skills, promoting innovation, helping farmers market their produce, and protecting the environment. She said the process must be participatory and multi-stakeholder-based and farmers should both receive and provide knowledge.

“Agroecology is a new way of looking at agriculture, based on traditional knowledge,” said **Dayana Cristina Mezzonato Machado**. *“Nature is our teacher, and we are part of it. That is how we can be practitioners of agriculture.”* She discussed the work La Via Campesina has done around the world in various sectors. The challenge, she said, is to develop research and innovation based on agroecology and to focus on developing new tools that are adapted to the needs of family farmers such as the use of natural biology and organic fertilizer. This research should be done with the farmers and local communities. It should also recognize that it will not find answers for every-



Hungary. Photo: Nora Levay

one as reality is complex and nature is varied. FAO should assist countries with this challenge and make sure to use an inclusive approach that makes use of farmers' existing knowledge. Partnerships between farmer organizations, FAO and other actors are also needed, she concluded.

The next speaker, **Dyborn Charlie Chibonga**, said that while strong and robust research, extension and advisory services exist, there are structural challenges. For example, in his country, Malawi, agricultural services only receive three percent of the budget, there are high vacancy rates in some areas and there is an emphasis on agricultural inputs at the expense

of research. He added that there is often a slow release of technologies due to bureaucratic processes, as weak institutional and legal mandates also pose a problem. He listed five recom-

**‘Agroecology is a new way of looking at agriculture, based on traditional knowledge’
– Dayana Cristina Mezzonato Machado**



Turkey. Photo: Ceyda Arslan

mendations: 1. That agricultural research and extension should play new roles in organising producers, mediating conflicts, facilitating inputs, convening innovation platforms, advocating for policy reforms and disseminating new knowledge; 2. That research and extension services should consider and respond to agroecological and socioeconomic conditions in providing support, and stay away from one size fits all solutions; 3. That all actors should ensure that agricultural research, advisory services, institutions and infrastructure are inclusive; 4. That there be more investment into research and development and advi-



Turkey, Photo: Tahir Akay

sory services; and 5. That institutions should partner with farmer organizations to ensure research and development are inclusive and responsive.

Fernando López, said that the total resources available for family farming are generally inefficiently spent, with a few exceptions. *“People recognize the progress that has been made,”* he stated, *“but the impact is rather relative. In our organizations, people have highlighted that research is a core point post the post-2015 agenda.”* He advocated for research policies to be complemented by other policies such as access to land and markets. He also called for interplay between top and bottom, and pointed out that a mutual transfer of knowledge has to take place. Research should take an important place in public policy, and indicators should assess the impact of policies on family farmers and ensure they do not lead to a greater dependence on technological innovation. He concluded: *“Family farmers’ strength lies in their ability to resist, be resilient and adapt.”*

Discussion

The audience asked for more research and action in specific areas, and for more inclusion of agriculture at a

lower level of education. In addition, the need was raised for support to family farmers in defending themselves against industrial farming. Investment in research and development could help to respect the environment and farming to respond to all the needs of humankind.

Session 5 Presentation of the Family Farming Knowledge Platform

- Ms Marcela Villarreal, Director, Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development, FAO

Marcela Villarreal described the Family Farming Knowledge Platform as a comprehensive and up-to-date digital database on family farming. It is meant to create the world’s largest high-level collection of national laws, regulations, public policies, relevant data, best practices, compelling research, publications and articles related to family farming, at a single access point. The platform will facilitate policy discussion, policy design

and decision making by providing easy online access to sources and fostering knowledge and information dissemination. It is intended for a wide range of users, including government officers, farmers’ organizations, academia, civil society and non-governmental organizations, and will be launched by early 2015. It will represent one of the main, long-lasting legacies of the IYFF.



Colombia, Photo: Daniel Fernando Lázaro Meléndez

Session 6 Ensuring the legacy of the International Year of Family Farming

Chair:

- Ms Marcela Villarreal, Director, Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development, FAO

Speakers:

- Mr Giuseppe Castiglione, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry for Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policy, Italy
- Mr Caio Galvão França, Chief International Affairs and Commercial Promotion Unit, Minister of Agrarian Development, Brazil
- Mr Fabrice Dreyfus, Ingénieur Général du Génie Rural des Eaux et des Forêts, Representative of the French Minister of Agriculture, France
- Mr Javier Sanchez, La Via Campesina
- Ms Christine Buhler, World Farmers' Organisation
- Mr Auxtin Ortiz, Director General, WRF

Giuseppe Castiglione stressed the importance of family farming for Italy and for Europe. “We need to find social and economic solutions to protect family farming in the face of rapid change”, he said. In his opinion, the Committee for Food Security (CFS) Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment provide a good way to do so. Mr Castiglione called for a generation change in family holdings, for example through dedicated training programs and empowering women.

Finally, he called for streamlining support mechanisms and praised the Terra Madre initiative.

“The great achievements of the Year are just a beginning,” said Caio Galvão França. He stressed the need for differentiated policies in various countries, and how family farming has a role in economic growth in addition to its role in achieving food security. He called on FAO to broaden its action as a platform for exchange and dialogue related to family farming. He also called on FAO to support national committees in supporting family farming and to make family farming part of its agenda at all levels and within regional initiatives, with a coordinating area in the FAO structure. He called further for FAO to support agroecology and to stress the role of family farming in sustainable farming. And, he added, it is important to support women and youth. Finally, he advocated for support for implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for the Re-



Fabrice Dreyfus: ‘Family farming is catalyzing a breakthrough in France in relation to overcoming climate change’
Photo: FAO/Alessandra Benedetti.

sponsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of national food security, and for the provision of guidelines for access to land.

“Family farming is catalyzing a breakthrough in France in relation to overcoming climate change challenges”, asserted the following speaker, **Fabrice Dreyfus**. He reported how the IYFF has been important for discussions about the future of food, forests and the multifunctionality of agriculture in France. He called for participatory approaches that include youth, women and specialized sectors. He stressed that farming is a way of making progress, and not a thing of





The winning image of the family farming photo competition (see page 29), taken in the Philippines by Danilo Victoriano Jr.

the past. “Finally,” he said, “I want to make sure that we establish a long term sustainable platform that is based on the IYFF. It has to work, to last, and to be open to taking on board other participants concerned by these issues.”

“More and more, the voices of smallholders and food producers are being heard in this forum, at this table,”

Javier Sanchez said, expressing his satisfaction with the recognition by the UN, agencies and governments of the crucial role of indigenous peoples, family farmers and smallholders this year. He named the starting points that emerged this year, for new policies for land tenure, production of food, the empowerment of women farmers, agricultural labourers, the inclusion of youth, the creation of stable prices and markets, covering production costs, giving priority to local markets, the protection of communal organizations and improvement of farmers’ standards of living. He pointed out that in many countries farmers are persecuted, and that this has to end. He also emphasized that agroecology should be supported and promoted, partly as a solution to climate change. Agroecology also makes farmers less dependent on external inputs and increases their economic and ecological resilience, which means they have better livelihoods and greater autonomy. To

achieve this, Mr Sanchez called for the involvement of national governments, national organizations, FAO and IFAD – “Without them we wouldn’t have come this far, but we now need policies to further strengthen smallholder farming.” He asked national governments to take all necessary measures to promote agricultural organizations and repress discrimination against farmers. He also called for a global joint action on indigenous farming.

“It is impossible to arrive at food security if family members, women, are not assured sufficient legal safety and security,” said **Christine Buhler**, and asked: “Are family members getting equitable pay? Do girls have the same right to inherit the farm as boys do?” She added that “women are key actors in finding solutions”. She also called for all farmers to have access to training, modern technologies and access to credit, as well as for solutions that keep regional differences in mind. The final speaker in the session, **Auxtin Ortiz**, reflected that the IYFF has delivered practical, concrete results. He called for the work to be continued by governments, for policies and agreements to be implemented, for organized civil society to take part, and for continuation of research in the field.

Discussion

The audience echoed the calls for the work of the IYFF to continue, with the support of all the other actors. They also called for the recognition that family farming is distinct from market cultures and for more recognition of indigenous cultures and practices, the strengthening of national committees and the inclusion of pastoralists in the discussions and policies.

To wrap up the session, Ms Villarreal said that the IYFF is only the beginning and the year has given visibility to the topic in policy agendas nationally and internationally. The work needs to be continued. There should be a focus on policies that reinforce the rights to land, women’s rights, infrastructure, and access to markets, an enabling environment for cooperatives and producer organizations. The work of characterizing family farming should also continue and research should be oriented to the needs of family farmers. This year should be linked to next year and family farming should be embedded in the whole discussion of the post 2015 development agenda. Next year is the International Year of Soils – Pacha Mama – and there is a very clear link between both Years, so the outcomes should also be linked. She





Presentation of the winners of the photo competition. Photo: FAO/ Alessandra Benedetti

continued by saying that family farming should also be embedded in discussions of agroecology, climate change, and genetic resources and present at the implementation of very important instruments such as the VGGT and RAI.

Ms Villarreal stressed the importance of continuous dialogue and how part of this needs to happen through the national committees. Family farming is embedded in FAO's strategic framework, strategic objectives and regional initiatives, she added. The endorsement of family farming in the 24th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) shows both the staying power of the issue of family farming, Ms Villarreal said, and the demand of Members for FAO to continue to build upon IYFF achievements. It is a call on FAO to continue its work on the promotion of family farming and integration of family farming in its Strategic Framework and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Ms Villarreal emphasized that FAO continues to be available to support its members in the development of family farming-related public policies. Ms Villarreal expressed appreciation for the continuous

support from IFAD. Finally, she said, none of this can happen if women are not represented the same way as men. Equity is very important and will give family farming the proper impact.

Session 7 Presentation of the photo competition 'Feeding the world, caring for the earth. Family farming in pictures'

Chair:

- Mr Jose María Ceberio, WRF, President

Speakers:

- Ms Esther Penunia, IYFF Special Ambassador for Asia and the Pacific
- Ms Janneke Bruil, ILEIA, Centre for learning on sustainable agriculture

"There is a saying that an image speaks more than 1,000 words. What we are about to present is just the tip of the iceberg of a tremendous photographic production." With that **Jose María Ceberio** introduced the IYFF photo contest run by the AgriCultures Network and the World Rural Forum with the cooperation of several other (farmer) organizations. There were over 1400 photos submitted by more than 1100 photographers. They are symbolic of the diversity and the special characteristics of family farmers, such as the connections they make between the past, present and future, and the links with their natural and social envi-

ronment. Winners were chosen by the general public and by a jury of artists and farm leaders. *"Let the photos remind us of the need to work together with family farmers in developing sound policies, especially on access, control and rights over land, water and seeds"*, said **Janneke Bruil**. The winning images were announced by **Esther Penunia** and can be found in a 2015 photo calendar and in the FAO/ ILEIA report "Towards Stronger Family Farms"⁴.

Session 8 Invitation to the Manila closing event and presentation of the related initiatives

Chair:

- Ms Florence Buchholzer, International Steering Committee of the IYFF, Vice Chairman, European Union

Speaker:

- Mr Lupiño Lazaro, International Steering Committee of the IYFF, Chairman, Philippines

Ms **Florence Buchholzer** talked about the IYFF Steering Committee, which is composed of 12 member states representing the regional groups, farmers organizations World Rural Forum, World Farmers Organization and La Via Campesina, IFAD, WFO, FAO, Bioversity and the EU. She thanked all members and reiterated the main objective of the group: promoting the

⁴ See the winning images at <http://www.agriculturesnetwork.org/news/photo-competition-winners-2810>



recognition of family farming at all levels and facilitating the exchange of experiences.

“We see clear signs of the tremendous success that the IYFF has gained,” followed Lupiño Lazaro, “but the year is not over yet, nor do we intend to finish it, judging from the tone of discussion and interest in this Global Dialogue. In this spirit we continue to host the IYFF closing event in the Philippines. But even as we close the year, the IYFF objectives and activities should be pursued beyond 2014.”

Closing remarks

- Ms Maria Helena M.Q. Semedo, Deputy Director-General Natural Resources, FAO

Maria Helena Semedo reminded participants of the opening speech and the recognition of family farming as the key towards a sustainable and secure food future. She recounted how family farming was the central



Maria Helena Semedo: 'Policies must support family farmers to innovate while recognizing their diversity and in depth knowledge.' Photo: FAO/ Alessandra Benedetti

topic at the 2014 World Food Day celebrations. She gave the conclusion of the 2014 State of Food and Agriculture, which was that all family farmers need an enabling environment for innovation, including good governance, appropriate macro-economic conditions, transparent regulations, risk management tools and market infrastructure.

“We need to build on the strong political commitment in favour of family farming that has arisen throughout the world in the IYFF,” she stated, “And by integrating family farming into its strategic framework, FAO remains available to support its members to develop

public policies to help family farming become more productive and sustainable. These policies must support family farmers to innovate, while recognizing their diversity, in depth knowledge of local eco-systems and natural resources and in the complexity of challenges faced.” FAO will continue its work on the knowledge platform and development of criteria, she said, ending by stating “I am confident that together we can bring transformational change to make family farming sustainable and improve its contribution to reducing the world's food insecure population. Thank you all for your valuable contributions to this Dialogue, as well as to the IYFF.” ■

COLOPHON

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Read more about the International Year of Family Farming at www.fao.org/family-farming-2014

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“Multifunctional family farms are essential for food security in the short term and for the sustainability of humanity in the longer term”

– John Ikerd, page 13

“The needed transformation of agriculture goes beyond family farming. And the ownership needs to be with the actors themselves.”

– Pierre Fabre, page 24

“Family farmers’ strength lies in their ability to resist, be resilient and adapt’

– Fernando López, page 26

“Where family farming used to be seen as a problem, it is now seen as part of the solution”

– José Graziano da Silva, page 8

“Only those born in agricultural families understand the importance of the relationship with nature and with land. Family farmers relate to these as they relate to their mothers”

– Chukki Najundaswamy, page 9

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