



CALL FOR ACTION

WORLD FOOD DAY 2014 " FAMILY FARMING: FEEDING THE WORLD, CARING FOR THE EARTH"

This year world food day will be celebrated on 16 October with the main theme "Family Farming: Feeding the world, Caring for the earth ".

Since from our foundation in 1964 ,FIMARC has been working with and for the family farming. Basically most of our grassroot groups are either family farmers or rural people related to farming and off farm activities.Many members of FIMARC try to maintain family farming to strengthen local food systems in various countries.They promote sustainable agricultural practices based on agro ecology ,organic farming ,integrated farming etc as to lessen the ecological foot print.

'Family farming'

1.5 billion involved in family farming and over 500 million small farms worldwide;Family farming includes all family-based agricultural activities, and it is linked to several areas of rural development. It is a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family labour, including both women's and men's.

Family farming is a type of production that bears the imprint of the structural link between economic activity and family structure. This relationship influences the decision making process, the type of farming, work organisation, production management and handing down an inheritance

Both in developing and developed countries, family farming is the predominant form of agriculture in the food production sector. The majority of the **EU's 12 million farms** are family farms, passed down from one generation to another, and contribute to the socio-economic and environmental sustainability of rural areas. In Sub-Saharan Africa, **80%** of farms are family ones .In Brazil , **4.1 million out of a total of 4.5 million are family farmers. In Asia vast majority are family farmers**

The concept of family farms is also significant in its opposition to agribusiness. In agribusiness unrelated individuals are involved in ownership, management and farm work. Landowners supply the capital and employ staff to manage the farm and work the land, so they are looking for returns on their capital, and not returns on the work done

A family farm is not defined by size, but the family labor and management decisions. On a family farm, the family takes the risks, makes the decisions and should receive the economic gains. In order to remain economically viable, farmers must be able to earn a decent living from their farming operations to support their families and contribute to the rural economy

Why is family farming important?

Family farming, in all its diversity, is the predominant form of agriculture worldwide. Local and global food security depends on it.

- 1.Generates food and income for millions of rural people. Family farms can supply local markets.
- 2.Creates jobs for women, men and young people, both within their family farms and in related

enterprises along food and agricultural value chains. slow rural exodus

3. Small farms reduce poverty and promote fair economic development
4. Provides models of adaptability and resilience for more sustainable food production.
5. Is socially and culturally part of communities and territories .
6. Safeguards and protects environmental assets and natural resources, biodiversity and cultural heritage. Building strong rural communities
7. Family and small-scale farming are inextricably linked to world food security.
8. Family farming preserves traditional food products, while contributing to a balanced diet and safeguarding the world's agro-biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources.
9. Family farming represents an opportunity to boost local economies, especially when combined with specific policies aimed at social protection and well-being of communities.

Family farming is often more than a professional occupation because it reflects a lifestyle based on beliefs and traditions about living and work. There is a high diversity of family farms - size, activities they engage in, availability of resources, degree of market integration, competitiveness, etc. They operate in different economic, agro-ecological and social contexts.

Some key Challenges that family farmers face

Climate change and climate variability;

Lack of tenure security in a context of increasing competition for land and water

Limited access to financial resources, inputs, technology, training, research and advisory services, and education

Price volatility (energy, food, etc.) and limited access to markets

In 2004, less than 4.7 % of public development aid worldwide went to agriculture compare to 16% in 1980.

Investing in family farming is investing in a sustainable, food secure future: smallholder and family farmers can and should be at the forefront of the transformation of world agriculture. Ending hunger and poverty is within our reach, but only if we place family and smallholder farmers at the centre of rural development efforts.

Run up to the World Food day 2014, I would like to call upon all our member movements around the world to take up concrete actions in your movements in relation to the theme of the year. I thank all the movements that were involved in various actions last year

Some proposal of actions are mentioned below but each movement can organise activities based on their own reality.

- Organise sessions on with a view to raise the profile of Family Farming among various actors
- Organise meetings with politicians and local self government to seek the support and to strengthen Family farming systems.
- Share and upscale family farming practices and initiatives
- Make any solidarity action like fasting to collect money to support the needy or to provide one nutritious meal to the hunger
- Organise a get together of family famers in your locality to encourage their good work
- Organise a fair to expose the family farming products
- Organise one day volunteer work in family farms
- Organise one day volunteer work to save money and to support hunger eradication projects in your own places or send to the FIMARC World Food Day fund to support other people who are in need around the world

- Organise Corner meetings ,press conference , press release or demonstrations on the topic to raise the awareness of the society
- Promote local and indigenous knowledge and know-how

During this world food day of 2014, FIMARC requests all its member movements to have deep reflections ,actions to raise the profile of Family farming all over the world and to Lobby for the policies that will foster sustainable family farming and urge all the members to organise a common action day and send us the news about your activities.

Wish you all the best for your world food day actions of 2014

George Dixon Fernandez

Secretary General

ASSESE, 05/09/2013
