

FIMARC

FAMILY  
FARMING

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# FIMARC: CAMPAIGN ON FAMILY FARMING

PROMOTE, PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN FAMILY FARMING





## GENERAL OBJECTIVE

**PROMOTE, PROTECT  
AND STRENGTHEN  
FAMILY FARMING**

**RESET THE VALUE OF LAND AS A GIFT FROM GOD  
TO HAVE A DECENT LIFE BY MEANS OF PEASANT  
FAMILY AGRICULTURE**

**TO PUT IN FAMILY FARMING IN THE CENTRALITY  
OF THE PUBLIC POLICIES**



## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Establish a dialogue with members of the FIMARC, partners and other stakeholders to sensitize them for the promotion, the protection and the strengthening of family farming.

Educate young people and policy makers on the importance of family farming.

Mobilize support at the national, regional and international.

The concept of Family Farming has known to all the member of FIMARC has become very important for the movements, for their actions and reflections.

The Concept of family farming is well known in the society as the best way to combat hunger, social problems, rural exodus etc.

The concept of Family Farming is better known and understood by the farmers themselves.

More awareness and Education.

Improved policies at all levels to Promote, protect and strengthen family farming;

Real and coordinated dialogue between different actors and organisations, which work on family farming

## EXPECTED RESULTS

The dignity and civil rights of family farmers are recognized and respected;

The members of the FIMARC have undertaken actions for the defense, the promotion and the strengthening of the family farming at the national, regional and international level;

Success stories in family farming are listed and available to make good example.

FIMARC encourages and supports the movements activities in regards family farming

Transparent dialogue between producers and consumers and their organisations

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

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

Family Farming is the prominent way for safe food, good health, creation of jobs and better income source for the rural people. The members of the Family Farms are engaged in cultivation, maintenance, harvesting, processing, value addition and storage. Family Farming is a way of life which strengthens the rural economy. It is the back bone of present and future of diverse human communities in the world.

Family farming generates food and income for millions of rural people. 90% of 570 million farms are small family farms world wide and 1.5 billion people Involved in family farming

in around 500 million small farms. 43% of the world's active population works in agriculture (53% in developing countries) and produce more than 70 % of the food production in the world while resisting still the rural exodus and helping to combat hunger and poverty

Family Farm is a learning center of culture, values, traditional & indigenous knowledge and also a store house that preserve the traditional seeds. Family Farming respects and protects all living organisms. Living in a Family Farm is a dignified way of life in harmony with nature which is the gift of God. It safe-guards and protects environmental assets and natural resources, biodiversity and cultural heritage. It preserves traditional food products, while contributing to a balanced diet and safeguarding the world's agro-biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources.

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.**

- Generates food and income for millions of rural people. Family farms can supply local markets.
- 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
- Small farms reduce poverty and promote fair economic development
- Provides models of adaptability and resilience for more sustainable food production.
- Is socially and culturally part of communities and territories .
- Safeguards and protects environmental assets and natural resources, biodiversity and cultural heritage. Building strong rural communities
- Family and small-scale farming are inextricably linked to world food security.
- 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.
- 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 world-wide went to agriculture compare to 16% in 1980.  
 The promotion of mono crop cultivation,  
 Unfair agricultural policies of the Governments  
 Land grabbing of corporates  
 Lack of proper orientation and negative attitude of the young people towards farming  
 Increasing rural youth exodus to urban areas  
 Wide spread consumeristic way of life of the people  
 Lack of unity and organizational structure among the Family farmers  
 Unfair land distribution, lack of infrastructure,  
 Lack of land tenure rights and land reforms  
 Difficulties in access to vital resources such as land, water and seeds  
 Lack of land inheritance for women  
 Bad Impact of the structural adjustment policies  
 Lack of rural infrastructure and development  
 Lack of financial means for research and development of family-orientated agriculture  
 Lack of counseling for peasant families  
 Lack of social protection for peasants and rural people

## **FIMARC GLOBAL INITIATIVES**

Promote Consultations/dialogues/forums on Family Farming at regional,national and continental levels

FIMARC COMMITMENT TO IYFF+10

Engagement of FIMARC movements in the national committees of IYFF to promote and strengthen family farming

Participation in the preparation of Global Guidelines for Family Farming:

Promotion of Participatory Research on Family Farming

**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.**

## **SOME PROPOSAL OF ACTIONS**

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

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 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

Organizing forums and workshops for historical analysis and listening to farmers of family farms locally and we are committed to identify the viable Family Farm ventures

Family farming must be integrated into the sustainable development goals of the United Nations and in the UN Declaration of the Rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas as well as in the basic studies of children.

Through this campaign, FIMARC call upon all decision makers, governments, international organizations, church, all other religious leaders, producers, consumers and society in general to support and promote family farming.

## ASIA

Conducting FARMER LISTENING Workshops in various countries of Asia

Identifying and Listing out the FARMER LEAD initiatives and successful models in Family Farming

Documenting Farmer Lead Initiatives and Successful models to promote Family Farming.

Organising inter country exposure visits

Organising sessions to sharpen the understanding about Family Farming and also Community Lead approaches

Organize dialogue on Family Farming with Youth-Consumers-Decision makers and other stakeholders

Document and highlight the successful models of Family Farming practices through media.

Create space and link with the consumers with Family Farmers

Strengthen the work with other like minded organisations who promote family farming initiatives

Develop supporting activities in collaboration with Govt.agencies and other line departments to strengthen and promote Family Farming.

## LATIN AMERICA

Continental campaign for soil protection and promotion of courtyard gardens

Promotion of local seed banks throughout the continent, to reduce the use of industrial seeds and pesticides

Animation of a continental campaign for the recovery of consumption of local foods to reduce consumerism.

Active lobby and engagement with various actors to promote and strengthen family farming

Coffee and banana campaign

## EUROPE

Prepare a youth friendly working material on Family Farming based on European context to use inside and outside of the movements

Organising European Seminar on Family Farming in Brussels

A lobby letter from the movements to their governments to convince them to integrate family farming into the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

Promoting the aspect of family farming using the existing FIMARC tools such as European Newsletter, Voice of the Rural World , website

Create concrete networks and platforms of Organisations dealing with family farming and of Producers and consumers

Dialogue of Family Farming among groups, working groups, commissions etc or to create new groups, commissions on this topic

Production of special campaign materials such as T-shirts, Bags, Caps with message of the campaign

## AFRICA

Create functional networks on Family Farming at the national, regional level

Organize campaigns of advocacy towards decision-makers;

Strengthen the capacities of the members;

Identify and disseminate success stories of family farming;

Establishing links between producers and consumers;

Organize the dialogues/workshops on Family Farming





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## Steering committee of the campaign

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