



**RESOLUTION**  
**FIMARC Executive committee – Assesse - Belgium**  
**April 2015**

We the executive committee members of FIMARC (International Federation of Adult Catholic Rural Movements) from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe representing rural movements and communities gathered in Assesse, Belgium from 13-20<sup>th</sup> of April 2015 for the FIMARC FORMATION SESSION ON “FUTURE OF FAMILY FARMING”. In the context and follow up of United Nations International Year of Family Farming 2014 and the FIMARC World General Assembly declaration – (Volkesberg Germany 2014) , we want **to** define family farming from our experiences and needs as well as our will for justice and fair redistribution ,**and** to deepen our common understanding, and to propose concrete actions and strategies to protect and promote family farming all over the world

We understand Family Farming as 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 safeguards 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.

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, pastoral and fisheries production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family labour including both women and men. **It 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

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farming, work organisation, production management and handing down an inheritance. Both in developing and developed countries, Family farming, in all its diversity, is the predominant form of agriculture worldwide. Local and global food security depends on it.

Even if more and more researches show the importance of FF for the future of mankind the conditions for the farming families are worsening day by day. The number of Family Farms is reducing in both north and south. We consider that 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, widespread consumeristic way of life of the people, Price volatility, lack of unity and organizational structure among the Family farmers, unfair land distribution, lack of infrastructure, lack of land tenure rights and land reforms, increasing 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 and lack of social protection for peasants and rural people are the major reasons for the closure and disappearance of Family Farms in most of the countries

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We strongly criticize the current Agricultural Policies contributes to the economic decline of the family farm system leading to farm consolidation, foreclosures and more industrialized agriculture resulting in further concentration of economic and political power within faceless and unaccountable multinational corporations

In this context 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. 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.

Family farming must be integrated into the sustainable development goals of the United Nations. We urge the state representatives and civil society for the immediate finalization of the Declaration of the Rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. We demand the authorities to include family farming and its related aspects in the basic studies of children.

The Executive Committee of FIMARC decided to launch a worldwide campaign to promote, support and empower family farming and the family farmers. We as FIMARC movements will continue our effort to sharpen our own understanding regarding the concept of Family Farming by 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

### **Conclusion**

**Investing in family farming is investing in a sustainable, food secure future.** It is urgent to invest in organic farming as well as sustainable traditional agricultural practices and in Agro ecology which respect the environment to save the biodiversity that is everywhere at risk. FIMARC Believe that with the right economic, social and environmental conditions, smallholder family farmers can be at the forefront of a sustainable transformation in world agriculture. Ending hunger and poverty is within our reach, but only if we place family and smallholder farmers at the centre of agricultural, environmental, social and rural development policies.

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The Executive Committee of the FIMARC.  
Assesse, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015.