

F I L M A R C

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RURAL ADULT CATHOLIC MOVEMENTS

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**PEASANT
FAMILY
FARMING**



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It highlights the rural world's life and activities of
the member movements belonging or not to the Federation

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Dear Readers of VMR

Greetings from International Secretariat!

The United Nations declared 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming. This was a very important recognition of the multiple social, economic, environmental and cultural functions of family farming. This edition of VMR discuss about the importance of Family farming and the situation of family farmers today.

Both in developing and developed countries, family farming is the predominant form of agriculture in the food production sector. Family farming, in all its diversity, is the predominant form of agriculture worldwide. Local and global food security depends on it.

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.

1.5 billion People involved in family farming in over 500 million small farms worldwide; Family farmers produce over half of the world's food and they have the potential to produce more. Family farming includes all family-based agricultural activities, and it is linked to several areas of the rural development. Family farming 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. Fam-



ily 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

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 .

The 2014 IYFF promoted broad discussion and cooperation at the national, regional and global levels to increase awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by smallholders

Under the right conditions and with supportive policies, family farmers have proven to be innovative, productive and resilient, especially if they are supported to use agro-ecological practices that are based on their own resources and priorities. This makes family farmers key players in tackling the pressing issues of our time, such as hunger, climate change and biodiversity loss. FIMARC will be engaged in a global campaign to strengthen and promote family farming and to ensure a concrete follow up of IYFF

Enjoy your reading

George Dixon Fernandez
Secretary General



PEASANT FAMILY FARMING

For several years, the FIMARC focuses closely on everything related to peasant family farming. In the definition which is commonly given, peasant farming is an idea of agriculture which fits the criteria of sustainability, respect for the environment and conservation of the social links. This is a vision that says that agriculture has not only a role of food production, but also a social and environmental role as well as maintaining the quality of the products.

Beyond the definition, it is clear that peasant agriculture plays an essential role in the production of food and has also significant socio-economic and cultural aspects when we know that it is one of the suppliers of the most important work at the global level. The UN is not hiccupped stating 2014 - the ‘ international year of the family farming ‘ or AIAF which aims to encourage development and agro-ecology; access to the market; access to land and natural resources, access to technology, agricultural extension services and credit; demographic, economic and socio-cultural conditions; the availability of special education “.

Therefore, peasant agriculture has enormous potential in the integral development of rural areas in many countries. Integral since it combines the

benefits of being a purveyor of food and therefore instrument for combatting hunger and malnutrition, purveyor of jobs, since it only concentrates the production but diversify it; purveyor of related jobs, in all close jobs of agriculture, its transformation, its marketing... In this it also allows the environment to develop. When people find employment at home, they will automatically develop services that allow living on the territory, school, small businesses, health care... It thus permits to enter a virtuous circle which allows the development of the territory. Peasant agriculture, with more and more emphasis on agro-ecology, production in organic farming, and valuing traditional knowledge, is also a tremendous asset to the diversification and the preservation of biodiversity.

And yet...

We are living in a global context where, according to the FAO, more than a third of produced food is wasted, while the Or-



ganization provided that food production must increase by 60% by 2015, in order to meet the needs of a growing world population. We are also in a globalized market that sets the prices of foodstuffs, not allowing small farmers to be competitive with agribusiness. In addition, all recent conferences are sounding the alarm about the disastrous effects of this industrial agriculture on our climate.



It is therefore urgent to react and give back the peasant agriculture every chance to develop because it is a form of agriculture that allows a production much more respectful of the environment, taking care of nature and human beings. More and more countries, including industrialized countries, are more and more aware and have given themselves a charter, principles that govern these good practices. Peasant farming is not a label, but a rather a gradualist approach which tends to apply a few basic rules.

For example, the peasant farming as it is heard in France relies on a Charter which is available in 10 principles, and 6 themes.



The ten principles of peasant agriculture:

- Principle No. 1: allocate production volumes in order to allow the greatest number of access to the profession and living.
- Principle No. 2: be supportive of farmers in other regions of Europe and the world.
- Principle No. 3: respect nature.
- Principle No. 4: develop abundant resources and conserve scarce resources.

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- Principle No. 5: search for transparency in the acts of purchase, production, processing and sale of agricultural products.
 - Principle No. 6: ensure good quality taste and health products.
 - Principle No. 7: aim for the maximum autonomy in the operation of farms.
 - Principle No. 8: search partnerships with other actors of the rural world.
 - Principle No. 9: maintaining the diversity of high animal populations and cultivated plant varieties.
 - Principle No. 10: reason always long term and comprehensively.

Autonomy

Especially in industrialized countries, agriculture is hand and foot bound, dependent on subsidies of its governments and in this sense dependent upon external decisions about production, to satisfy the market, and no more to fulfil its first vocation to provide food. In such a system, peasants have lost all autonomy in the management of their productions and decisions.





Autonomy is at the same time, the ability to be master of its technical, economic, financial choices and the ability to exercise that capacity. It is based on partnership, in the complementary nature and the complicity between local actors. It allows enhancing human and technical resources present on the territory, to generate income locally that can be reinvested in the region to expand it.



Working with nature

It is proven that the Earth is in great danger. We consume more resources than what the earth puts time to regenerate. In order to allow the future generations to still live on our planet, the preservation of resources, patrimony and environment must be a priority. Peasant farming may be a response to this concern since it promotes diversification rather than extensive productions, big consumer of water and inputs, the complementarity between animal and plant production, technologies adapted to the environment and based on the know-how of the ancients.

The quality of the products

The primary function of agriculture is food production. And the consumer does not deceive. Sale is organized more and more into short circuits to meet the demand of these consumers, disappointed with the products

offered in the large chain stores, disappointed with the quality products with uniform taste. It is therefore also important when we are talking about peasant family farming, to talk about transformation and marketing. There again, it will be to develop short sectors, both for production and for processing or sale.

The quality of the products must be identifiable and recognized. This ensures respect for the consumer and the recognition of the producer.

Local development

We mentioned above, peasant agriculture contributes to local development if it uses in the best possible way, the local resources and generates employments

of proximity. Peasant agriculture must allow a maximum of farmers across the country to live decently from their work by producing on a human size farm healthy and quality



food, without abusing the natural resources necessary for tomorrow. It must participate with citizens to make the rural zone alive within a living framework enjoyed by all. It is therefore important that this approach is recognized by consumers and that they also recognize the quality of the



products, respect the work of farmers and agree to pay the fair price to allow them to live decently.

Modernity or passeism?

Maybe some will see peasant agriculture as a return back, as a past system which refuses the modernity and operates a return to the past. Proponents of this system will tell you the opposite. There is absolutely no refusal of modernity, techniques that facilitate work but a refusal that offers conventional agriculture but that goes against the values that are defended and promoted by

peasant agriculture: rejection of GMOs, refusal of intensification, refusal of chemistry which pollutes land and rivers.



Proponents of peasant agriculture promote agriculture integrating what nature offers us, and sound management, as a good father to live in a decent way and with attention to the future, to be able to leave a land for our children. Living in a decent way not only in economic terms but also to clear the free time, to enjoy family life, to be able to participate in the activities of the territory.

And management of waste

According to the FAO, more than a third of food production is lost. One must distinguish food losses and food waste. Food losses refer to a decrease

in the mass of commodities originally intended for human consumption, at different stages of the food chain (production, post-harvest and processing), mainly in the developing countries because of lack of storage facilities, possibilities of transformation. Food waste refers to food fit for human consumption that is being discarded by retailers and consumers, mainly in developed countries. This food waste is a missed opportunity to improve food safety. It also includes an important environmental cost. The financial costs of

the food waste are considerable and reach approximately USD \$ 1 trillion each year. Reduce food waste is a priority to establish more sustainable production and consumption. Investing in food waste reduction measures



can bring economic, environmental and social benefits while helping to improve food security and reduce the negative impacts of climate change and this is also taken into account in family agricultural production.

Peasant farming family is therefore an approach that can respond to many problems of our time. Especially in these times of crisis, it is more than ever useful, allowing producers to strengthen their autonomy, developing the territory and reducing waste. But again, only farmers will not be able to meet all the difficulties and it is the responsibility of all the inhabitants of a territory to contribute to its development.

FIMARC NEWS

CFS 41 –ROME

CFS held its 41st session from 13 to 18 October 2014. Nearly 800 representatives of CFS stakeholder groups (governments, civil society, private sector, international and regional organizations and observers), including 11 ministers and 2 vice-ministers, registered for CFS 41. Opening statements were delivered by the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs (on behalf of the UN Secretary-General), the Director-General of FAO, the Executive Director of WFP, the Vice-President of IFAD, the Chair of the Steering Committee of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) and the CFS Chair. The Committee heard findings of the State of Food Insecurity in the World 2014 (SOFI). It developed a series of policy recommendations based on the reports prepared by the HLPE on “Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems” and “Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition”. A key outcome was represented by the endorsement of voluntary “Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems”. The Committee also agreed to continue its work towards the preparation of an Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises. Through a series of panel discussions the Committee explored global,

regional and national linkages with CFS, discussing food security and nutrition in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and regional efforts to mainstream nutrition in agriculture. The Committee reflected on progress made in the last ten years in implementing the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, through national case studies on lessons learned. The Committee provided guidance on CFS workstreams, including requesting revision of the guidance note for selection and prioritization of CFS activities. It requested two HLPE studies for presentation to CFS plenary in 2016 and 2017. The Committee emphasized the importance of communication to support an effective CFS, and agreed to a framework for monitoring CFS decisions. Via voting procedure the Committee amended the CFS Rules of Procedure. The 2 CFS 41 FINAL REPORT Committee endorsed the third version of the Global Strategic Framework on Food Security and Nutrition (GSF). On World Food Day, together with the Steering Committee of the International Year of Family Farming, a special event was held on Innovation in Family Farming: Towards Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition, with the participation of HRH Queen Máxima of the Netherlands and the UN Secretary-General’s Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development .FI-

MARC participated in the CFS 41 very actively to bring the voice the rural people and farmers at the policy discussions and deliberations in relation to food and agricultural governance. Mr. Wolfgang Scharl, the president of FIMARC and Mr. George Dixon Fernandez, the secretary General of FIMARC represented FIMARC in this important global conference

ICN 2 AND FIMARC



Elizabeth Kibuywa at ICN 2 in Rome

Malnutrition is one of the world's most serious but least addressed health problems and a significant contributor to child mortality. Nearly one-third of children in developing countries are either underweight or stunted, and more than 30% of people living in developing countries suffer from micronutrient deficiencies

The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) was a high-level intergovernmental meeting that focused global attention on addressing malnutrition in all its forms. Over 2 200 participants attended the meeting, including representatives from more than 170 governments, 150

representatives from civil society and nearly 100 from the business community. In addition to plenary sessions held on November 19th, 20th and 21st, several pre-conference events for parliamentarians, civil society and the private sector, as well as round tables and side events, provided a forum for participants to delve deeper into specific nutrition issues. The two main outcome documents—the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action—were endorsed by participating governments at the conference, committing world leaders to establishing national policies aimed at eradicating malnutrition and transforming food systems to make nutritious diets available to all. Many heads of states as well as Pope Francis addressed the conference. Miss. Elisabeth Kibuywa, the Pan African coordinator of FIMARC represented FIMARC in this major global conference

FAO AND IPC'S TECHNICAL MEETING FAO HQ, ROME 30 OCTOBER 2014

With the Technical Meeting held between FAO and the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) an important further step was taken in order to strengthen the collaboration and partnership relation between FAO and the worldwide platform of small-scale food producers, rural workers and grass-

root/community based social movements. Considering the new FAO Strategy for Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations- aiming to develop new practices for an inclusive participation of CSOs in policy processes, to intensify dialogue between different stakeholders in key thematic areas and to strengthen their partnership relation between governments and civil society- this meeting held in Rome, HQ, on the 30th of October 2014, brought together the technical expertise provided by different FAO Units with the detailed knowledge IPC has from the grassroots level along specific thematic issues. The expected aims and outcomes outlined in the Concept Note of the Technical Meeting were successfully met: the interest and need of IPC regarding to the different thematic issues were presented in order to be taken into account in policy formulation and adoption at national, regional and international level. Proposals for technical cooperation were made to reinforce participation of IPC, other CSOs and social movements in future sessions of the FAO technical committees and other governing bodies in particular in particular its regional conferences. The FAO-IPC Technical Meeting was successful in many ways: 1. It highlighted the needs and opportunities for building a more solid partnership between both parties. 2. It proved the importance of the role of regional offices where technical assistance and capacity building are cru-

cial and mostly needed. 3. It identified concrete actions for OPC to follow-up with relevant technical departments and regional offices. The meeting also raised the challenge for better communication between FAO headquarters and FAO regional focal points and among the regional focal points themselves. The great contribution of IPC by sharing its knowledge and information has been acknowledged. This document provides a summary of issues raised by IPC and FAO Technical Units regarding the specific thematic issues and suggests concrete follow-up activities for the agenda of future collaboration. Mr. Rony Joseph, the Asian Coordinator of FIMARC represented the organization in this successful technical meeting between FAO and IPC. FIMARC also got the chance to make presentation about the importance of Family farming in the global dialogue and consultation on FAMILY Farming





Participants of International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) 2

VMR

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