



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# STATE OF FAMILY FARMING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE UN DECADE OF FAMILY FARMING

Pierre Ferrand

Regional Policy Forum

From Farms to Schools: Towards Sustainable & Inclusive School-Based Food & Nutrition Programs in Southeast Asia

24 - 25 April 2023 | Muntinlupa City, Philippines and via Zoom









## I. Who are Family Farmers? Why they matter?







# What is Family Farming?

- Family farmers include peasants, indigenous peoples, traditional communities, fisher folks, mountain farmers, pastoralists and many other groups representing every region and biome of the world.
- Given the enormous diversity of family farmers around the world, there is **no single definition of family farming**.
- Family farming is "***a way of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family capital and labour, including both women's and men's***" (FAO, 2014)



# Family Farmers around the world

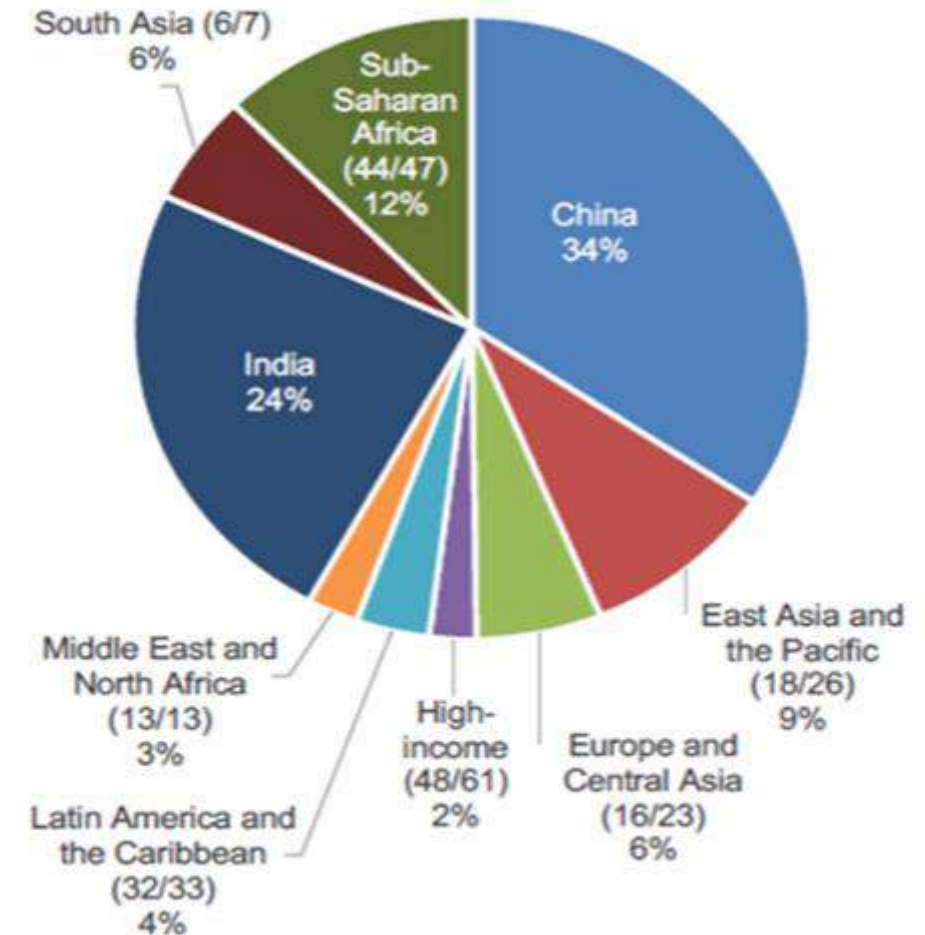
- FF represents the predominant form of food & agricultural production (in both developed & developing countries)
- More than **90%** of the 600+ million farms in the world are run by individual or family & rely primarily on family labor
- Occupy around **70–80% of farmland**
- Produce more than **80%** of the world's food in value terms

## Farms of **less than 2 ha**:

- account for 84% of all farms
- operate 12% of all agricultural land
- produce **36% of the world's food**

# Family Farmers in Asia & the Pacific

- Asia & Pacific region accounts for **74%** of the world's family farmers (including small-scale farmers, fishers and livestock producers )
- Small-scale, family-based food producers account for almost **80% of the milk**, and **80-90% of aquaculture** farms.
- FF is very diverse in AP region, spanning from full-time family members' farming with the support of wage labor, to small-scale and subsistence farming





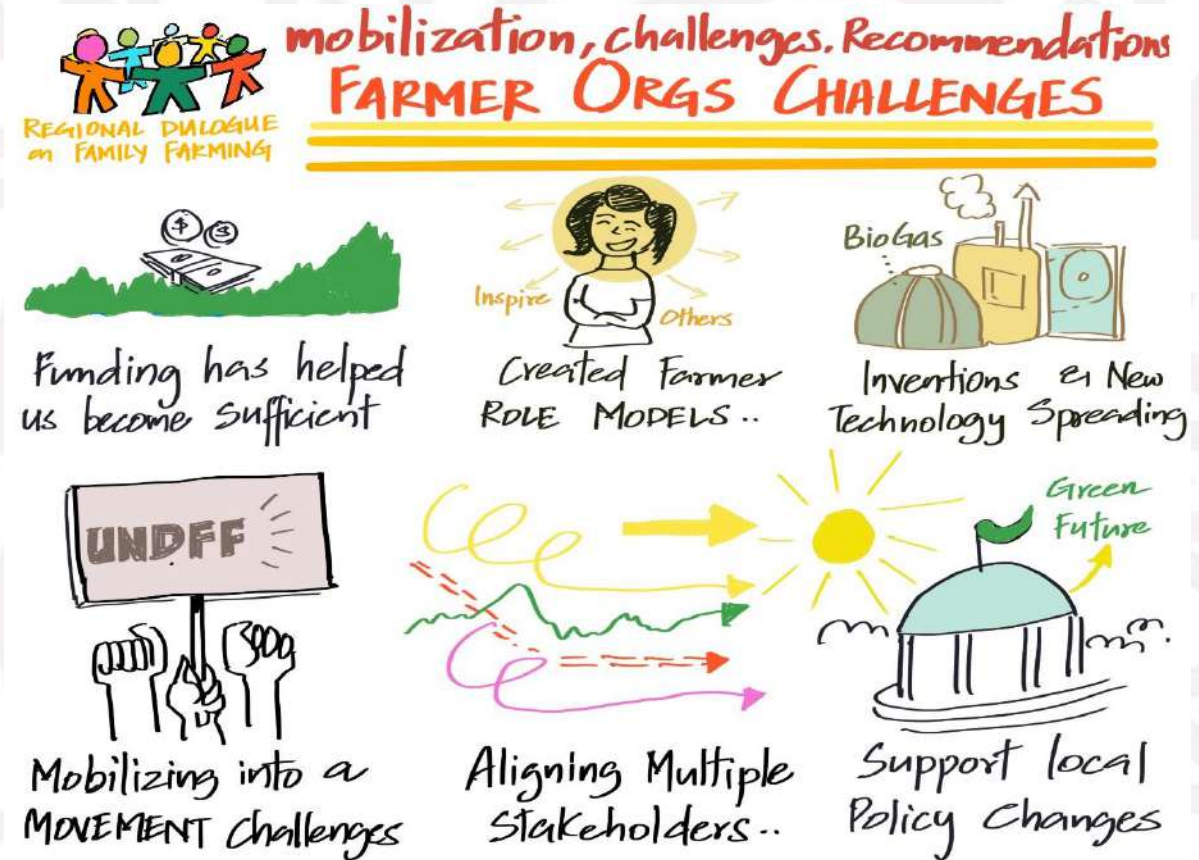
# Key challenges faced by FF in Asia Pacific

- **Ageing rural population** with young farmers & men migrating and threatening the generational sustainability (lack of interest and prospect in agriculture)
- Many small-scale farmers, fishers, indigenous peoples & pastoralists displaced due to **lack of legal recognition of their customary tenure rights** (process of tenure reform slow in some countries, but significant transfer of forestlands to family farmers and positive policy changes in their favor in others)
- **Limited access to productive resources & opportunities for women** (land, livestock, labor, education, extension and financial services, and technology) which hinders their capacity to generate marketable surpluses & add value to their production, and limit income received from their work on the farm (barely 20 percent of the family's farming income while providing up to 85% of the work).
- Small family farms in **Asia Pacific** typically facing a range of challenges in **accessing credit, advice and markets**



# Key challenges faced by FF in Asia Pacific

- Lack of strong organizations & human resource capacities at **FF Organizations** level
- Challenges in **leading, absorbing & pursuing innovative approaches** on latest agricultural research & extension
- FFOs not enough **visible & accessible** to government, as **policy advocates & program partners**

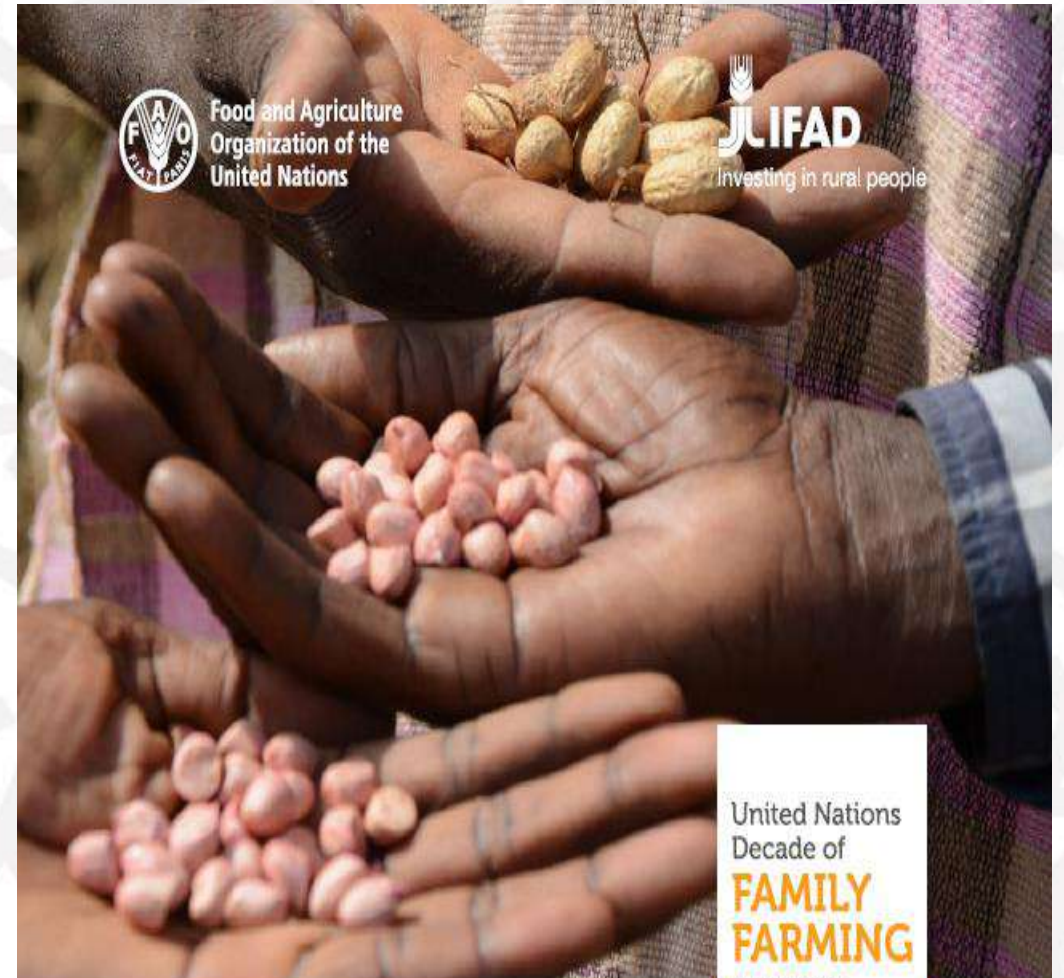






Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

## II. The UN Decade of Family Farming



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



Investing in rural people

United Nations  
Decade of  
**FAMILY  
FARMING**  
2019-2028



Putting Family Farmers  
at the Center  
to Achieve the SDGs





# Family farmers and the SDGs



**Family farmers can enable food systems that strengthen sustainable integration between urban and rural areas.** With innovative market solutions, people living in both rural and urban areas can enjoy healthy, nutritious, and safe food.



**Family farmers can contribute to transforming food systems to make them more sustainable.** Policies should support family farmers in reducing food loss and in managing natural resources in a sustainable and efficient manner.



**Family farmers can promote food systems that are more resilient to climate change.** Improving the ability of family farmers to adapt to climate-related shocks is a precondition for unleashing their potential.



**Family farmers can preserve biodiversity, environment and culture.** Safeguarding their cultural and natural heritage lies at the heart of this transformation.



**Reinforcing the capacity of family farmers and their organizations makes family farmers more able to serve their communities.** Recognition, voice and an enabling environment will support their potential as agents of change.

FF support  
the SDGs



## The SDGs support FF



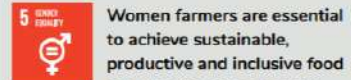
**Poor family farmers can shift from subsistence to creating income generation opportunities in rural areas.** Social protection policies and resilient livelihoods are key to exiting poverty traps and providing opportunities.



**Family farmers can implement resilient and highly productive agricultural practices that create income generation opportunities.** Policies to improve their access to natural resources, productive inputs and tailored services unleash their productive potential.



**Family farmers and their organizations can deliver inclusive rural services and contribute to territorial development.** Improved access to basic services and capacity development in rural areas is key to make family farmers agents of change.



**Women farmers are essential to achieve sustainable, productive and inclusive food systems.** Gender equality in terms of improved access to resources, technology, and a greater voice in decision-making is a key step towards creating the world we want.



**Family farmers enable diversified food systems that can create job opportunities in rural areas and positively affect rural-urban mobility, particularly for youth.** Access to infrastructure, technology, and to tailored innovations that meet their needs is what they need to improve our common future.



# Family farmers' potential towards sustainable food systems

- Family farmers can shift from subsistence to **creating income generation opportunities** in rural areas (**SDGs 1,10**).
- They enable **diversified food systems** that can create job opportunities and positively affect rural-urban mobility, particularly for **youth** (**SDGs 8, 9**).
- They promote food systems that strengthen sustainable integration between **urban and rural areas** (**SDG 11**).
- Family farmers and their organizations can deliver **inclusive rural services** and contribute to territorial development (**SDGs 3, 4, 6, 7**)...
- ...and promote **food systems** that are more **sustainable, resilient to climate change** and that preserve **biodiversity and culture** (**SDGs 2, 12, 13, 14, 15**).
- Recognition, voice and an enabling environment for family farmers will support their potential as agents of change (**SDGs 5, 10, 16, 17**).

# The UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 (UNDFFF)

- Serves as a framework for countries to **develop public policies and investments to support family farming from a holistic perspective**, thus contributing to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by unleashing their transformative potential.
- Leverages on family farmers' unique potential to promote transformative changes in food systems to fully achieve the SDGs.
- FAO and IFAD have been called to lead its implementation.





Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# The Global Action Plan of the UNDFP

- Results from a **wide consultation process** involving a range of relevant stakeholders.
- A guidance for all actors in building plans and strategies **from the global to the local level.**
- Recommends a series of **indicative and interconnected actions** following seven mutually reinforcing **pillars of work.**
- Actions are to be adapted and contextualized according to concrete regional, national and local (territorial) sociocultural and socioeconomic conditions.



# UNDFG Global Action Plan

Figure 2 Overall structure of the Global Action Plan

## Pillar 1

Develop enabling policy environment to strengthen family farming

Build and strengthen supportive policies, investments and institutional frameworks for family farming at local, national and international levels based on inclusive and effective governance and on timely and geographically-relevant data.

Guarantee sustained political commitment and investment by state and non-state actors. Create and strengthen international, national and local cooperation and partnerships with the view of promoting the rights and multifunctional role of family farming.

## Pillar 4

Strengthen family farmers' organizations and their capacities to generate knowledge, represent farmers' concerns and provide inclusive services in rural areas.

## Pillar 5

Improve socio-economic inclusion, resilience and well-being of family farmers, rural households and communities.

## Pillar 6

Promote sustainability of family farming for climate-resilient food systems.

## Pillar 7

Strengthen the multi-dimensionality of family farming to promote social innovations contributing to territorial development and food systems that safeguard biodiversity, environment and culture.

## Pillar 2

Support youth and ensure the generational sustainability of family farming

Ensure the generational sustainability of family farming through enabling youth accessing land, other natural resources, information, education, infrastructure and financial services, markets and policy-making processes related to farming. Benefiting from the intergenerational transfer of tangible and non-tangible farming assets, stimulate young farmers to interconnect traditional, local knowledge with innovative ideas to become the agent of inclusive rural development.

Strengthen the (self-)organization of family farmers within all rural institutions, including associations, cooperatives and civil society organizations, in order to foster their capacities as agents of change; enhance the generation and dissemination of knowledge and services to maintain economic, social, cultural and environmental diversity of rural areas in a harmonious interconnection with urban areas; and to enhance family farmer's meaningful participation in decision making processes at all levels.

Improve family farmers' livelihoods and enhance their resilience to multiple hazards; increase rural communities' access to basic social and economic services addressing the multiple social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities of family farmers and promoting the realization of human rights; facilitate and promote production diversification to reduce risks, improve the consumption of healthy and nutritious food, and expand and diversify family farmers' economic opportunities to access inclusive markets and food systems, to get adequate remuneration and returns on their investments.

Improve family farmers' access, responsible management and use of land, water and other natural resources to enhance sustainable and diversified production that improves resilience to climate change, fostering productivity and the economic viability of family farmers; promote a more enabling market environment for family farming to diversify their activities and create new employment opportunities in rural areas; value and promote indigenous and traditional knowledge; increase the availability of diverse, nutritious and culturally appropriate food contributing to sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems and to healthy diets in both rural and urban areas.

Fulfill family farmers' potential towards protecting the environment, preserving the diversity of ecosystem, genetic resources, culture and life; reinforcing markets that favour family farmers' services, production and processing with specific quality characterization; enable more diverse food consumption while increasing economic opportunities and preserving traditional practices and knowledge, and agricultural biodiversity, contributing to territorial development.

## Pillar 3

Promote gender equity in family farming and the leadership role of rural women

Support instruments and conducive actions for the achievement of women's rights and gender equality in food and agricultural production. Promote gender equality by reinforcing women's organizations, promoting self-empowerment, their own capacity development process and women's autonomy and agency, to increase access to and control over productive and financial resources, especially land, as well as access to information, social protection policies, markets, job opportunities, education, appropriate extension services, gender-friendly technology, and full participation in policy processes.





# From the GAP to National Action Plans

- NAPs are **contextualized frameworks** of action at national level for the support of family farming;
- Promote **inter-institutional cooperation** aimed at the integration of specific family farmers' issues into policies and strategies related to the wider food and agricultural sectors,
- Promote the integration of broader social and environmental sector considerations into dedicated policies for family farmers
- **10 NAPs** already approved: Dominican Republic, Gambia, **Indonesia**, Peru, Costa Rica, **Nepal**, Panama, **Philippines**, Brazil, Sierra Leone
- **14 countries** with **advanced processes** (drafting phase): **Bangladesh**, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Togo, DR Congo, Gabon, Congo Brazzaville, Kenya, **Kirgizstan**, Albania, Spain, Tunisia
- **27 countries** with progress in **mobilizing actors** for elaborating their NAPs
- **2625** FOs, NGOs, public institutions, academia engaged in the processes
- **1853** Family Farmers organizations and federations engaged

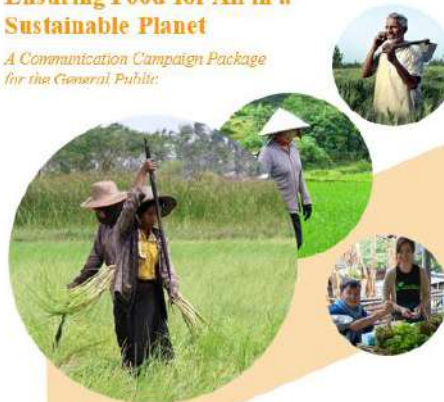


# III. Past achievements of UNDFP in the region



## Resilient Family Farming: Ensuring Food for All in a Sustainable Planet

A Communication Campaign Package for the General Public



### RURAL COMMUNICATION



#### Radio+ increased mobilization of agricultural knowledge in Sri Lanka

June 20, 2021

Media use in agriculture is an area of interest among sector members. In Sri Lanka, a group composed of staff from Rangin Radio, Department of Export Agriculture, Wayamba University and LURNEAsia, and researchers from the University of Alberta and the University of Guelph in Canada, aimed to know the affordances of adopting radio+ (broadcast radio combined with information and communication technologies). Specifically, the group wanted to explore radio+ as a

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### FAMILY FARMING

#### UNDFP-Philippine Action Plan for Family Farming



#### Launching of the UNDFP-Philippine Action Plan For Family Farming

July 19, 2021

The Philippines is set to launch its national action plan for Family Farming on 23 July, Wednesday, from 9:30AM to 5:00PM (Manila Time). This virtual event is organized by the Agriculture and Rural Development Knowledge and Policy Platform (AROKPP) as part of celebrating the decade for Filipino farmers. Known as the Philippine Action Plan for Family Farming or PAF4FF, this local framework put family farming at the center of policies, programs, and

### COMDEVASIA IN ACTION



# Main achievements in the region

## Raised awareness and promote UNDFE at the regional level

- Ministerial Session of the 35<sup>th</sup> FAO Asia Pacific Regional Conference (2020)
- Regional consultation on Engaging with Academia and Research Institutions to Support Family Farmers and Food System Transformation in Asia (Dec 2021)
- Side event on the implementation progress of the UNDFE at the 36<sup>th</sup> FAO APRC (March 2022)
- Regional consultation meeting on “Promoting Healthy, Sustainable and Inclusive Food Systems in Response to COVID -19 in South Asia” (March 2022)
- UNDFE communication campaigns with ComDevAsia: Country fact sheets about SAARC, Indonesia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Philippines, India & development of radio programs (2021, 2022)

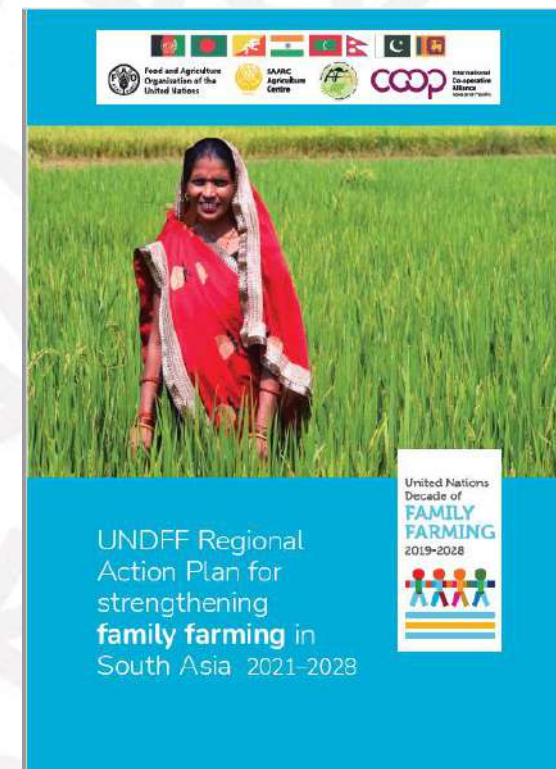
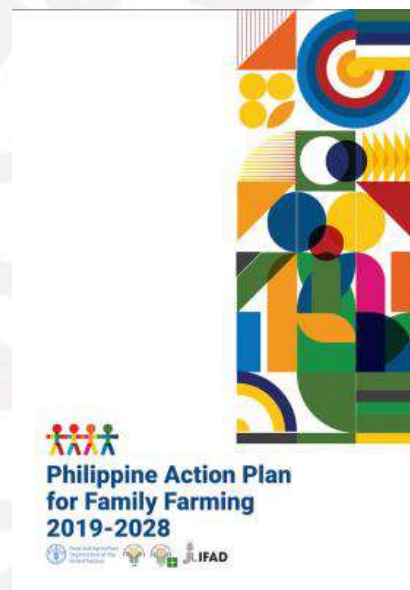




# Main achievements in the region

## Sub-regional and national headways

- Integration of UNDFE focused regional initiatives in the final draft of the ASEAN Master Plan on Rural Development for 2022-2027
- Development and publication of a Regional Action Plan for Family Farming by South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) (2021-2028)
- National Action Plans (NAP) being implemented at different stages in Indonesia, Nepal and Philippines; on-going mobilization to develop NAP is Bangladesh, India, Japan and Lao PDR





# Main achievements in the region

## Initiatives supporting Policy Actions for UNDFP

- Mapping & Analysis of FF related policies & legislations in 13 countries in Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa & Sri Lanka)
- Development of video illustrating the public policy cycle model
- Study on FF in the Pacific to better understand the role of FF in sustaining local food systems with the Pacific Islands Farmers Organization Network (PIFON)
- 6 Case studies in ASEAN about policies, strategies & programs successfully supporting FF with SEARCA & AsiaDHRRA (Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand)
- Regional piloting of the Southeast Asian Learning Framework on Inclusive, Integrated & Innovative Public Policy Cycles for Family Farming (with SEARCA, PROCASUR and FAO)







Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# IV. Key messages from the Regional Dialogue on Family Farming



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

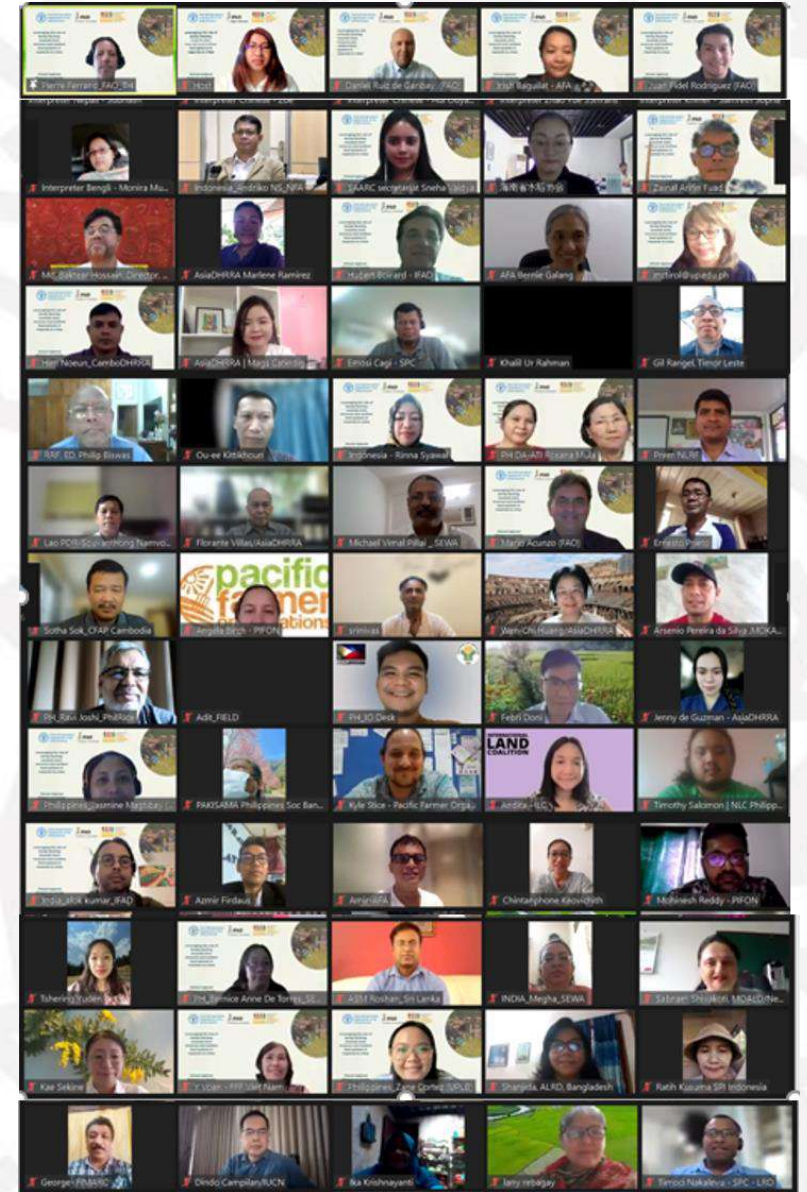


IFAD  
Investing in rural people



**Regional Dialogue on Family Farming in  
Asia-Pacific: Leveraging the role of family  
farming towards more inclusive and  
resilient food systems in response to crises**

**JUNE 29, 2022 / ZOOM  
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM BANGKOK TIME (GMT+8)**







# Family Farmers priorities in Asia Pacific

- Address vulnerability of family farmers to **climate change & natural disasters** to make family farming more resilient & sustainable
- Invest in improving **digital literacy** for better inclusion & participation of Family Farmers
- Strengthen **data collection** for Family Farmers & monitoring conducted by FFOs
- Strengthening FFOs capacities to **generate knowledge**, to **network** & establish **communication platform** / services
- Improve **access to markets** & inclusion in the value chains
- Provide & increase **access** to government **health care & social services/ protection**
- Capacity building of **young farmers** and economic interventions for young farmers
- Focus on capacity building on **sustainable practices & agroecological approaches**

# Lessons learned & key tools

- Important role of a **multi-stakeholder processes & platforms**
- Strong **partnerships & advocacy** by FFOs/CSOs with government at the national level on UNDF, to impact at regional level
- The importance of building confidence of **young farmers as frontliners** in UNDF implementation
- **Institutional mechanisms** helpful in amplifying young farmers' voices at policy level, their needs and challenges (Philippines)
- **Entrepreneurship promotion, technical capacity building and input support** for young farmers enable them to engage in farming activities (Nepal)
- **Rural Training Center** with holistic approach helpful to young people & single parent (Fiji/Solomon Islands)
- **Farmer Organisation Growth Tool (FOGT)** as basis of capacity building (Asia-Pacific)
- **Increasing Access to Finance for Farmers' Organisations** (Bangladesh) & training young farmers as business facilitators helped increase FO capacities to serve their members and cope with Covid-19 impacts.



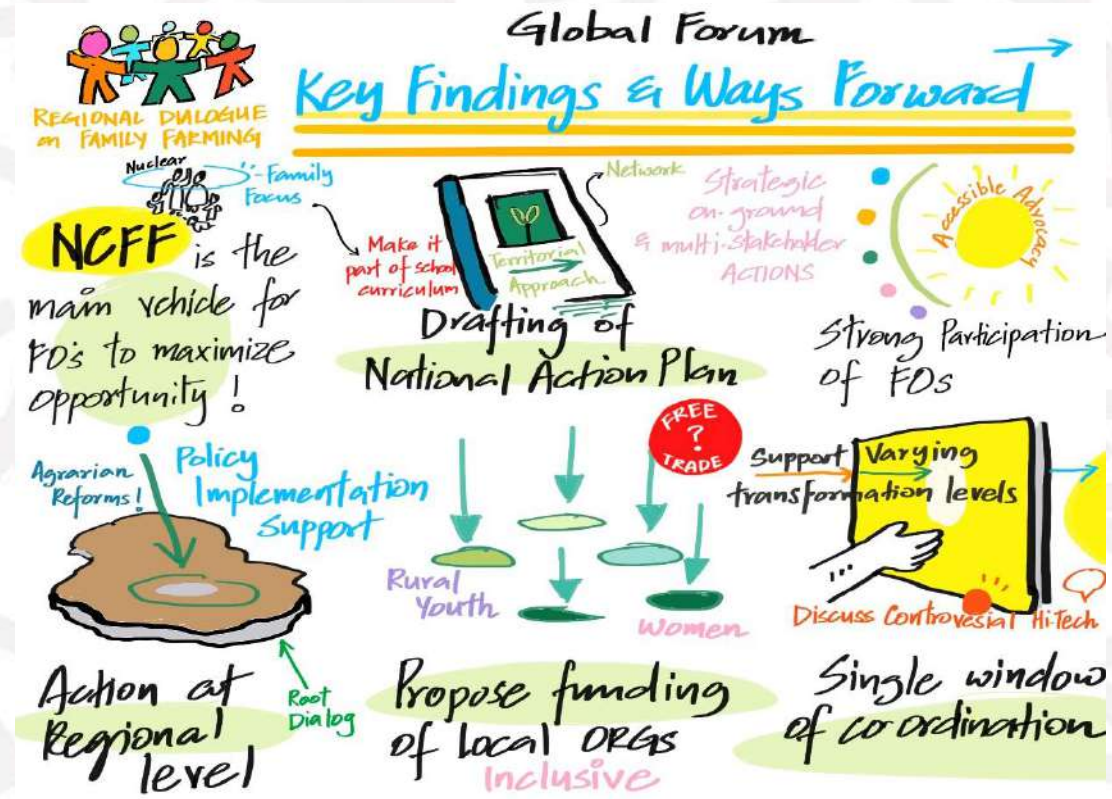
# Way forward & Recommendations

- Support **young farmers' mechanisms** so they can push for supportive policies (Magna Carta for Young Farmers)
- Develop **Public policies** in favor of family farmers, peasant farmers, fishers.
- Build the **leadership capacity** of young farmers & young farmers' mechanisms so they can take an active role in various spheres - organization, market, development programs at the territorial-level and policy processes.
- Strengthen & support **FOs and farmers' cooperatives** to be reliable conduit in providing easy access to services and financing in times of crises when other financial institutions are reluctant to take the risk.
- Support & **invest in agroecology, food sovereignty, climate resilient practices** and new approaches to agricultural research and extension such as partnerships with farmer organisations



# Way forward & Recommendations

- Support & invest in **traditional crops and production systems** which are, in general, relatively resilient to variations in climatic conditions including root crops, breadfruit and selected timber species
- Support **agri-enterprises** of women and young farmers
- Raise public awareness about UNDFP and UNDROP and push for ASEAN (and other regional inter-government bodies) resolution in support to UNDFP
- Establishment of **FO Empowerment Fund**







Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

**To go further and to  
connect better...**

# ComDevAsia



- A regional initiative that promotes Communication for Development (ComDev) in the Asia-Pacific region
- Promoted by FAO and involves AFA, CDC-UPLB, Digital Green, AMARC, SEWA
- Aims to build ComDev capacities & to support rural communication policies and services in the region
- Supports the implementation of a regional Participatory Communication Plan (PCP) within the framework of the UNDF (2019-2028)
- Encourages the use of participatory communication processes and local appropriation of information and communication technologies (ICT) to advance family farming, natural resources management, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, food security, gender mainstreaming and agricultural innovation.



## RURAL COMMUNICATION



### Radio+ increased mobilization of agricultural knowledge in Sri Lanka

June 20, 2021

Media use in agriculture is an area of interest among sector members. In Sri Lanka, a group composed of staff from Rangiri Radio, Department of Export Agriculture, Wayamba University and LIRNEAsia, and researchers from the University of Alberta and the University of Guelph in Canada aimed to know the affordances of adopting radio+ (broadcast radio combined with information and communication technologies). Specifically, the group wanted to explore radio+ as a:

## FAMILY FARMING

### UNDF-Philippine Action Plan for Family Farming



### Launching of the UNDF-Philippine Action Plan For Family Farming

July 19, 2021

The Philippines is set to launch its national action plan for Family Farming on 21 July, Wednesday, from 8:30AM to 5:00PM (Manila Time). This virtual event is organized by the Agriculture and Rural Development Knowledge and Policy Platform (AREKPP) as part of celebrating the decade for Filipino farmers. Known as the Philippine Action Plan for Family Farming or PAP4FF, this local framework put family farming at the center of policies, programs, and

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## COMDEVASIA IN ACTION



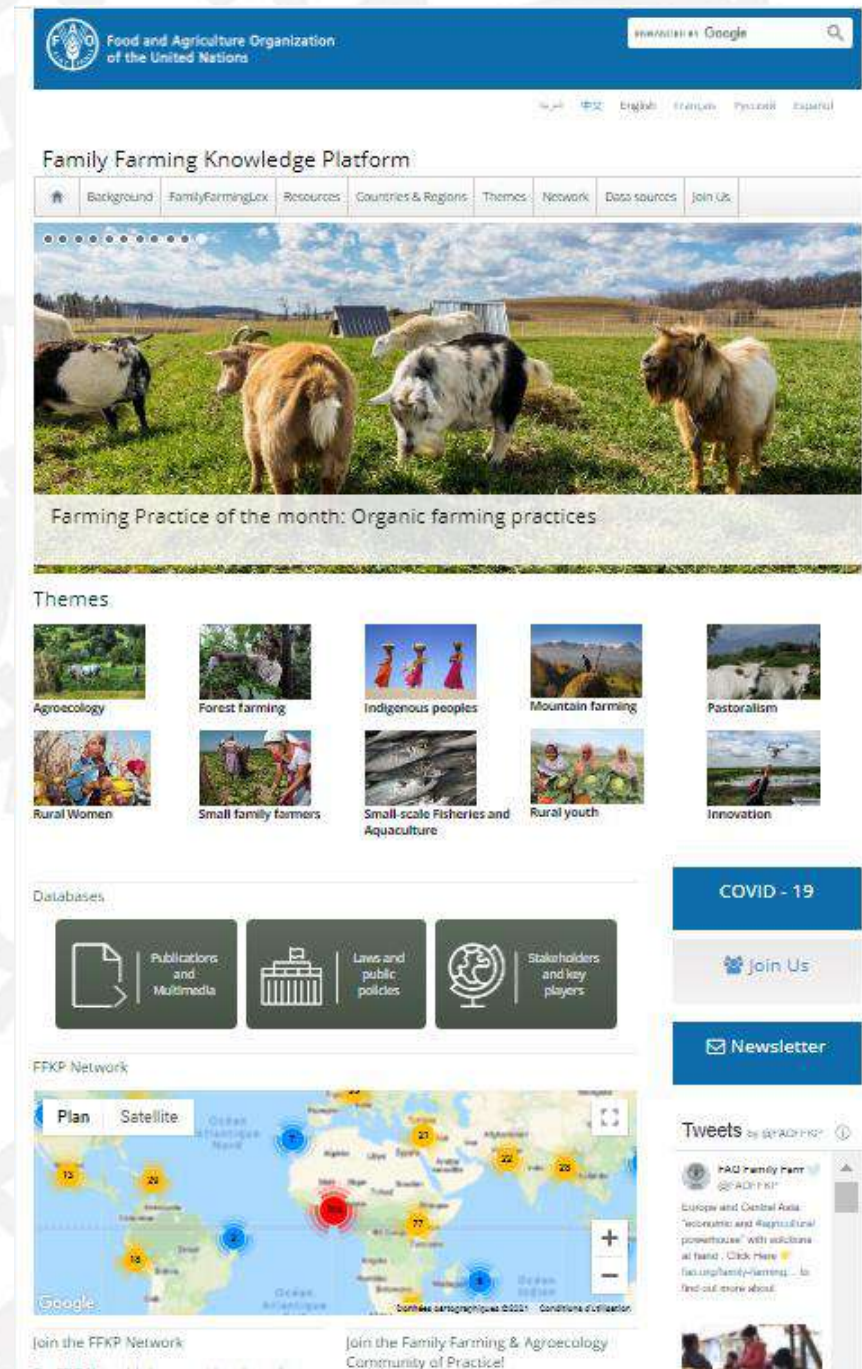
# FAO's Family Farming Knowledge Platform

FFKP gathers digitized quality information on family farming from all over the world; including national laws and regulations, public policies, best practices, relevant data and statistics, researches, articles and publications.

Follow us on Twitter  
**@FAOFFKP**



<http://www.fao.org/family-farming/home/en/>



# Community of Practices on Family Farming & Agroecology



- Platform for farmers' organizations, cooperatives, civil society organizations, research centres, NGOs, policymakers, decision-makers and the private sector working in family farming & agroecology
- Common goal of identifying opportunities and gaps to **promote a shift towards sustainable food systems**
- **Exchanges information** and ideas on family farming and agroecology **best practices, projects, lessons learned, initiatives, programmes, public policies, etc.**



Welcome to the Family Farming & Agroecology Community of Practice (CoP)

The Family Farming & Agroecology Community of Practice (CoP) provides a platform for farmers' organizations, cooperatives, civil society organizations, research centres, NGOs, policymakers, decision-makers and the private sector working in family farming and agroecology with the common goal of identifying opportunities and gaps to promote a shift towards sustainable food systems

This community exchanges information and ideas on family farming & agroecology best practices, projects, lessons learned, initiatives, programmes, public policies, etc. It is an open platform with moderated management

The community serves to:

- Share and co-create knowledge among stakeholders, with a particular focus on successful agricultural technologies and innovations, best practices and case studies on family farming and agroecology (in areas such as crop production, livestock production, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, post-harvest and marketing, natural resource management, nutrition and food security, capacity development, climate change and disaster risk reduction);
- Systematize practices and technologies to make them available to a wider audience through the Family Farming Knowledge Platform (FFKP) and the Agroecology Knowledge Hub (AKH);
- Foster knowledge and information dissemination for concrete actions and policy-making in support of family farming and agroecology;
- Encourage sharing and collaboration between practitioners;
- Disseminate information on events and other opportunities related to family farming and agroecology;
- Provide support to deal with shared challenges in family farming and agroecology-related issues;
- Support collective efforts to influence relevant policy areas; and
- Promote family farming and agroecology.

<https://dgroups.org/fao/familyfarming>





Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Thank you for your attention!

**Pierre Ferrand**, [Pierre.Ferrand@fao.org](mailto:Pierre.Ferrand@fao.org)

Agriculture Officer (Agroecology)

Regional focal point for Family Farming

FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand

