



UN Decade of Family Farming 2019–2028: Family farmers at the centre of the sustainable rural development agenda

Date and time: 14 February 2024, 13.45 – 14.45

Location: Italian Conference Room, IFAD (Floor -1)

Family farmers are the backbone of many rural economies across the world. In fact, of the 570 million farms worldwide, an estimated **90 per cent are smallholder family farms**.

Small and family-operated farms are involved in a variety of activities: they practice horticulture; they produce roots and tubers; they fish and raise livestock. Conversely most plantation-based crops, such as sugar and oil, are cultivated in less diverse landscapes and mainly by large-scale farms. Family farms are therefore critical to food and nutrition security, which is reflected in the fact that they **provide 80 per cent of the food consumed in a large part of the developing world**.

Considering that more than 2 billion people depend on family farming for their livelihoods and food security, the involvement of family farmers in food systems transformation is key.

The United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDF) 2019–2028 was officially and unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2017 (A/RES/72/239).

The year 2024 marks the midpoint of the Decade. Accordingly, this event will feature an interactive panel discussion aimed at highlighting the importance of supporting family farmers as the backbone of rural transformation and the sustainable agricultural development agenda. The session will be an opportunity to hear from family farmers and development partners about the progress made to date in the implementation of the UNDF as well as have a discussion on challenges, opportunities and experiences to inform how we can further partner together for the remaining four years of the Decade's Global Action Plan. The outcomes of the discussion will feed into the UNDF midterm forum being organized by the Joint FAO-IFAD UNDF Secretariat, which will take place in Rome on 16 October 2024.



Examples of guiding questions

- What are some key examples from your region/perspective of successful partnerships in support of family farmers?
- What can international organizations and international financial institutions do more of to support family farming?
- Where do we stand four years from the end of the Decade and what is missing for us to reach the Decade's goals?

Objective

To spotlight the key role that family farmers play in the context of the sustainable rural development agenda, with a particular focus on the importance of partnering with the UN Decade of Family Farming.

Run of show

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13.45 –
13.51

Opening remarks by Ron Hartman, Director, Global Engagement, Partnership and Resource Mobilization, IFAD

Keynote by H.E. Mario Arvelo, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to IFAD (*TBC*)

13.52 –
14.37

Interactive panel discussion

Moderator: Marco Camagni, Lead Global Technical Specialist, Rural Institutions, Sustainable Production, Markets and Institutions Division, IFAD

Panellists:

Laura Lorenzo, Director, World Rural Forum (WRF) (member of UNDRR International Steering Committee and recipient of IFAD grant to UNDRR)

Esther Penunia, Secretary-General, Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA) (*TBC*)

Ibrahima Coulibaly, President, Network of Farmers Organizations and Agricultural Producers of West Africa (ROPPA) and Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO) (*TBC*)



**GOVERNING
COUNCIL
2024**



	<p>Alberto Broch, President, Confederation of Family Producers' Organizations of Greater Mercosur (COPROFAM) <i>(TBC)</i></p> <p>Guilherme Brady, Head, Family Farming Engagement, Parliamentary Networks and Communication for Development Initiatives Unit, Joint FAO-IFAD UNDIFF Secretariat, FAO</p> <p>Davide Ceper, Chief Executive Officer, Varda</p>
<p>14.38 – 14.45</p>	<p>Wrap up by Marcela Villarreal, Director, Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division, FAO</p> <p>Closing Remarks by Moisés Morera Martín, First Secretary, Alternate Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations Agencies in Rome <i>(TBC)</i></p>



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