



Investing in rural people

Executive Board

President's report on a proposed grant under the global/regional window to FAO and the World Rural Forum to strengthen the role of family farmers' organizations in the United Nations Decade of Family Farming policy engagement processes

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Action: The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendation contained in paragraph 16.

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I. Background and compliance with the IFAD Regular Grants Policy

1. Producers' organizations and farmers' organizations (FOs) play a key role in enabling small-scale producers/family farmers to secure access to natural resources, advisory services and markets in a cost-effective manner and to participate in policy engagement. FOs also offer a space to engage marginalized groups (women, youth, pastoralists and Indigenous Peoples). IFAD was the first international financial institution/United Nations agency to recognize FOs as strategic partners, agreeing in 2005 to their request to establish the Farmers' Forum (FAFO). To date, FAFO is the largest and most inclusive bottom-up process in the multilateral system for engagement among smallholder FOs and rural producers, IFAD and its Member States.
2. Furthermore, in 2014, through [United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/239](#), 2019-2028 was declared the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDF). The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and IFAD committed to leading its implementation.
3. The proposed grant aims to ensure better, more targeted family farming policies, helping Member States develop, improve and implement public policies and investments in their projects. IFAD, together with FAO and the World Rural Forum (WRF), will support implementation of the UNDF by ensuring the participation of family farmers in policy and knowledge-sharing events, including the 2024 FAFO Global Meeting. The grant will support the UNDF's implementation activities in a first phase, specifically from November 2023 to December 2026, for a total of US\$1,000,000. Depending on the available resources and the success of a resource mobilization plan (see below), a second phase covering the 2026-2028 period is envisioned, with an additional budget allocation of US\$1,500,000, (through IFAD grant financing and other resources) to enable recipients to scale up activities, complete the project and cover the duration of the UNDF until 2028. Both phases will be covered by a resource mobilization plan, currently being developed under IFAD's leadership in collaboration with FAO and WRF, to ensure complementary coverage of funding needs for the period 2023-2028. An overlap between the two phases is foreseen to ensure synergies and avoid gaps in implementation.
4. The proposed programme is in line with the goals and objectives of the IFAD Regular Grants Policy (2021),¹ contributing specifically to strategic objective 2,² as well as the IFAD Strategic Framework 2016-2025 and the Twelfth and Thirteenth Replenishments of IFAD Resources. It also responds to IFAD's commitment as a joint implementer of the UNDF along with FAO.
5. The recipients – FAO and WRF – were identified through direct selection. The direct selection was approved by the Operational Strategy and Policy Guidance Committee Chair through a decision memorandum dated 6 September 2023. FAO has been directly selected as the physical host of the UNDF Joint Secretariat and IFAD partners in its management. WRF, a network representing more than

¹ See EB 2021/132/R3.

² Strategic objective 2: Foster a more conducive policy and investment environment for smallholder agriculture and rural development, including at the regional and global level.

35 million farmers worldwide, is an active member of the UNDF International Steering Committee and plays an active role in implementing the UNDF at the country level.

II. The proposed programme

6. The overall goal of the programme is to enable family FOs and their smallholder members to engage in policy dialogue with governments and other stakeholders through the UNDF and FAFO processes, so as to render policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks more supportive of sustainable and resilient family farming. The objectives are to: (i) elevate attention to the priority issues of family FOs and rural poor communities, such as climate change adaptation and mitigation activities, the preservation of biodiversity, land access, restoration and preservation and sustainable agricultural practices to ensure a balanced and nutritious diet, also relying on Indigenous knowledge, access to finance and markets, and the empowerment of youth and women; (ii) enhance visibility and recognition of the importance of small-scale family producers, family farmers and FOs for food system transformation and sustainable development and the need for targeted policies in their favour; and (iii) improve the policy framework in support of family farmers and their organizations in targeted countries.
7. UNDF and FAFO are inclusive and participatory policy engagement processes. This implies that the potential target beneficiaries of these global processes represent almost the entire population of family farms and FOs.
8. The programme will be implemented over 32 months and will have the following components:
 - (i) **Component 1.** Policymaking in support of family farmers, which will include in-country as well as global and regional work.
 - **Subcomponent 1.A.** Challenge grant.
 - **Subcomponent 1.B.** Global and regional work.
 - (ii) **Component 2.** Support for the activities of the UNDF Joint Secretariat to ensure its operation, as well as monitoring and reporting activities and visibility.
9. Through subcomponent 1.A, the programme will facilitate nationwide consultation workshops in 15 countries. The selection of countries and FOs to participate in the process is demand-driven,³ and the precise number of FOs and farmers covered will be determined after the selection. It is envisioned that, following this process, at least 10 policies will be proposed, developed or implemented at the country level.
10. Through subcomponent 1.B, the programme will engage with representatives from approximately 90 apex FOs at all levels. These organizations represent an enormous number of producers at the grassroots level across regions.⁴
11. Through component 2, the programme will support the UNDF Joint Secretariat and the UNDF's general engagement with 1,800 FOs worldwide.

³ This demand-driven type of request has also recently been received from the Government of Senegal to support the preparation of its National Action Plan for the United Nations Decade of Family Farming, which is a good example of how this grant could be instrumental in allowing IFAD to step into this strategic non-lending area.

⁴ Through FAFO, for example, globally recognized farmers' organizations (Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development, Coordinator of Family Farm Organizations, La Via Campesina, World Farmers' Organisation, Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmers Organisations, PanAfrican Farmers Organization and *Réseaux des Organisations Paysannes et Producteurs Agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest*) are seated on the steering committee, which has full decision-making power, with a potential target audience that covers all affiliated organizations (including associations, unions, federations and cooperatives affiliated with national and regional member organizations). A steering committee is also established in each region with the participation of the affiliated national organizations.

III. Expected outcomes/outputs

12. The programme is expected to have the following outcomes/outputs:
- (i) Policymaking capacity of National Committees for Family Farming (NCFE),⁵ FOs and government institutions improved and activated;
 - (ii) Partnership and collaboration with FOs strengthened, capacity built, experiences shared, engagement in policy dialogue and operations reinforced; and
 - (iii) UNDFE Joint Secretariat promotion and support for meaningful FO and Member State participation in UNDFE governance.

IV. Implementation arrangements

13. The recipients will sign two separate contribution agreements with IFAD for programme implementation and will act as the sole counterparts to IFAD, bearing all contractual and operational liabilities as defined in the contribution agreements. The programme managers will be IFAD's primary point of contact for all coordination, planning and administration.
14. There are no deviations from the standard procedures for financial reporting and audits. Audit and financial reporting are to be defined accordingly in the contribution agreement.

V. Indicative programme costs and financing

15. The total programme cost is US\$1,000,000, of which US\$800,000 will be allocated to WRF and US\$200,000 to FAO. Furthermore, WRF will provide US\$225,000, while FAO/UNDFE Joint Secretariat will provide US\$3,964,369 as their cash/in-kind contribution for the duration of the programme. For the first phase covered under this grant, a single instalment is envisioned for each recipient.

Table 1
Costs by component and financier
 (United States dollars)

<i>Components</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>WRF (cash/in-kind)</i>	<i>FAO (in-kind) UNDFE Joint Secretariat (cash)</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Policymaking in support of family farmers (implementer: WRF)				
1.A. Challenge grant	390 000			390 000
1.B. Global and regional work	410 000	225 000		635 000
2. Support to the UNDFE Joint Secretariat (implementer: FAO)	200 000		3 964 369	4 164 369
Total	1 000 000	225 000	3 964 369	5 189 369

⁵ NCFEs are composed of FOs, United Nations system agencies, cooperation agencies, academia, research institutions, consumers' organizations, NGOs, media and, in some cases, government entities or agencies, in cooperation with the main agents connected with family farming in a particular country, to contribute to an enabling policy environment to strengthen family farming.

Table 2
Costs by expenditure category and financier
 (United States dollars)

<i>Expenditure category</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>WRF (cash/in-kind)</i>	<i>FAO (in-kind) UNDF Joint Secretariat (cash)</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Consultants	8 000		69 000	77 000
2. Travel and allowances	62 000		100 000	162 000
3. Goods, services and inputs	5 000		277 140	282 140
4. Workshops and events	472 000	125 000	99 000	696 000
5. Personnel costs	128 000	100 000	3 419 229	3 647 229
6. NCFE subgrants	325 000			325 000
Total	1 000 000	225 000	3 964 369	5 189 369

VI. Recommendation

16. I recommend that the Executive Board approve the proposed grants in terms of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the programme to strengthen the role of family farmers' organizations in the United Nations Decade of Family Farming policy engagement processes, shall provide a total of one million United States dollars (US\$1,000,000), of which two hundred thousand United States dollars (US\$200,000) will be allocated to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and eight hundred thousand United States dollars (US\$800,000) to the World Rural Forum, documented through two separate contribution agreements, for a thirty-two month period upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.

Alvaro Lario
 President

Results-based logical framework

	Objectives hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Goal	Enable Family Farmers' Organizations (FOs) and their smallholder members, to engage in policy dialogue with Governments and other stakeholders, through the UNDF and FAFO processes, in order to render policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks more supportive of sustainable and resilient family farming.	- Number of FOs and Family Farmers engaged in the implementation of the UNDF agenda WRF target: at least 200 FOs representing over 35 million Family Farmers engaged in the implementation of the UNDF agenda	- Reports and meetings	FOs and Family Farmers high and continued interest in being engaged in the development of policies in their favour Government willingness to support policy making processes in favour of FOs and Family Farmers
Objectives	1. Elevate attention to the priority issues for Family FOs and rural poor communities such as: climate change adaptation and mitigation actions, preservation of biodiversity, land access, restoration and preservation, sustainable agricultural practices to ensure a balanced and nutritious diet also relying on indigenous knowledge, access to finance and markets, and empowerment of youth and women	- 3 outreach and communication activities targeting at least 3,000 FOs, NGOs, governments, IGOs, etc. of the five continents	- Key messages, publications and reports released	High commitment and sense of ownership from relevant international institutions and governments to invest in family farming policies
	2. Enhance visibility and recognition of the importance of small-scale family producers, Family Farmers and FOs for food systems transformation and sustainable development and the need for targeted policies in their favour.	- 45 events, forum and workshop including Family Farmers, FOs and small-scale family producers	- Event reports	Interest from the broader international community about the importance of the role of Family Farmers and FOs in the development space
	3. Improve policy framework in support of Family Farmers and their organizations in targeted countries.	- At least 10 policies proposed, developed or implemented at country level	- Reports from NCFs	Buy-in from Governments and international institutions in targeted countries to support policy making and policy improvement processes for Family Farmers
	4. Ensure the functioning of multi-stakeholder governance mechanism for supporting the implementation of the UNDF	- number of UNDF ISC meetings Target 7	- ISC reports	N/A
Outcomes/ outputs	1. Policymaking capacity of National Committees on Family Farming (NCF), FOs and Government institutions improved and actioned	- At least 20 capacity building activities developed - At least 10 experience-sharing events/session/workshop organized - At least 15 seminars and forums for policy dialogue organized - At least 10 roadmaps, proposals, plans, policies on Family farming elaborated/adopted	- NCFs reports - WRF Reports	Buy-in from Governments and international institutions in targeted countries to support policy making and policy improvement processes for Family Farmers
	2. Partnership and collaboration with FOs strengthened, capacity built, experiences shared,	Global Conference on Family Farming Sustainability of the Planet:	- WRF Reports	Continued collaboration with FOs and Family Farmers

	Objectives hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
	engagement in policy dialogue and operations reinforced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 experience-sharing events/session/workshop organized - 2 high level events and 4 roundtables for policy dialogue organized 		
	3. Ensure that the UNDF Secretariat promotes and supports Family FOs and Members States meaningful participate in the governance of the UNDF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promotes and supports Family FOs and Members States meaningful participate in the governance of the UNDF Target: 8 FFOs per meeting - Number Members States participating in UNDF activities Target: 10 MS per meeting 	- UNDF biennial report to UNGA	Continued buy-in and support from Member States
Key activities by component	<p>Component 1: Policy making in support of Family Farmers</p> <p>A. In country work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a Challenge Grant to allow NCCFs to receive funding for the development of National Action Plans, development and/or implementation of policies supporting family farming - Support the awarded NCCFs and implementing partners <p>B. Global and regional work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organization of a Global Conference on Family Farming - Develop and promote communication products - Support the organization of the 2024 Global Meeting of the IFAD FAFO 	<p>A. In country work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 25 challenge application received - 10 challenge grants awarded - 10 policy processes developed and/or supported through the challenge grant <p>B. Global and regional work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 150-200 FOs, Family Farmers, Governments and International Agencies participating to the conference and the FAFO - 3 communication products developed 	<p>A. In country work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Challenge grant reports - Recipients reports <p>B. Global and regional work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conferences reports - Publications 	Continued interested of Family Farmers and FOs in engaging in policy making and implementation processes Continued support by implementing Governments
	Component 2: Support the activities of the UNDF Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of UNDF ISC meetings organized - Number of reports developed Target: 7 ISC meeting and relative reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting Reports - Implementation Reports 	Continued buy-in and financial support from Member States