
President's report on a proposed contribution grant to FAO and the World Rural Forum to strengthen the role of family farmers' organizations in the United Nations Decade on Family Farming policy engagement processes – Second phase

Project ID: 2000005678 (FAO); 2000005679 (WRF)

Document: EB 2025/LOT/G.6

Date: 14 November 2025

Distribution: Public

Original: English

FOR: APPROVAL

Action: The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendation contained in paragraph 15.

Technical questions:

Maija Peltola

Senior Partnership Officer
Global Engagement, Partnership and Resource
Mobilization Division
e-mail: m.peltola@ifad.org

Marco Camagni

Lead Global Technical Specialist, Rural Institutions
Sustainable Production, Markets and Institutions
Division
e-mail: m.camagni@ifad.org

President's report on a proposed contribution grant to FAO and the World Rural Forum to strengthen the role of family farmers' organizations in the United Nations Decade on Family Farming policy engagement processes – Second phase

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 and 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 with marginalized groups (women, youth, pastoralists and Indigenous Peoples). IFAD was the first international financial institution and United Nations specialized agency to recognize FOs as strategic partners, agreeing in 2005 to their request to establish the Farmers' Forum (FAFO). To date, the 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 (UNOFF). The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and IFAD committed to leading its implementation.
3. The proposed grant seeks to strengthen and better target family farming policies by supporting Member States in developing, enhancing and implementing public policies and investments. It builds on a previous IFAD grant¹ of US\$1,000,000 to FAO and the World Rural Forum (WRF), and constitutes the second phase of that grant initiative to extend support for the UNOFF, which runs until 2028. This new phase will ensure continuity, foster synergies and prevent gaps in implementation, while scaling up successful activities and expanding them to additional countries for broader impact. The grant has two main components: (i) policymaking in support of family farmers at national and global/regional level: support to NCCFs through the Challenge Fund Grant (implementer: WRF); and (ii) support for the activities of the UNOFF Joint Secretariat to ensure its operations, as well as monitoring and reporting activities, and visibility (implementer: FAO). Together, these components aim to increase the recognition of family farmers as key actors in policy processes that affect them.
4. The proposed programme is in line with the goal and objectives of the IFAD Regular Grants Policy (2021),² contributing specifically to strategic objective 2; the IFAD Strategic Framework 2016–2025; and the commitments of the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources. It also responds to IFAD's commitment to implement the UNOFF jointly with FAO.
5. The recipients were identified through direct selection and are the same as those for phase one – FAO and the WRF. This will ensure continuity and foster synergies. FAO is the physical host of the UNOFF Joint Secretariat, while IFAD partners in its management. WRF is a network representing more than 35 million farmers worldwide. It is a member of the UNOFF International Steering Committee and plays an active role in implementing the UNOFF at the country level.

¹ EB 2023/LOT/G.3/Rev.1.

² EB 2021/132/R.3.

II. The proposed programme

6. The overall goal of the programme is to enable family farms and FOs to engage in policy dialogue through the UNDIFF process, making policy, regulatory, and institutional frameworks more supportive of sustainable and resilient family farming. The objective is to elevate recognition of the role of family farmers in addressing global food insecurity and contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals, reinforcing policies to support them, while focusing on capacity-building to ensure sustainability and improve the policy framework in support of family farmers and their organizations in targeted countries.
7. The UNDIFF is an inclusive and participatory policy engagement process. This implies that the potential grant participants represent almost the entire population of family farms and FOs.
8. The programme will be implemented over 18 months and will have the following components:
 - (a) **Component 1:** Policymaking in support of family farmers at national and global/regional level: support to NCFFs through the Challenge Fund Grant (implementer: WRF).
 - (b) **Component 2:** Support for the activities of the UNDIFF Joint Secretariat to ensure its operations, as well as monitoring and reporting activities, and visibility (implementer: FAO).
9. Through component 1, the grant will support the WRF in launching the sixth edition of the Challenge Fund for National Committees of Family Farming. The objective is to strengthen NCFF's capacity to actively and effectively engage in policy dialogue, in order to contribute to the development and implementation of the Decade's National Action Plans and other policies in favour of family farming. This will help countries advance towards more inclusive and resilient food systems while building on the achievements of the previous grant phase. A call for proposals will be issued, after which the Challenge Fund Award Committee will select winning initiatives, either from new countries or from countries that participated in the first phase and are seeking to scale up successful initiatives. Each selected NCFF will receive a sub-grant from WRF of up to US\$30,000.
10. Through component 2, the programme will support the UNDIFF Joint Secretariat and the UNDIFF's general engagement with 1,800 FOs worldwide.

III. Expected outcomes/outputs

11. The programme is expected to have the following outcomes/outputs:
 - (a) Enhanced policymaking capacity of NCFFs, FOs and government institutions and increased recognition of family farmers' role.
 - (b) Strengthened role of the UNDIFF Secretariat in facilitating FOs and Member States' participation in UNDIFF governance.

IV. Implementation arrangements

12. 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 coordination, planning and administration.
13. 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

14. IFAD's total contribution amounts to US\$550,000, of which US\$400,000 will be allocated to WRF and US\$150,000 to FAO. Furthermore, WRF will provide a contribution of US\$50,000 (in cash and in kind) for the duration of the programme. A single instalment is envisioned for each recipient, and two separate contribution agreements will be signed.

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

<i>Components</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>WRF (cash / in kind)</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Policymaking in support of family farmers at national and global/regional level: support to NCFFs through the Challenge Fund Grant (implementer: WRF)	400 000	50 000	450 000
2. Support for the activities of the UNDDF Joint Secretariat to ensure its operations, as well as monitoring and reporting activities, and visibility (implementer: FAO)	150 000		150 000
Total	550 000	50 000	600 000

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

<i>Expenditure category</i>	<i>IFAD (FAO implementing)</i>	<i>IFAD (WRF implementing)</i>	<i>WRF (cash/in kind)</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Consultants	50 800			50 800
2. Travel and allowances	57 800	2 000	2 000 (cash)	61 800
3. Goods and services	17 400		10 000 (cash)	27 400
4. Workshops and events	24 000	28 000		52 000
5. Personnel costs		100 000	38 000 (in kind)	138 000
6. NCFF subgrants		270 000		270 000
Total	150 000	400 000	50 000	600 000

VI. Recommendation

15. 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, strengthening the role of family farmers role in the United Nations Decade on Family Farming policy engagement processes, shall provide a total of five hundred and fifty thousand United States dollars (US\$550,000), of which US\$150,000 will be allocated to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and US\$400,000 to the World Rural Forum for an 18-month period (within 2026–2027) 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 through the UNDIFF process, making policy, regulatory, and institutional frameworks more supportive of sustainable and resilient family farming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of FOs and Family Farmers engaged in the implementation of the UNDIFF Global Action Plan. WRF Target: at least 200 FOs representing over 35 million Family Farmers engaged in the implementation of the UNDIFF Global Action Plan. 	Reports and regular meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 recognition and visibility of the role Family Farmers play in addressing global food insecurity and the SDGs, reinforcing policies to support them, while focusing on capacity-building to ensure their sustainability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 outreach and communication activities targeting at least 2,000 FOs, NGOs, governments, IGOs, etc. (overall) of the five continents. At least 10 policies proposed, developed or implemented at country level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WRF Reports NCFF Reports 	High commitment and sense of ownership from relevant international institutions and governments to invest in family farming policies
	2. Ensure the functioning of multi-stakeholder governance mechanism for supporting the implementation of the UNDIFF	Number of UNDIFF ISC Meetings (Target: 2 per year)	ISC Reports	Continued buy-in and financial support by Member States
Outcomes/ outputs	1.Enhanced policymaking capacity of National Committees on Family Farming (NCFF), FOs, and Government institutions, with an increased recognition of family farmers' role.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 20 capacity building activities developed At least 15 seminars and forums for policy dialogue organized At least 10 roadmaps, proposals, plans, policies on Family Farming elaborated/adopted 1 Closing global event of the UNDIFF to take stocks of results, share best practices and outline next steps beyond 2028. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WRF Reports NCFF Reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buy-in from Governments and international institutions in targeted countries to support policy making and policy improvement processes for Family Farmers Continued collaboration with FOs and Family Farmers
	2.Strengthened UNDIFF Secretariat role facilitating FOs and Member States' participation in UNDIFF governance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two ISC Meetings per year, with at least one in-person in Rome 	UNDFF Secretariat meeting minutes	Continued buy-in and support from Member States.

	Objectives hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and report UNDFF implementation to UNGA, with at least one report presented each year • Support to the preparation to the closing of the UNDFF, including 1 final report and 1 stock-take. 	UNDFF Secretariat reports	
Key activities by component	Component 1: Policy making in support of Family Farmers: Challenge Fund Grant -Development of a Challenge Grant to allow NCFFs to receive funding for the development of National Action Plans, development and/or implementation of policies supporting family farming -Support the awarded NCFFs and implementing partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 challenge application received • 12 challenge grants awarded • 10 policy processes developed and/or supported through the challenge grant 	WRF Reports NCFFs Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued interest of Family Farmers, FOs and NCFFs in engaging in policy making and implementation processes. • Continued support by implementing partners
	Component 2: Support the activities of the UNDFF Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of UNDFF ISC meetings organized • Target: 2 ISC meeting and relative reports per year • Number of reports developed • Support to other events/initiatives/publications focused on UNDFF • Other events on a needs-basis. 	Meeting Reports Implementation Reports	Continued buy-in and financial support from Member States