



**PART 4**

**THE FARMERS' FORUM IN ASIA & THE PACIFIC REGION**

**CONSULTATIONS IN 2005**

**SURVEY RESULTS FROM THE CONSULTATIONS (OCT. & DEC. 2005)**



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**PART 4: SURVEY RESULTS FROM THE CONSULTATIONS (OCT. & DEC. 2005)**

**A. Introduction**

1. In order to get a better understanding on a number of important issues, IFAD's Asia and the Pacific Division prepared a questionnaire that was distributed to all participants during the national and regional consultations with Farmers' Organizations. Initially, this questionnaire had been meant to be sent, filled up and analyzed prior to the consultations, but for technical or logistical reasons (mostly, difficult communication with Farmers' Organizations), this could not be done. The questionnaires were therefore distributed during the consultations in all three instances and returned to IFAD staff at the end of the workshops.

2. The questions were articulated around the following topics: (a) FOs' level of familiarity with IFAD and their former involvement with the Fund; (b) The objectives, roles, membership base, network affiliation and capacity needs of participating FOs; (c) Their views on the national the legal framework governing the creation and work of FOs and on their level of involvement in national consultative processes; (d) Their views on the constraints in the policy and legal framework governing access to productive natural resources.

3. The results of these three surveys provide some useful additional insights on some of the same issues that have been discussed during the national and regional consultations, but also on the FOs themselves. Results are presented in the following chapters.

**B. Regional Survey**

**Level of familiarity with IFAD**

4. **Familiarity with IFAD:** All participating organizations knew about IFAD prior to their participation in the regional consultation. This should however not be interpreted as a sign of the Fund's notoriety in Asia. Indeed, 50% of the organizations that had participated in the national consultation in the Philippines did not know about IFAD prior to attending the workshop; while very few of the organizations invited to participate in the national consultation in Sri Lanka knew about the Fund. The fact that all the participants invited to the regional consultation previously knew about IFAD is actually explained by the process by which the participating FOs have been identified (either because they had been involved in the national consultations; or IFAD Farmers' Forum in Rome; or in one of IFAD-funded projects).

5. **Prior involvement with IFAD-funded projects:** 60% of participating organizations (or seven FOs) were not familiar with any specific IFAD-funded programmes –past or present- being implemented in their countries. While the majority (75% or 9 FOs) reported not having been ever involved in the work of one IFAD-funded project, three of them reported such an involvement (namely with the P4K in Indonesia; the Microfinance programme for rural women in Nepal; and the LBP/PCFC Microfinance project in the Philippines). More generally, when asked whether they had ever been consulted by an IFAD staff, eight FOs (or 67% of total) replied negatively. The four organizations that replied positively mentioned that they had been consulted during the launching of IFAD Rural Poverty Report (AsiaDHRRA, the Philippines); at the occasion of the February 2005 consultation towards a Farmers' Forum at IFAD Governing Council (ANPA, Nepal); during the supervision and M&E mission for an IFAD-funded project (OCFFING, Indonesia) and finally through an e-mail correspondence on organic farming in the Pacific, leading up to the formulation of an IFAD-

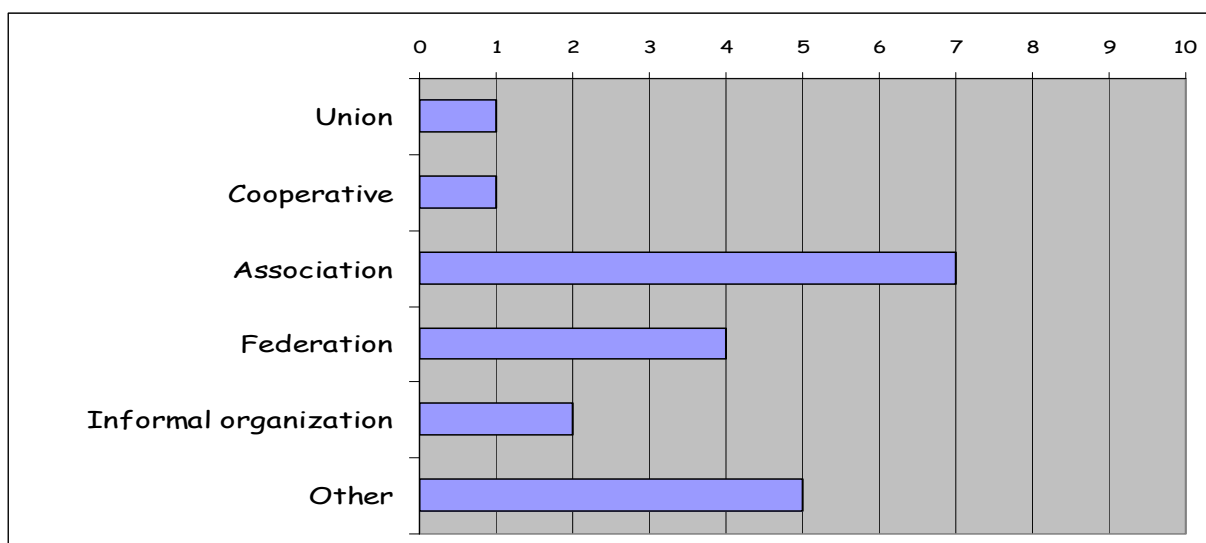


funded project (WIBDI, Samoa). Finally, only one organization claimed to have been consulted by an IFAD consultant during the preparation of an IFAD project.

### Farmers Organisation Profiles

6. **Types of organizations:** As shown in the graph below, the majority of participating organizations were associations (seven participating organizations or some 60% of total), followed by federations of Farmers' Associations (four or some 33% of total). Of the remaining, a variety of types of organizations were represented: a union, a cooperative, a regional network of NGOs, an NGO and a regional alliance of associations.

**Chart 1 – Participating organizations by type**



4. **Date of creation:** The table below shows the date at which participating organizations were created. Again, there is a variety of situations: two participating organizations have been in existence for more than 50 years; two others for more than 30 years; one for more than 20 year; five for 10 years or less.

**Table 1 – Date of creation**

Date of creation	Organization – Country
50s	ANPA (Nepal); FFF (Philippines)
70s	AsiaDHRA (Philippines); Ocffing (Indonesia)
80s	Pakisama (Philippines)
90s	WIBDI (Samoa); CARD (Bangladesh); CAMFAD (Cambodia)
2000s	SorKorPor (Thailand); AFA (Philippines)

4. **Legal status:** The overwhelming majority of participating organizations have a legal status; in fact, the only one that does not yet have one –but is in the process of being legally registered- is AFA (The Philippines), an organization that was created recently (March 2002).

4. **Membership base:** As shown in the above chart, the membership base of the majority of participating organizations comprises farmers (both men and women), followed by micro-entrepreneurs, rural women, fisher folks, indigenous people and male farmers only.



Chart 2 – Membership base



10. In terms of the size of the membership base, the five following categories can be identified:
- **Very large organizations:** two organizations have a membership base of, respectively, 600,000 and 8 million members, namely ANPA-Nepal -an organization established in the 50s- and AFA-Philippines - an organization belonging to an international network active in 7 countries.
  - **Large organizations:** FFF (Philippines) and OCFING (Indonesia) belong to this category, with 250,000 and over 347,000 members respectively. Both were created more than 30 years ago.
  - **Medium organizations:** with a membership base ranging from 11,000 to 40,000 (Pakisama-Philippines; SorKorPor-Thailand; CAMFAD-Cambodia)
  - **Small organizations:** with a membership base of 2,000 members (WIBDI-Samoa)
  - **Micro-organizations:** CARD-Bangladesh with some 200 members.

11. **Network affiliation:** Regarding their affiliation to a wider network, four organizations (or 40%) are part of a regional network and three (or 30%) of an international network, while the remaining (30% of total) do not have such affiliation.

### Objectives, role and services

12. **Roles of participating FOs:** Participating organizations describe their role in a variety of ways, including: promoters and catalysts for partnerships; facilitators of human resources development; farmers' advocates; intermediaries between farmers and governments and between farmers and donors; agricultural markets developers; rural livelihoods' developers; promoters of farmers' self-reliance; promoters of women empowerment; capacity builders; promoters of business opportunities for farmers; etc.

13. **Objectives pursued by participating FOs:** Participating organizations reported pursuing a variety of objectives. The two main distinctions that need to be made are the following: whether the organization is an apex one (in which case its mandate is primarily geared towards offering services to affiliated organizations); or whether the organization operates at the grassroots level (in which case its



mandate is primarily geared towards offering services to farmer members). With this distinction in mind, the main objectives pursued by the participating organizations can be clustered as follows:

#### Main objectives of apex organizations:

<p><b>Partnerships development:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To strengthen partnerships between affiliated organizations</li> </ul> <p><b>Advocacy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To advocate and promote sound policies based on grassroots experiences</li> <li>To develop and promote a holistic resource mobilization model</li> <li>To promote the rights of farmers</li> <li>To promote cooperation and solidarity among Asian farmers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Capacity building:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To strengthen the institutional capacities of affiliated organizations</li> <li>To strengthen the capacities of the affiliated organizations' leaders</li> <li>To build the capacities of FOs in advocacy, organizational development, management, enterprise development, etc.</li> </ul>
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#### Main objectives of grassroots organizations:

<p><b>Service provision:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide services to members</li> <li>To address problems faced by farmers</li> </ul> <p><b>Advocacy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote and advocate the rights of farmers</li> <li>To advocate for equitable agrarian reforms</li> <li>To advocate for food sovereignty</li> </ul> <p><b>Information sharing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To share knowledge</li> <li>To share information</li> </ul> <p><b>Capacity building:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide training to farmer</li> <li>To develop farmers' skills</li> </ul>	<p><b>Livelihoods development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote agricultural activities</li> <li>To increase agricultural production</li> <li>To promote self-reliance of farming communities</li> <li>To promote participatory research and development</li> <li>To increase farmers' access to markets</li> <li>To strengthen access to common property resource</li> <li>To improve farmers' standards of life</li> <li>To protect the environment</li> </ul> <p><b>Empowerment/solidarity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote cooperation and solidarity among farmers</li> <li>To empower farmers</li> </ul>
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4. **Services offered:** Participating organizations reported offering a variety of services to their members, including: organization of training programmes; provision of information; provision of technical assistance; provision of agricultural extension services; support to farmers' groups formation; construction of small rural infrastructure; procurement of agricultural inputs; facilitation of linkages between rural producers and markets; provision of micro-finance services; information on danger of chemicals and fertilizers; facilitation of certification process for organic farmers; etc.

#### Major constraints faced by FOs and capacity needs

4. **Internal constraints:** The main internal constraints that were reported by participating organizations can be summarized as follows:

- **Financial resources:** Not surprisingly, the lack of financial resources is amongst the most often cited constraints that FOs face. This both refers to the financial resources needed to run and operate the organization itself (e.g. administrative budget), as well as the resources needed to finance services to members or advocacy-type of activities. Some FOs also reported the problem of members not always paying their fees on time.
- **Human resources:** Many FOs reported that they lack adequate human resources, both in terms of number of staff and staff capacities/skills/expertise.
- **Lack of expertise:** Some FOs find it difficult to keep up-to-date with technological evolution, which makes it in turn difficult for them to transfer know-how and modern technologies to



farmer members. Also, some FOs regret not being able to maintain proper data-base, for lack of financial resources, as well as not being able to fulfill members' requests for documented good practices.

- **Lack of transportation and communication means:** Since FOs need to stay in close contact with their members, they need to be able to communicate fast and efficiently with them; yet, many FOs lack transportation and communication means.

4. **External constraints:** The main external constraints faced by FOs can be summed up as follows:

- **Lack of a favorable legal framework:** Some FOs report an unfavorable legal framework that is either a constraint to their institutional development or causes complicated bureaucratic requirements. Often, it seems, the extent to which the legal framework is conducive is a direct function of the extent to which citizens enjoy democratic rights.
- **Limited capacities of members:** Many FOs report weak capacities of their members as a major constraint. This may relate to farmers' lack of financial resources (which may prevent them from participating in certain FOs activities such as meetings or training events), lack of basic skills (which makes it difficult for them to understand new concepts). Other such types of constraints relate to language barriers or farmers' resistance to change.
- **Political interference:** In some countries, FOs have to resist attempts of political interference in their work, or sometimes, attempts of destabilization of the organization by vested interests. Some FOs also reported attempts by government to use them for political purposes or for the implementation of ill-defined government programmes.
- **Competition with NGOs:** Many FOs see national or international NGOs as competitors. This relates to competition for external donors' or government's resources, competition to "enroll" farmers in specific programmes, or competition vis à vis service provision (especially in the area of microfinance).

4. **Capacity needs:** To the question "What are the areas where your organization would need increased capacities?" respondents have identified an impressive number of training needs. These can be clustered in the following categories:

- **Management:** Information technologies; Monitoring and evaluation; Resources mobilization; Management and leadership; Advocacy; Project proposals development; Computer skills.
- **Specialized/technical topics:** Agricultural research; Agricultural production technology; Enterprise development; Cooperative management; Seeds certification and quality control; Marketing; Agricultural produce transformation and value-addition; Microfinance.
- **Policy-related topics:** Assessing impact of regional policies on small farmers; Dissemination of good practices and information; Formulation of alternatives to unbridled trade liberalization; Research on agricultural policies.

### (Consultation mechanisms in place and their outcomes)

4. **Contacts with local, regional or central governments:** 11 organizations (or some 92% of total) have indicated that they have regular contacts with local or central governments. Depending on the country and on the organizations, such consultations take the form of:

- **Contacts with government trade negotiators:** AsiaDHRRRA recently sponsored both a regional and in-country consultation between civil society leaders and government trade negotiators to exchange views and information in preparation of the Hong Kong WTO 6<sup>th</sup> ministerial conference
- **Contacts with line ministries' officials:** ANPA (Nepal), SorKorPor (Thailand), CAMFAD (Cambodia), reported contacts with officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Finance and other line ministries on selected issues related to agriculture or rural development. CARD



(Bangladesh) reported having occasional contacts with the Ministry of Agriculture (Seed production department), for registration of member companies. OCFRING (Indonesia) reported contact with the Directorate General for Livestock, Food Crops, Estate Crops and Fisheries.

- **Contacts with village and commune leaders:** CAMFAD (Cambodia) reported having regular meetings with local leaders to discuss local farmers' needs.
- **Contacts with district and provincial officials:** OCFRING (Indonesia) reported regular contact with the agricultural services of the district and provincial authorities.
- **Representation within executive/consultative bodies:** FFF (Indonesia) reported being represented within different bodies at various levels (Department of Agriculture and its agencies and within local government units). WIBDI reports being represented within relevant Steering Committees of the Ministry of Agriculture (Quarantine and Export Steering Committee and the Crops Advisory Committee).
- **Representation within lower House:** Through its political arm (ABA0AKO), FFF (Indonesia) reported having represented for many years at the lower House (Parliament), which allowed the organization to interact directly with legislators and the Executive.

4. **Policy advocacy:** Most of the participating organizations reported being involved in policy advocacy-type of activities:

- **OCFRING (Indonesia)** is advocating for the stabilization of rice prices and for government's subsidies for fertilizers and gasoline purchase.
- **FFF (Philippines)** policy advocacy work is centered on issues such as agrarian reform, cooperatives and agricultural development. This involvement is made through an active participation in various platforms and meetings with the executive and legislative branches of government, its representation in various government bodies at various levels; the issuance of formal position papers, manifestos and press releases; as well as through direct advise given to government officials.
- **Pakisama (Philippines)** reports some policy advocacy work on issues such as agrarian reform, coconut industry development, fisheries and women's equality.
- **WIBDI (Samoa)**, through its representation within selected Steering Committees of the Ministry of Agriculture and other such committees (WTO Working Group, Samoa Codex Committee; South Pacific Regional Initiative on Forest Genetic Resources), is actively involved in policy advocacy work.
- **SorKorPor (Thailand)** pursues policy advocacy work at both the local level (in the area of community strengthening) and the national level (in the area of health security for farmers and justice).
- **AFA (Philippines)** is involved in policy advocacy work both at the regional level and the national level. At the regional level, the organization is advocating for a fair and sustainable in the framework of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. At the national level, AFA is advocating for the mainstreaming of sustainable agriculture principles and technologies in government's policies and programmes, as well as for farmers' rights.
- **CAMFAD (Cambodia)** reports a participation in advocacy networks at the provincial and national level on issues such as access to land, environmental conservation, women and child abuse.
- **AsiaDHRRRA (regional organization)** reports that many of its members at the country level are actively engaged in the definition of poverty reduction strategy papers. At the regional level, AsiaDHRRRA participates in the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals.

4. **Other types of consultation:** Seven participating organizations (or 58% of total) reported that they have already been consulted by the government for the definition of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers.



## Views of FOs on the national policy frameworks

21. **Policy framework governing the creation and work of rural organizations:** Respondents were split in answering the question “Would you say that the legal policy framework governing the formation and work of RO is conducive?” While four organizations (or 40% of respondents) find it unfavourable, three find it moderately conducive and three others find it conducive. The majority of respondents, however, reported that some elements in this legal and policy framework are impeding their efficiency, such as:

- Accreditation rules for the participation of FOs in regional meetings/negotiations are tedious and bureaucratic, which constraint civil society groups’ ability to participate in existing consultation forums.
- In some countries, the registration process for FOs is so rigid, cumbersome or costly that it is difficult for FOs to get registered. In other instances, the bureaucracy may be corrupt, which adds to the cost of becoming legally registered,
- In other instances, the local authorities may require FOs to seek their permission prior to holding community meetings, although such gatherings are in principle allowed by the law.
- Some participants also reported very difficult legal requirements that FOs have to fulfil before having a legal existence (such as capital, office space, etc.), which may act as a strong deterrent.
- Some countries may also actively discourage the formation of independent FOs, despite all the rhetoric to the opposite.
- The national legal system may also be influenced by politicians who may have the power to prevent FOs to form without their “blessing”.
- In countries where the regulations for the formation and operation of FOs are very liberal (such as the Philippines) the proliferation of farmers’ groups and the interference of some government agencies or politicians in the operations of such organizations may result in difficulties for identifying genuine, legitimate farmers’ organizations.

22. **Policy framework governing access to land:** The large majority of respondents (80%) find that there are specific constraints in the legal and policy framework that may impede equitable access by farmers to land:

- **In Thailand**, there is no Land Reform Law, and the current laws prevent farmers from accessing natural and forests resources.
- **In the Philippines**, despite the relatively progressive agrarian reform program, full implementation has been constrained by landowners’ opposition to land transfer, coupled with weak political will be programme implementers, lack of funds to finance land acquisition and transfer to farmers, lack of information on the rights of farmers and indigenous people over land and procedural problems in land transfer and titling.
- **In Bangladesh**, the land administration appears to be one of the most corrupt parts of the government machinery. Powerful blocks with political and bureaucratic connections often manipulate land records and entitlements that stand against equitable access by small farmers. Land laws such as the *Vested property law* or the *Enemy property law* curtail the land rights of minorities and indigenous communities. Settling plan land farmers by government decree in the hilly and forest areas has driven dwelling communities out. Finally, the existing highly skewed land ownership patterns and tenancy relationships (e.g. share cropping) has led to overexploitation of land.
- **Throughout the region**, market-led agrarian reforms espoused by the World Bank have strongly influenced the national policy environments and have been detrimental to the interests of the small, landless farmers



23. **Policy framework governing access to agricultural water:** The large majority of respondents (80%) also find that there are specific constraints in the legal and policy framework that may impede equitable access by farmers to water:

- The issue of **water privatization** is now on the agenda of many countries in the region, which is seen as a threat by poor farmers
- **In Cambodia**, most farmers are completely dependent on rain falls or on diesel-run irrigation pumps (at prohibitive costs).
- **In Bangladesh**, irrigation costs are among the highest in South and South East Asia, which limits access by poor farmers. Lack of electrification in most part of the rural areas has impeded the use of irrigation facilities, especially by the poor as the cost of diesel run irrigation pumps is too high. The prevailing system has led to the creation of “water lords”.
- **In the Philippines**, local laws and regulations require an application for, and issuance of, water franchise for all forms of water extraction, including form small-scale irrigation. Although these laws and regulations are not forcefully implemented, they may eventually lead to conflicts over water rights in the future. Prioritization of use of water for agriculture, power, human and industrial use is a perennial issue, especially during periods of drought and seasonal water scarcity. Some farmers complain about the high water usage fees imposed by government and argue that water should be given to farmers for free.

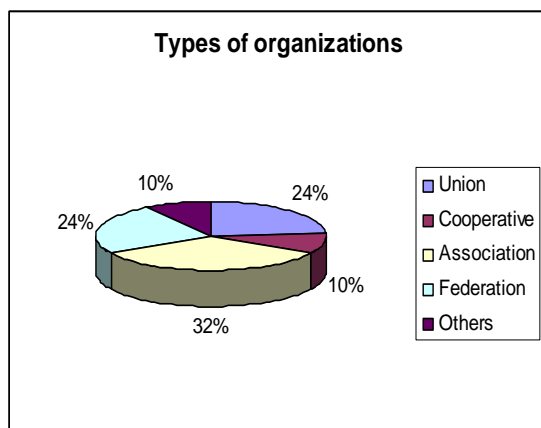
24. **Policy framework governing access to agricultural extension services:** The large majority of respondents (80%) also find that there are specific constraints in the legal and policy framework that may impede equitable access by farmers to agricultural extension services:

- **In the Philippines**, agricultural extension services have been devolved to local governments without a commensurate transfer of funds for deployment of technicians, resulting in a general breakdown in the national extension system. Even then, funding for agricultural research and development and extension has generally been weak and inadequate.
- **In Bangladesh**, extension services have traditionally focused on the elite farmers and the needs of resource poor farmers have hardly been given attention to. The country is yet to develop and extension service system that is equitable.
- **Throughout the region**, many governments rely on agri-business groups to provide extension services, but these groups have vested interests (e.g. promoting their chemical fertilizers).

### C. Sri Lanka Survey

#### Presentation of the participating organizations

25. The following charts give an overview of the types of organizations that participated in the workshop, together with some information as per their date of creation.



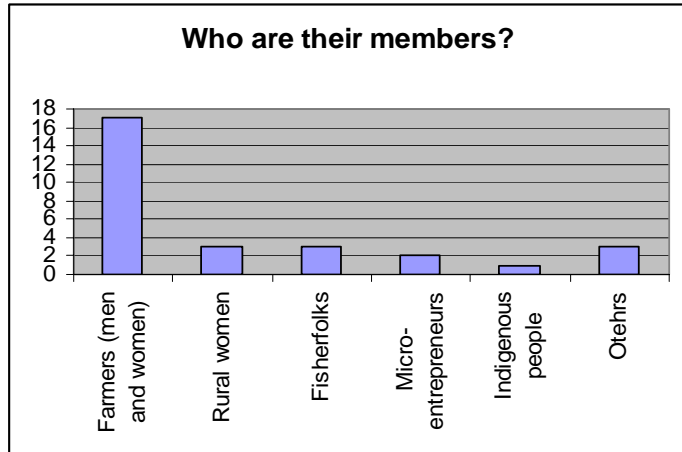
26. The majority of the organizations were Associations (32%), followed by Unions and Federations (24%) and Cooperatives (10%). They all had a legal status. Most of them have been created after 2000 (34%) or the late 1990s (24%), while 32% were created in the early 1990s. Ten percent of them had been created in the 1980s.

27. Their membership is comprised of farmers (both men and women) for the large majority (18), while three of them focus on rural women, three other on fisher folks and one on indigenous people.



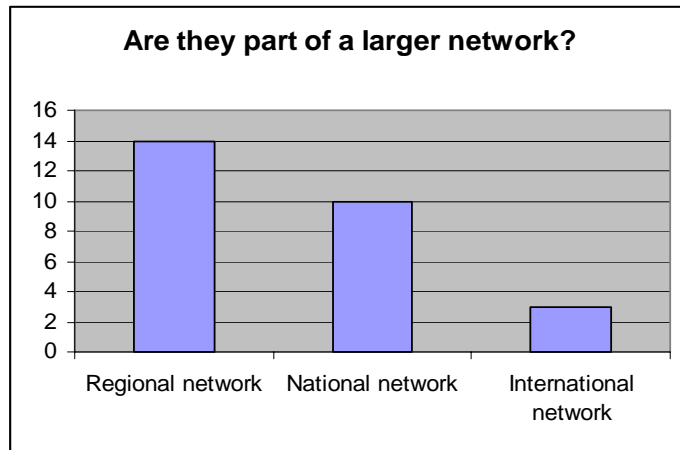
28. There are involved in the following sub-sectors:

- Crop production (8)
- Tea production (2)
- Horticulture (1)
- Medicinal plant production (1)
- Vegetable production (1)
- Improved seeds production (1)
- Integrated village development (1)
- Participatory rural development (1)



29. Fourteen of these organizations were part of a regional network, ten of them of a national network and three of them of an international network.

30. Despite their affiliation with a larger network, the majority of them are only involved at the local level (14 organizations), while eight are active at the regional level; seven at the national level and two at the international level. Finally, only 14% of the participating organizations claimed to be involved in policy advocacy work.



31. Among the main objectives followed by these organizations, the following were identified:

- To improve the quality of life of their members through productivity gains, leading to higher income generation, poverty alleviation and the achievement of sustainable development
- Support in funding and availing the physical resources and training requirements of farmers, including access to new technology.
- Awareness raising for social welfare and sustainable rural development.

4. Among the main roles that these organizations are playing, the following were identified:

- Assisting the members with the programmes identified by the community
- Facilitating information exchange within and outside the community.
- Identifying the problems faced by the community and identifying copying strategy.

4. More specifically, the organizations are providing their members with one or more of the following services”

- Attend farmers’ needs in the area of land and water rights, as well as access to seeds;
- Assist in soil analysis
- Assist with the maintenance of plant nurseries
- Assist with water supply systems improvements
- Assist farmers for proper use of pesticides
- Use of herbs and other ancient practices for vegetable production
- Assist with pest control system and organic farming
- Ensure proper adherence to cultivation seasonal regulations
- Facilitation of specific funding needs

### Main problems faced by participating FOs

4. Respondents identified the main problems they are facing in conducting their work as follows:
- Lack of financial resources



- Getting sound advice from officials when needed
- Lack of training opportunities
- Lack of access to new technologies
- Lack of access to information on production data
- Lack of access to markets for agricultural produce
- Inadequate policies for rural innovations

35. The survey also aimed at understanding in what specific areas they would want to increase their capacities. Answers were as follows:

- Financial capacities
- Access to new technology and related training
- Agricultural crop diversification
- Better access to physical resources (land and water)
- Agricultural marketing

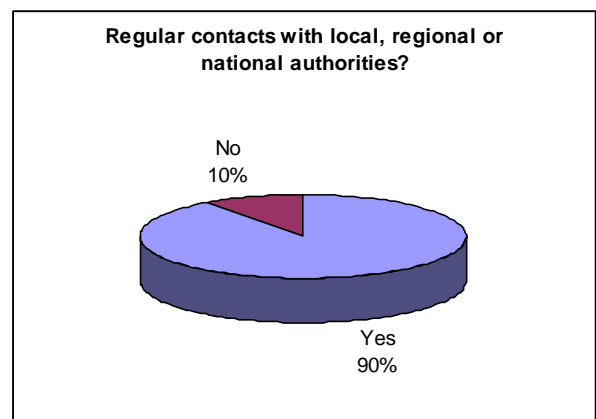
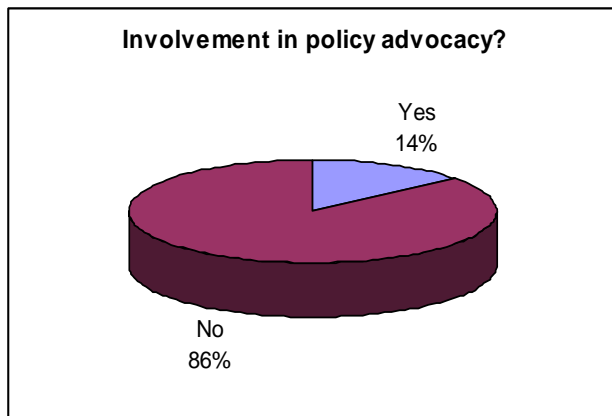
### Their perceptions of the national policy and legal framework

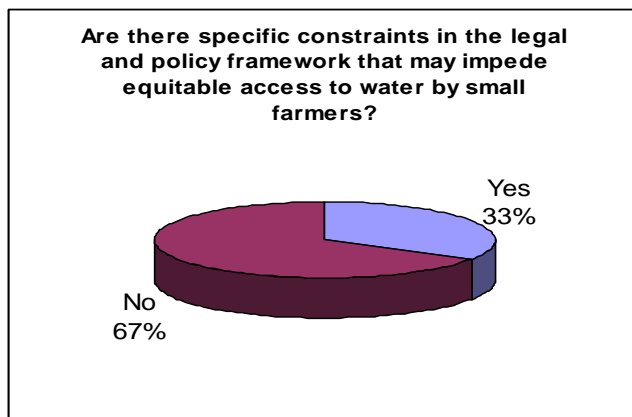
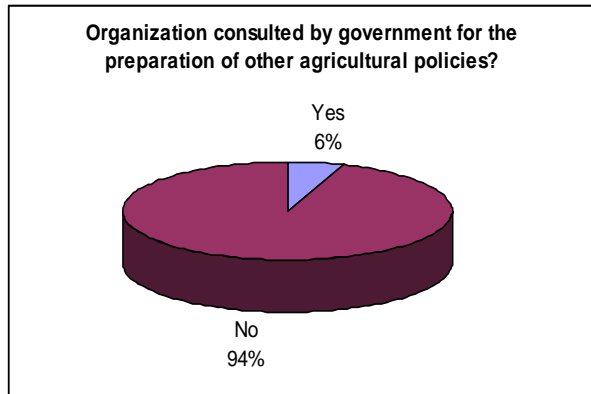
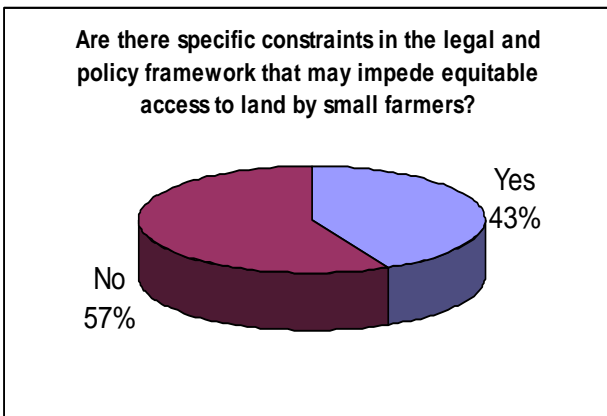
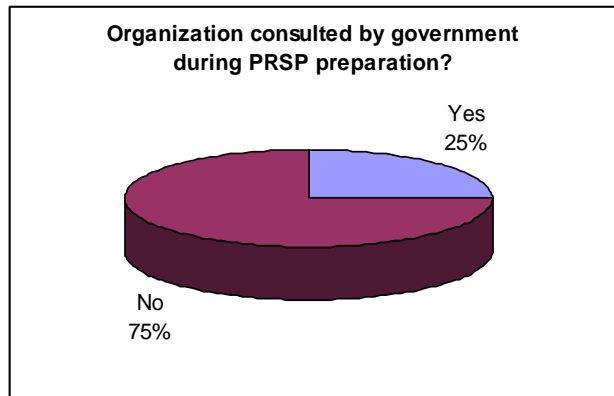
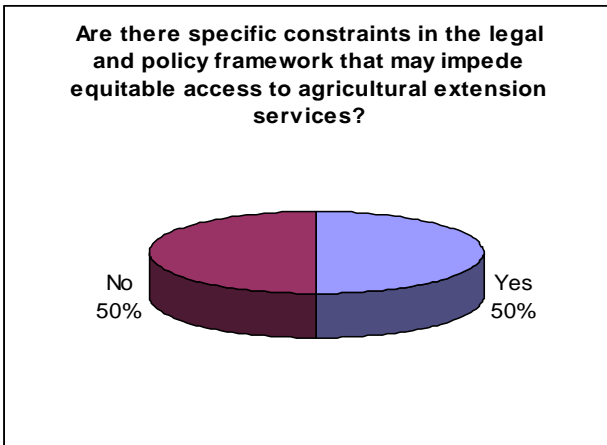
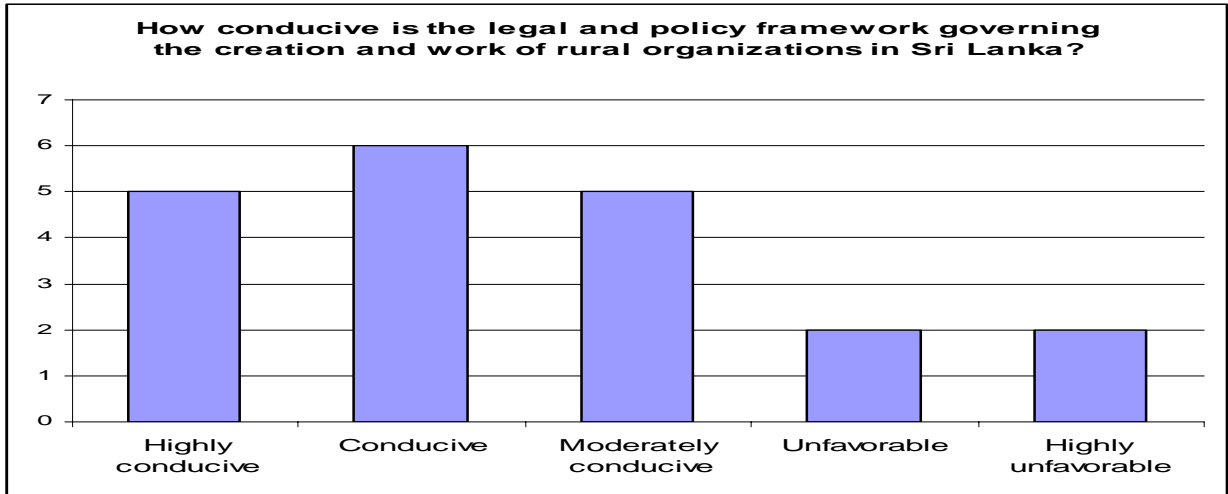
36. The survey also included questions aimed at collecting the views of the participating FOs on a number of issues related to the policy and legal framework for rural development.

37. More precisely, the survey included the following questions:

- Does your organization have regular contacts with local, regional or national authorities?
- Is your organization involved in policy advocacy?
- Was your organization consulted by the government for the definition of the Poverty reduction Strategy Paper?
- Was your organization consulted by the government for the definition of any other policy?
- How conducive is the legal and policy framework governing the creation and work of rural organizations?
- Are there specific constraints in the legal and policy framework that may impede equitable access by small farmers to land or security of land tenure?
- Are there specific constraints in the legal and policy framework that may impede equitable access by farmers to agricultural water?
- Are there specific constraints in the policy framework that ay impede equitable access by farmers to agricultural extension services?

38. Answers to these questions were given as follows:



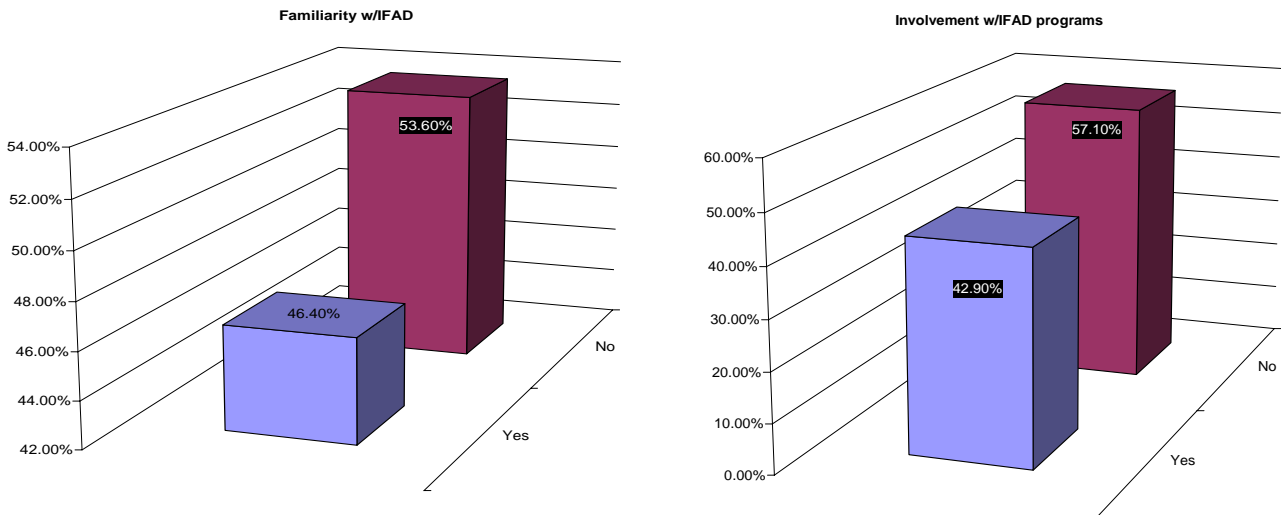




### D. Philippines Survey

#### Familiarity with IFAD

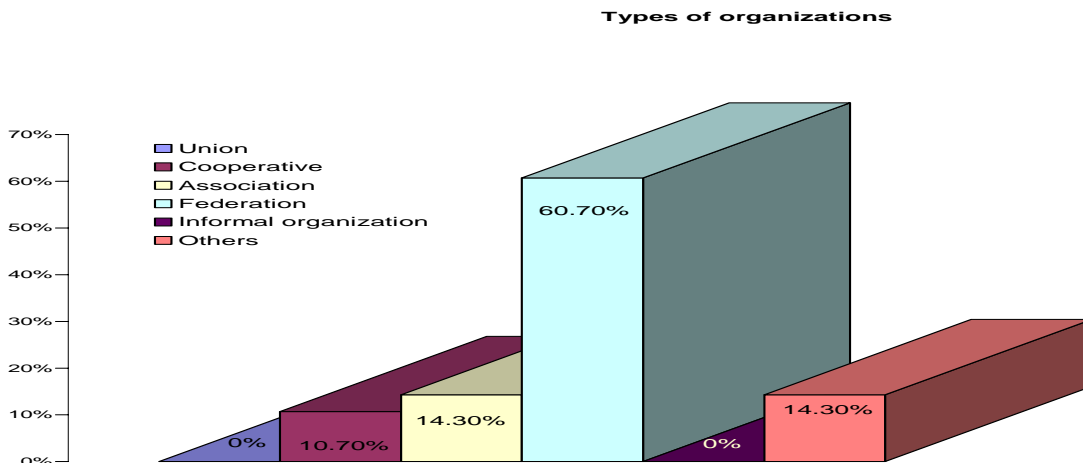
39. Half (50%) of the participating organizations know about IFAD, of which thirteen (46.4%) are familiar and involved with an IFAD-funded program in the Philippines. These IFAD programs include the delineation of CADCs in Mindanao, NMCI/REMP, WIMCIP, CHARM Project and some farm-to market roads. One participant indicated knowledge of an IFAD-funded program but the organization has no participation in any IFAD program.



Regarding consultation by an IFAD staff, only seven (25%) of the organizations were ever consulted during occasions like partners meetings, research and community assemblies. Only five (17.9%) organizations were consulted by an IFAD consultant when they were invited for a project implementation, during a research project and during a mission.

#### Farmers' Organizations' profiles

40. Seventeen (60.7%) of the participating organizations are federations, four (14.3%) are associations and

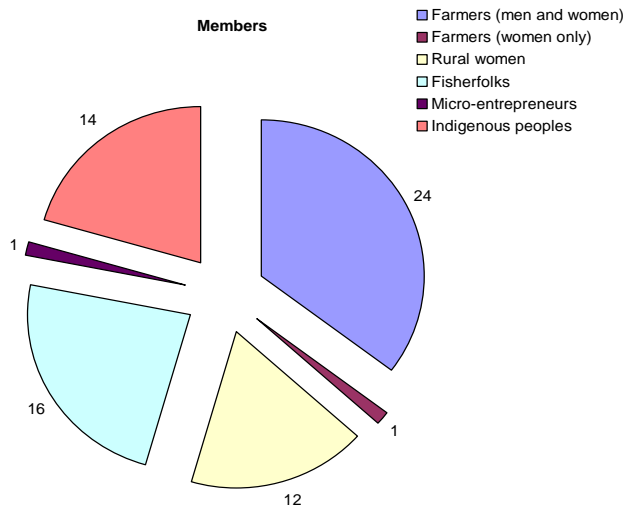


three (10.7%) are cooperatives. There were no unions. However, some classified their organizations as confederations, networks or coalitions of varied multisectoral groups like peasantry, peoples' organizations, marginalized rural sector, farmers, fisher folks, women indigenous peoples, even NGOs.

41. Twenty organizations were organized and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) during the 1990s, while five were organized as early as the early 1970s. However, some of the



organizations were created or organized earlier and then registered with the SEC later. All of the organizations have legal status.

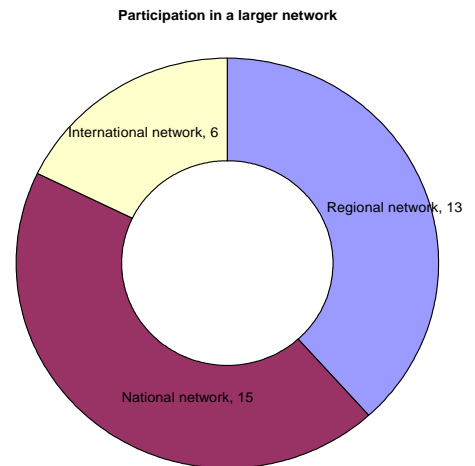


43. Number of members range from a low 95 individual members to a high of 90, 000 households. Some of the organizations have a membership composing of federation of peoples’ organizations, indigenous peoples’ organizations, federations or area chapters. One organization has members where they have projects being implemented.

44. The main partners of the different participating organizations are as varied as the composition of the organizations themselves and their objectives. Among those listed include PAKISAMA, Liga Magniniyog, AMMMA, KM, PKSMMN, PHILNET-RDI, UN, NAPC, ICRAF and others. The department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, the LGUs and other NGOs were also listed as main partners.

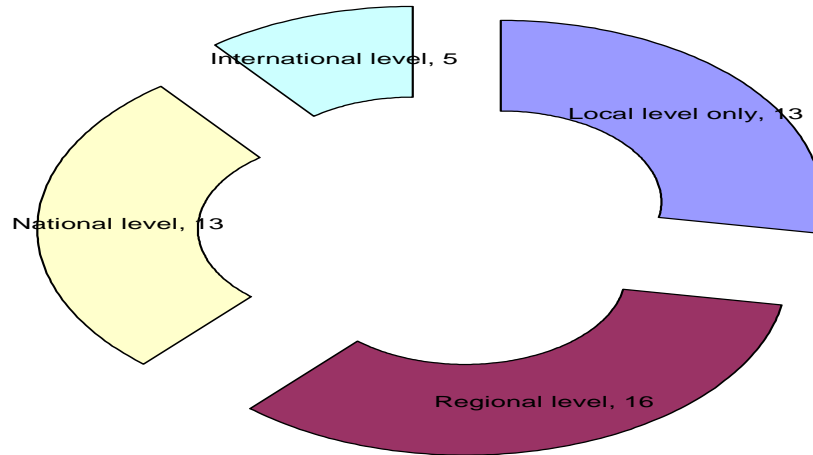
45. Fifteen of the organizations are part of a national network, 13 of a regional network and six (6) of an international network. (Regional pertains here to the political subdivision in the Philippines.) While most of the organizations are affiliated with a national network, active participation of the organizations is mostly concentrated at the regional level. And while six of the organizations have international connection, only five of these organizations have participation at the international level. Those organizations active at the regional and local levels are active in their respective areas of jurisdiction or coverage.

42. Twenty-four organizations identified the combination of men and women farmers as among their members, followed by fisher folks and indigenous peoples. None of the organizations identified men only as their members but one organization has identified only women farmers as among its members. Other memberships identified include supporters of the peasant movement, multi-sectoral, farm workers in sugar lands, students, youths, professionals, elderly, commercial plantation workers, rural-urban poor, urban poor, NGOs with multi-sectoral membership, and rural youth.





**Level of active participation**



**Objectives, roles and services**

46. Among the main objectives of the organizations include addressing issues on agrarian reform, land tenure, coconut industry, rural/community development and organization, establishment of networks and linkages, gender and development especially in rural women and advocacy.

47. Their roles, which were anchored on their organization's objectives, were also as varied. Some of the organizations serve as venues of discussion or dialogues for their members where issues can be raised and resolved. Other organizations act as facilitators, link or network to concerned agencies or other organizations which could address specific issues of their members. Others act as partners of government agencies in the implementation of their programs, while some give recommendations to these agencies. Some of the organizations act as advocates of issues concerning the peasantry, farmers, indigenous peoples and other marginalized sectors. There were also organizations whose roles include fund-accessing for projects.

48. The services offered by the organizations to its members range from organizing to trainings and education, capability/capacity support, technical support, socio-economic support, awareness raising to paralegal and legal services.

**Major constraints to fulfilling roles and functions**

49. The main internal constraint faced by the organizations in fulfilling their roles and functions is the lack of financial capability, including insufficient access to financial institutions or donors. Another pressing need is the lack of capability of the members of the organization, particularly in technical matters.

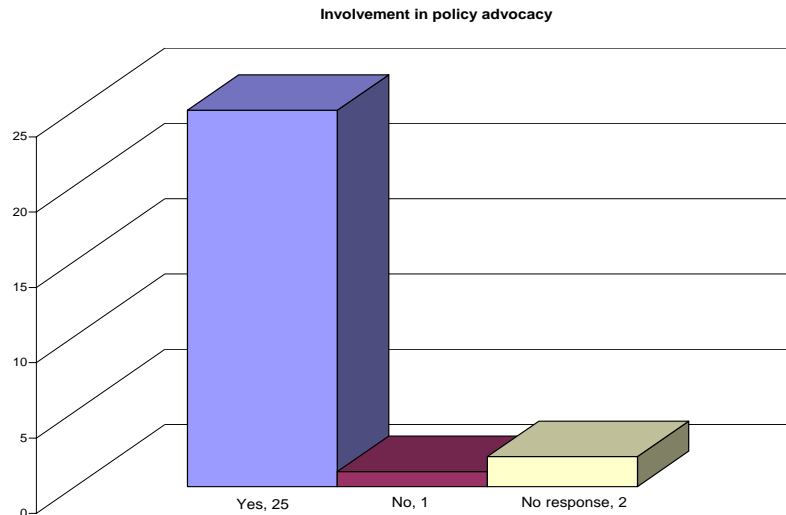
50. For external constraints, identified are political and economic crises; unsupportive government from the national to the local level; the unfavourable peace and order situation particularly in Mindanao; and the poor implementation of and conflicting government policies and programs, which were identified to be due to corruption, lack of political will and weak judicial system. Another external constraint identified is discrimination against members of rural organizations.

**The national policy and legal environment for rural organizations**

51. Almost all of the organizations, excluding four with no response, have regular contacts with local, regional or national authorities. The most common area of contact is during NAPC meetings especially at the national level for member organizations. Other occasions include dialogues and consultations with LGUs and line agencies regarding issues and policies and programs when speakers from agencies such as DA, DENR and DAR are invited to speak.

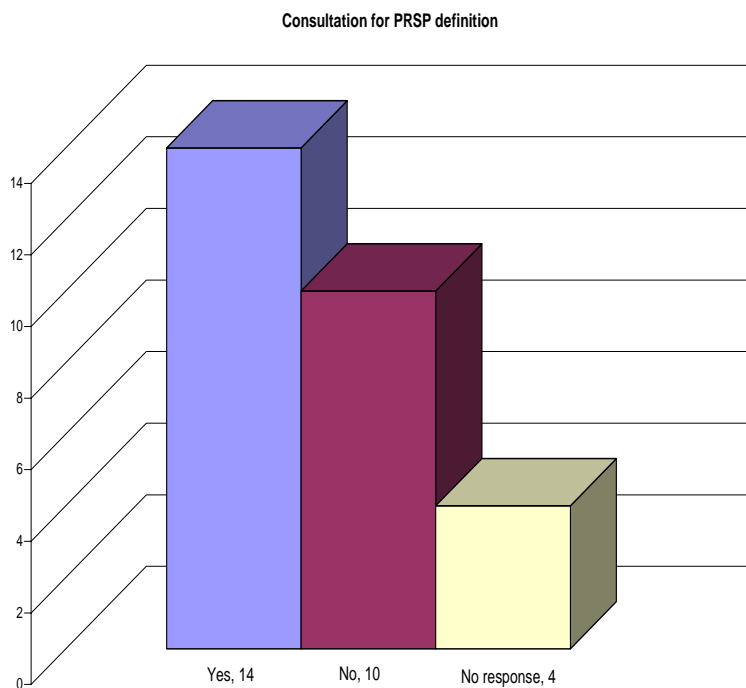


52. **Involvement in policy advocacy:** For some organizations, involvement in policy advocacy is limited to those members who are connected at the national level, but most of the organizations are involved in policy advocacy. Their involvement includes issues which directly affect their organizations and clientele, such as agrarian reform, agricultural development, rural development, and even gender issues.



53. **Consultation by government for definition of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper**

**and other Policies:** Half of the participating organizations claim to have been consulted by the government for the definition of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, but at the national level, under the National Anti-poverty Commission. There were some disappointments, however, because the milestones identified remained on paper.



54. Half (14) of the organizations also claim that they were consulted by the government for the definition of other policies, which include the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA), the Coconut Industry Development Program, Barangay and Municipal Ordinance for Fishery Industry Development, Community-based Coastal Management, Community-based Forest Management, Fish Code of the Philippines (RA 8550), formulation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), and rural women’s development during the Rural Women’s Congress. Some of those consulted were satisfied by the outcome of the consultation while others were not.

55. **Conduciveness of legal and policy framework**

**governing the formation and work of rural organizations:** Eleven (39.3%) of the participating organizations think that the legal and policy framework governing formation and work of rural organizations is moderately conducive while seven (25%) say that it is unfavourable to them. There were organizations, however, who said that in theory, the legal and policy framework is highly conducive but in practice or reality, unfavourable.

56. **Legal and policy framework impediments to the efficiency of the organization:** Of all the participating organizations, 26 (92.9%) say that there are impediments in the legal and policy framework governing formation and work of rural organizations. Some of the aspects include conflicting and unsuitable government policies and programs, unsupportive LGU, heavy bureaucratic restrictions which are often not gender-friendly, lengthy and costly registration process, among others. These organizations also identified specific laws which they deemed oppressive to their organizations and objectives. Among the laws identified include the Debt Service Act (PD 1177); the ratification of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture; the Calibrated



Pre-emptive Response which the participants think is a repressive policy against public protests; Executive Order 464, which removes the function of the Congress to scrutinize acts of the Executive branch of the government; and the Farmland as Collateral Bill, which they claim will kill the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

**The national policy and legal environment governing access to productive natural resources and agricultural extension services.**

57. Views of the organizations on the national policy and legal environment governing access to productive natural resources and agricultural extension services were also gathered during the survey. They have identified constraints in the legal and policy framework that impede equitable access by small farmers to land or land tenure, agricultural water and agricultural extension services. These constraints also came out and were validated during the workshop.

58. **Specific constraints in the legal and policy framework that may impede equitable access by small farmers to land or security of land tenure:** From the survey, some constraints in the legal and policy framework which may impede equitable access by small farmers to land or land tenure include the lack of political will to implement genuine land reform. They also claim that the government does not allocate enough funds to complete agrarian reform. Existing policies and laws covering land tenure are not defensible as in the cases of CLOAs and emancipation patents which were cancelled due to judiciary intervention. The participants also identified illegal land use conversion, encroachment of large scale mining operations in ancestral domain areas, and the non-existence of a national land use policy as among impediments.

59. Too many and conflicting policies on the issuance of land tenure instruments and agrarian reform also hinder equitable access by farmers to land and land tenure. Specific laws given were Presidential Decree No. 705 or the Forestry Code of the Philippines limiting upland farmers' access to forest and forest land resources. This code also classifies upland farms as watersheds, so that titling of upland farms is problematic. There is also conflict between the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) and the Mining Act and between IPRA and the Regalian Doctrine, both of which are laws on land tenure.

60. **Specific constraints in the legal and policy framework that may impede equitable access by farmers to agricultural water:** No clear water use policy, corruption of funds for agricultural infrastructure and the lack of political will to look into this corruption are among those identified as impediments to the equitable access by farmers to agricultural water. Other constraints include the "water permits" of the government which the participants think is biased in favour of big farmlands and corporations. Mining laws and water rights also favour corporations, resulting to massive deforestation of watersheds.

61. **Specific constraints in the policy framework that may impede equitable access by farmers to agricultural and extension services:** There are also some constraints identified by the participants in the policy and legal framework which impede access by farmers to agricultural and extension services. These impediments include the devolution of agricultural services to the local government units (LGUs) brought about by the Local Government Code. The devolution of DA functions halted or limited extension services. Farmers are also unaware about existing extension services. Misleading, overlapping and confusing programs and the ignorance of extension workers on upland farming were also identified by the participants as among the impediments.