

6-11 February 2020

The Farmers' Forum

In conjunction with the forty-third session
of IFAD's Governing Council



Farmers' Organizations Profiling and Digital Platforms

Sharing tools and experiences in FOs profiling, FOs online databases and KM platforms for FOs

Side Event organized by AFA, IFAD

Monday 10 February 2020, from 11 to 12.30

IFAD HQ, Oval Room A

Introduction

Recognizing it is often a challenge for stakeholders in the development world to get reliable information and data on existing farmers and rural producers' organizations (FOs), several initiatives are emerging or already being tested for FOs profiling and knowledge sharing on and for FOs.

Regarding FOs profiling, developed tools include the following:

- The **Farmers' organisations Directory for Asia and Pacific** (www.asiapacificfarmersforum.net): ...
- The **Farmers' and Rural Producers' Organizations Mapping (FO-MAPP)** (www.fo-mapp.com). FO-MAPP is an interactive online database that provides geo-referenced information on FOs in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. It was developed with the support of IFAD and the World Rural Forum (WRF) and in partnership with FOs based on the needs expressed by FOs themselves in the context of the Farmers' Forum and the campaign for the 2019-2028 United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDF). Organizations can register in FO-MAPP free of charge by filling an online profiling form adding information about their contact details, status, membership, geographical outreach, services provided and agricultural products. A filter system further enables users to find organizations based on different criteria.

Among knowledge management and information tools available for FOs, the global platform **We Connect Farmers** (www.weconnectfarmers.com) was created with three main objectives: (1) link farmers among themselves to share technics and discuss them; (2) link farmers and consumers for improving markets and certified products as well as policy dialogue between FOs and governments; (3) make digital agriculture technics available to small farmers and not only the big agro-industries companies. As we enter the United Nations Decade of Family Farming, this platform is an opportunity to showcase the benefits of family farming through experiences of small farmers and their organizations and directly thanks to internet.

Focus of the side event

The purpose of the side event is to share the initiatives and tools developed in the different regions and globally to provide insight information and knowledge on and for FOs. The side event will provide an opportunity for knowledge sharing and cross learning among participants.

Proposed agenda and speakers:

Introduction

- Brief introduction of the side event by the Moderator (5 minutes)
- Brief introduction of participants (5 minutes)

Presentation of Initiatives:

First set:

1. SEWA's initiatives in engaging women farmers in IT for organizational and economic services, by Veena Kushalkumar Chandresha (AFA) (10 minutes)
2. Mid-Term Cooperation Programme with Farmers' Organizations 2 (MTCP2) experience in knowledge management and FO profiling and online database for program management, by Lany V. Rebagay (AFA) and Shamila Rathnasooriya (MONLAR) (10 minutes)
3. We Connect Farmers initiative, by Benoit Thierry (IFAD) (10 minutes)

Open discussion (10 minutes)

Second set:

4. FO-MAPP initiative, by Annick Sezibera (CAPAD) (10 minutes)
5. IFAD FOs Profiling by Fabrizio Bresciani (IFAD) and Marina Izzo (IFAD) (10 minutes)

Open discussion (10 minutes)

Synthesis, way forward and conclusions (10 minutes)

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