

The Farmers' Forum

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

6-11 February 2020

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Report of the seventh global meeting of the Farmers' Forum at IFAD

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

6, 7, 10 and 11 February 2020

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The participants of the 7th global meeting of the Farmers' Forum at IFAD.



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Acronyms

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
AFCI&PA	Agricultores Familiares, Campesinos, Comunidades Indígenas y Pescadores Artesanales
ANAMURI	Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Rurales e Indígenas
APFP	Asia-Pacific Farmers Programme
AFA	Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development
ANAP	National Association of Small Farmers
APR	Asia and the Pacific
ASAP	Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CAPAD	Collectif Des Association Paysannes Pour L'auto Développement
CFAP	Cambodian Farmer Association Federation of Agricultural Producers
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
CGIAR	Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers
CLOC	Coordinadora Latinoamericana de Organizaciones Campesinas
CNCPRT	Conseil National de Concertation des Producteurs Ruraux du Tchad
CNCR	Conseil National de Concertation et de Coopération des Ruraux (Sénégal)
COPROFAM	Confederación de Organizaciones de Productores Familiares del Mercosur
COSOP	Results-based country strategic opportunities programmes
CSM	Civil Society Mechanism (of the CFS)
CTOP	Coordination Togolaise des Organisations Paysannes
ESA	East and Southern Africa
EU	European Union
FAFO	Farmers' Forum
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FFS	Food Systems Summit
FIFATA	Fikambanana Fampivoarana Ny Tantsaha (Madagascar)
FO	Farmers' organization
FOALA	Farmers Organizations for Asia and Latin America
FO-MAPP	Farmers and Rural Producers' Organizations Mapping
FO4ACP	Farmers' Organizations for ACP
GAfsp	Global Agriculture and Food Security Program
GAP	Global Action Plan of the UNDF
HHMs	Household Methodologies
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFAD12	Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources
INOFO	Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmers Organizations
KKM	Kendrio Krishok Moitree
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LVC	La Via Campesina
MMI	Missing Middle Initiative
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTCP	Medium-Term Cooperation Programme with Farmers' Organizations
MVIWATA	Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania
NAFSL	National Association of Farmers of Sierra Leone

NCCF	National Committee for Family Farming
NEN	Near East, North Africa, Central Asia and Europe
PAFO	Pan African Farmers Organization
PIFON	Pacific Island Farmers Organization Network
PMI	Sustainable Production, Markets and Institutions Division of IFAD
PNPER	Projet National de Promotion de l'Entrepreneuriat Rural
PRODAF	Family Farming Development Programme
PROPAC	Plateforme Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale
PSFP	Private Sector Financing Programme
ROPFA	Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SACAU	Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions
SDG	Sustainable development goals
SEWA	India's Self Employed Women's Association
SFOAP	Support to Farmers' Organizations in Africa Programme
SME	Small and medium-sized rural enterprises
SPI	Serikat Petani Indonesia
UMNAGRI	Union Maghrébine et de l'Afrique du Nord des Agriculteurs
UAN	Unión Agrícola Nacional
UN	United Nations
UNDF	United Nations Decade of Family Farming
UNDROP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas
UNFFE	Uganda National Farmers Federation
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests
VSSF	Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries
WCA	West and Central Africa
WFF	World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers
WFFP	World Forum of Fisher Peoples
WFO	World Farmers' Organization
WRF	World Rural Forum

Executive summary

The seventh global meeting of the Farmers' Forum was held on 6, 7, 10 and 11 February 2020, in conjunction with the forty-third session of the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The meeting brought together 91 farmers' leaders and representatives (45 per cent were women), representing millions of small-scale farmers, pastoralists and fisher peoples in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East, for the purpose of exchanging views on the evolution of the partnership with IFAD.

The seventh global meeting took place at a time of significant change and evolution. It was the first global meeting organized following the regionalization of the Farmers' Forum process that was decided in 2016. This regionalization has consisted of a reorganization of the process based on a four-year cycle, with global meetings held every four years, and regional fora organized in between these meetings. This change was in line with IFAD's reform agenda and its process of decentralization. Also, the meeting was held just a few days before the opening of the Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD12) and in the first year of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028. As the first delegates started their travel to Rome, the WHO declared COVID 19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

It is in this special context that the seventh global meeting of the Farmers' Forum gave place to discussion and debate on the current and future state of the FOs-IFAD partnership.

The Forum was opened by IFAD President Gilbert Houngbo and introductory speeches were given by farmers' leaders/members of the Farmers' Forum Steering Committee. The first session was devoted to discussing the evolution of the collaboration between IFAD and farmers' organizations. IFAD presented the Partnership in Progress Report, analysing the trends and developments in IFAD's partnership with farmers' organizations over the period 2016-2019. Overall, the document showed that the partnership is progressing and that the aligned decentralization processes of IFAD and the Forum are providing great opportunities to further strengthen the collaboration.

On 6 February, five regional working group sessions were organized to discuss the status of the collaboration and the way forward in the different regions in which IFAD works. Five thematic working groups were held on 7 February to discuss climate change and the transition to agroecology; the United Nations Decade of Family Farming and the engagement of farmers' organizations in the preparation of the 2021 Food Systems Summit; women's leadership; youth in agriculture; and new instruments for IFAD12. Based on the discussions and contributions made in the debates, the Synthesis of Deliberations of the 2020 FAFO was adopted and discussed with IFAD Management and Executive Board members. The Synthesis of Deliberations of the Forum was delivered to the IFAD Governing Council meeting, held at FAO headquarters on Tuesday 11 February.

A number of side events were also organized by IFAD, FOs and other partners on 10 and 11 February to allow further discussion of topics emerging during the thematic working groups and regional meetings.

Background

About the Farmers' Forum at IFAD

The Farmers' Forum (FAFO) is an ongoing, bottom-up process of consultation and dialogue between organizations of small-scale farmers and rural producers, including pastoralists and fishermen (collectively known as farmers' organizations), IFAD and governments, focused on agricultural and rural development, and poverty reduction. The Forum is rooted in concrete partnerships and collaboration at the country and regional levels. It was established in 2005 to provide orientation to IFAD's operations and to jointly identify opportunities for partnerships in IFAD's country programmes and investment projects. Since then, six global meetings have been held at two-year intervals in conjunction with the IFAD Governing Council.

The 2020 Farmers' Forum: a new context

At the sixth global meeting in 2016, important changes in the organization and governance of the process were agreed. These include two new international organizations (the Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmers Organizations - INOFO, and the World Farmers' Organization - WFO), joining the Steering Committee and the decentralization of the FAFO process in order to strengthen the Forum's country-level impact.

The FAFO is now organized on a four-year cycle, with global meetings held every four years and regional consultations organized in between these meetings. This change was in line with IFAD's reform agenda and its process of decentralization, which aims to increase IFAD's country presence and to strengthen both partnerships with national stakeholders and the results and impact of operations.

The first cycle of regional FAFOs took place between 2017 and 2019 in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, with the participation of leaders of farmers' organizations (FOs), IFAD staff, government officials and managers of IFAD-supported projects. One of the main outputs of these regional consultations is a set of action plans that include recommendations agreed by both parties for each country to strengthen collaboration between FOs and IFAD in the context of project design and implementation and in-country policy engagement.

The seventh global meeting of the FAFO took place at a time of significant change and evolution. In fact, it was held just a few days before the opening of the Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD12), critical for strengthening the capacity of IFAD to better support its members and partners, and to step up its contribution to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

This edition of the global FAFO also took place in the first year of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 (UNDF), which puts family farming at the centre of the international agenda. The Decade constitutes a unique opportunity to work on multi-dimensional issues that are of concern to family farmers, positioning them as key agents of change in achieving the SDGs.

Climate change in the spotlight

As outlined in the Strategic Framework 2016-2025¹, IFAD's interventions focus on three strategic objectives, one of which is to "strengthen the environmental sustainability and climate resilience of poor rural people's economic activities". Climate change is one of the key underlying causes of food insecurity. IFAD has been mainstreaming climate change adaptation, mitigation and climate resilience in its operations, addressing the interlinkages between environmental sustainability, climate, fragility, nutrition and social inclusion, particularly that of women and youth. In this regard, agroecology is a key approach for both adaptation to and mitigation of climate change that connects traditional and scientific knowledge in order to produce food in a sustainable way. Family farmers are an important repository of agro-ecological knowledge and therefore key to implementing agroecology on the ground.

In 2021, a Food Systems Summit (FSS) will be convened with the aim of maximizing the benefits of a food systems approach across the 2030 Agenda and meeting the challenges of climate change. The Summit will enable cross-learning and the sharing of experiences. It will also provide an opportunity for global public mobilization and commitments to make food systems inclusive, productive, resilient and sustainable.

It is in this particular context that the seventh global meeting of the FAFO explored new avenues for partnerships between FOs and development stakeholders, and a renewed commitment to work together.

Box 1. The regional FAFOs

Asia and the Pacific (APR): Yogyakarta (Indonesia), from 29 to 21 October 2018, with the participation of 80 farmer leaders and 21 IFAD and project staff, resulting in the elaboration of 21 country-level action plans.

East and Southern Africa (ESA): Kampala (Uganda), from 21 to 23 May 2017, with the participation of 40 farmer leaders and 260 IFAD and project staff, resulting in the elaboration of 14 country-level action plans.

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC): Montevideo (Uruguay), from 21 to 23 May 2019, with the participation of 76 farmer leaders and 22 IFAD and project staff.

West and Central Africa (WCA): Nouakchott (Mauritania), from 9 to 11 April 2018, with the participation of 45 farmer leaders and 260 IFAD and project staff, resulting in the elaboration of 20 country-level action plans.

1 <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/publication/asset/39369820>

Highlights of the seventh global meeting of the Farmers' Forum

The seventh global meeting of the FAFO took place on 6, 7, 10 and 11 February 2020, in conjunction with the forty-third session of the IFAD Governing Council.

The meeting brought together 91 delegates and representatives from FOs,² including 45 per cent women. They came from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East, to exchange views on developments in the partnership with IFAD. Over forty representatives from partner organizations, such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), foundations, international organizations, United Nations (UN) agencies, research institutes and universities, joined the meeting as observers. These included the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Secretariat), AgriCord and several of its members, AMEA, Crocevia, the European Union (EU) and the European Commission (EC), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Rural Forum (WRF), PROCASUR and Slow Food.

The global meeting of the FAFO was organized by IFAD with the financial support of the Swiss Development Agency (SDC).

Opening of the Forum

The global meeting of the FAFO was officially opened by the President of IFAD Gilbert Houngbo on 6 February 2020 (see box 1 below). He greeted the members of the Steering Committee of the FAFO, welcomed all the participants and particularly thanked partners such as the EU, the ACP Secretariat and the Swiss Government.

The President emphasized that small family farmers, pastoralists and fishers are responsible for food security and the sustainability of food systems. They create jobs, provide varied and nutritious food for both rural and urban markets, and - with the right incentives - they can also help mitigate climate change. Within this context, the organization and collective action of producers in strong representative organizations play a critical role. According to the President, strong organizations facilitate small producers' access to finance, agricultural advisory and training services, and technology, and enable them to build their professional capacities. FOs allow millions of small producers to pool their production and get better prices in the markets, but also engage in the formulation of public policies that concern them. This is why IFAD's ambition is to be a "privileged partner" for FOs.

The President also reminded that since the last global meeting of the FAFO in 2016, IFAD continued to decentralize. Most of the operational staff of IFAD is now based at the country level. Also, in December 2019, the Framework for Operational Feedback from Stakeholders³ was approved by IFAD's Executive Board to better involve all key players and better consult them during the design, implementation, and mid-term and final review of programmes supported by IFAD. The President invited participants in the Forum to make full use of this document to translate it into concrete actions and collaborations at the country level.



IFAD President Gilbert Houngbo and Mrs. Estrella Penunia Banzuela, President of AFA, at the opening session of the 7th global meeting of the Farmers' Forum.

² The full list of participants is available in annex 2.

³ Framework for Operational Feedback from Stakeholders³ was approved by IFAD's Executive Board to better involve all key players and better consult them during the design, implementation, and mid-term and final review of programmes supported by IFAD. The President invited participants in the Forum to make full use of this document to translate it into concrete actions and collaborations at the country level.

The President pointed out that this meeting of the FAFO takes place just before the launch of the consultations for the twelfth replenishment of IFAD's resources, a key moment to provide the institution with the necessary means to support family farming and rural societies in their necessary transformations. He solicited participants at the Forum to take full advantage of this opportunity to share their expectations and vision for the future of IFAD in order to improve funding for rural transformation and better prosperity.

He concluded his speech by stating that "for our part, IFAD12 will be built on what makes us strong. We will therefore continue to focus on results, to give priority to small producers and the poorest rural populations, and to work very closely with their representative organizations".

Box 2. Opening Statement of Gilbert F. Hounbo, the President of IFAD

Greetings to you all and welcome to the Seventh Global Meeting of the Farmers' Forum.

I would like to extend a special welcome to those of you who are participating in the Forum for the first time.

And I am also pleased to welcome all of the representatives of farmers' organizations who are gathered here today. Some of you have travelled a very long way – from as far away as the Pacific islands – to be with us here in Rome.

I also wish to greet the members of the Steering Committee who are here today on this rostrum. They represent the Asian Farmers' Association (AFA), COPROFAM in Latin America, the Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmers' Organisations (INOFO), the Via Campesina, the Pan-African Farmers' Organisation (PAFO), the Network of Farmers Organizations and Agricultural Producers of West Africa (ROPPA), the WFF and WFFP networks of small-scale fishers and the World Farmers' Organisation.

I would also like to thank the partners with which we work the most closely in support of farmers' organizations, especially the European Union and the ACP Group, the Swiss Government and AgriCord.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to talk to you about the most recent measures taken by IFAD to strengthen our partnership with farmers' and agricultural producers' organizations and our joint efforts to further agricultural and rural development programmes and public policies.

But first of all, I would like to take a step back and place this meeting of the Forum within its larger context.

Today, at the start of the year 2020, we have only 10 years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals – the most ambitious goals of their kind that our nations have ever set for themselves. In addition, we have already embarked on the United Nations Decade of Family Farming and are now working to prepare for the World Food Systems Summit in 2021.

And, finally, IFAD is about to launch the Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources with a view to ensuring that our institution has the necessary means to support family farmers and our rural societies as they strive to make needed changes.

Now, with the world's population growing faster than ever before, the pace of climate change accelerating and progress towards eliminating extreme poverty, hunger and malnutrition at a standstill, it is more vital than ever for us to invest in the sustainability of our food systems.

At IFAD we know that the 500 million small family farmers, the hundreds of millions of small-scale livestock breeders and artisanal fishers – all those whom you represent – are the guardians of our food security and the sustainability of our food systems.

Successful smallholders create jobs in rural areas and all along the agricultural value chain – from transport to processing industries, to retail trade and the rest of the economy. They

supply a varied range of nutritional foods in both rural and urban markets. And, with the right types of incentives, they can also contribute to the mitigation of climate change.

Given this state of affairs, the collective action of producers organized in strong, representative associations is of critical importance. And I am thinking here of global but also of regional and national organizations. Robust producers' organizations help smallholders to gain access to financing, agricultural advisory services and technologies and can help them to build their production skills and capacities.

Your farmers' organizations make it possible for millions of smallholders to pool their output and obtain better prices in the market, but they also give them a way to make their voices heard by public policymakers dealing with issues that concern them.

IFAD's ambition is to be your frontline partner.

Our experience has taught us that inclusive platforms for dialogue such as the Farmers' Forum can act as true catalysts in spurring governments and partners to ensure that everyone is able to participate and to work together more effectively. Your organizations prompt them to become more responsive and to be more accountable for their actions to the people they serve.

Since the last Global Meeting of the Farmers' Forum in 2016, IFAD has carried its decentralization process forward. Most of our operational staff are now based in the countries where we work. Our goal is a simple one: by getting closer to the people we support, we are striving to expand the range of stakeholders that we can work with.

The first cycle of regional consultations held in 2018 and 2019 have made headway, but we want to go further.

In September 2019, the Executive Board approved the Framework for Operational Feedback from Stakeholders, whose objective is to help us to engage more closely with all key stakeholders and to consult with them more extensively regarding the design and implementation of IFAD-supported programmes. I invite you to take full advantage of that document by using it as a basis for tangible action and genuine collaboration in your country. This afternoon, when meeting in your working groups, you will have a unique opportunity to discuss it with our regional divisions. I look forward to seeing it give rise to specific and ambitious reciprocal commitments in the years to come.

Our work in the area of climate change is an example. Despite the challenges that we face, such as those that arose at COP 25, I think that there is reason for optimism, thanks to the commitment of civil society, social movements and the younger generations.

I am, for my part, convinced that smallholders and rural communities are at the very centre of the response to climate change. They must, certainly, adapt to its effects, but they can also contribute to its mitigation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

IFAD is determined to do its part. In 2012, we launched the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP), which quickly became our flagship programme for delivering climate and environmental finance.

By late September 2019, more than 3 million people had received ASAP financing. Around 86,000 households now have better access to water, and over 11,000 community groups are better equipped to cope with climate-related risks.

Certainly, a great deal remains to be done to help small-scale farmers and livestock breeders and artisanal fishers to adapt to climate change and to contribute to its mitigation. These questions will be discussed tomorrow in the working group on the two new financing instruments to be introduced under IFAD12, one of which deals with climate issues while the other focuses on the private sector.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This year's Farmers' Forum is taking place just before the commencement of the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources. It is the perfect point in time – for IFAD and for its Governors – to hear your views. Your inputs will allow us to speak with one voice.

We would like to know what your expectations of IFAD12 are. We want to know how you see the future of our institution. We want to know what you think about how financing for rural transformation could be improved in order to support greater prosperity. And, certainly, we want to hear your opinions about the role that your organizations can play.

For our part, we can assure you that IFAD12 will be built on the foundations from which we draw our strength. We will continue to focus on results, to give priority to smallholders and the most disadvantaged rural populations, and to work hand in hand with the organizations that represent them.

Thank you, one and all, for taking part in this Forum. I await the outcome of your discussions with great interest, and I look forward to the further opportunities that we will have to work with you in the coming years.

Thank you.

Following the opening of the President, the floor was given to the members of the Steering Committee of the FAFO for introductory statements.

Mr. Fernando Lopez Rodriguez (Secretary-General of the *Confederación de Organizaciones de Productores Familiares del Mercosur* - COPROFAM) highlighted how FOs value the very special opportunity given to them at the Forum to engage in dialogue with the President, and management and technical staff of IFAD, and welcomed the developments in terms of the decentralization of both FAFO and IFAD's operations, as they created wider opportunities for participation at all levels. Lastly, he referred to the opportunities opened by the UNDFP to accelerate and achieve the SDGs, and asked IFAD to invest in the implementation of the UNDFP 2019-2028 Global Action Plan (GAP).⁴

The speech by Mrs. Shamika Anil Mone (President of INOFO) focused on the key role played by organic farmers globally. She claimed organic farmers are the holistic solution to all the problems associated with climate change and capable of bringing back youth in agriculture. She also emphasized the importance of indigenous knowledge on traditional and climate-resilient seeds, and the need for it to be recognized and promoted.

Mr. Theo De Jager (President of the WFO) stressed the role of farmers in addressing climate change. He pointed out that while farmers are the most vulnerable to climate change, they are better positioned to do something about it in a shorter space of time than anyone else. He also stated that the FAFO is the most influential and powerful gathering of farmers' voices in the history, and addressed participants, mentioning that "if we do not grab this opportunity in the next few days to step forward and put farmers, fishers and family producers right at the centre of the global debate on the transformation of food systems, we will never have such an opportunity again".

In his introductory speech, Mr. Musa Sowe (Vice-President of the *Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest* - ROPPA) referred to the need for IFAD to further invest in the capacity of family farmers, give special attention to youth and women, and strengthen FOs. He also called upon IFAD to support the UNDFP

4 <http://www.fao.org/3/ca4672en/ca4672en.pdf>

and the creation of spaces for consultation between IFAD and FOs at the national level through national FAFOs.

Mrs. Elizabeth Nsimadala (President of the Pan African Farmers Organization - PAFO) thanked IFAD for “uniting farmers globally”. She declared that thanks to the support provided by IFAD through regional grants such as the Support to Farmers’ Organizations in Africa Programme (SFOAP) and Farmers’ Organizations for ACP (FO4ACP) “we are not where we were yesterday, our today is better, but our future is brighter”. She also mentioned that FOs want to be considered as partners rather than beneficiaries and as such they should fully participate in the development and implementation of IFAD’s results-based country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs) and take a central stage in the monitoring and evaluation of IFAD-supported projects.

Reference to the situation of small-scale fishers was made by Mr. Moises Osorto Caceres (Coordinating Committee Member of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples - WFFP), who underlined that fishers are the group most affected by the climate change crisis. His remarks were echoed by Mrs. Ujjaini Halim (representative of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers - WFF), who stressed that given the important contribution of small-scale fishers to food and nutrition security, their effective inclusion in development interventions is imperative to meet the SDGs. Both Steering Committee members urged IFAD to support and ensure the full implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries⁵ (VSSF), to more effectively include small-scale fishers and fisher producers in its operations, and to consider providing dedicated financial support to fishers for further capacity building.

Mrs. Elizabeth Mpofu and Mr. Lazaro Edgardo Garcia Aguilar from La Via Campesina (LVC) recalled the principles of unity and solidarity that encourage dialogue between the different groups and constituencies of the FAFO. They called upon IFAD to fully apply to its policies and programmes the provisions set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP)⁶, resulting from more than 17 years of work and advocacy by peasants’ organizations.

Mrs. Estrella Penunia Banzuela (President of the Asian Farmers’ Association for Sustainable Rural Development - AFA) made reference to IFAD as a strong ally for AFA to pursue their objectives of enabling family farmers to have secure rights to their land, water and forests; farms to be sustainable, climate resilient, integrated and diversified; cooperatives to be strong and viable; women members to be valued and supported for their work, and given equal opportunities; and youth in rural areas to remain in agriculture. She reminded how the partnership with IFAD in Asia and the Pacific has evolved since the beginning of the FAFO process, and how direct financing for capacity building to support FOs has helped organizations to be more effective, improved solidarity among FOs and enabled them to come together to influence sectoral policies.

She added that farmers are the solution to poverty and hunger as they can organize themselves, federate, build capacities, engage in sustainable agroecology and add value to farmers’ produce. Nonetheless, they need support from IFAD in terms of investments



Mrs. Shamika Anil Mone, President of INOFO, at the opening session of the 7th global meeting of the Farmers’ Forum.



The Forum is “an incredible place to network with colleagues from around the world, to develop new ideas and exchange good practices”, said Mrs. Renate Hahlen, Deputy Head of the EU delegation in Rome, at the opening session of the 7th global meeting of the Farmers’ Forum.

5 <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/14356EN>

6 <https://undocs.org/en/A/C.3/73/L.30>

and improved participation in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of IFAD policies and programmes.

In recognition of the role of the EU as a strategic partner of IFAD and FOs, the floor was given to Mrs. Renate Hahlen (Deputy Head of the EU delegation in Rome). She strongly emphasized the role played by FOs as membership-driven organizations to address poverty and improve food security and nutrition, and the efforts they have made to deal with extreme weather events and mitigate climate change while striving to secure access to markets and improving livelihoods. She underlined that smallholders and family farmers are the focus of the EU development support for agriculture and rural development, and that - together with IFAD - the EU focuses on supporting them as well as their organizations. IFAD is in fact a privileged partner for the EU for its unique experience in cooperating with FOs. And this is why since 2008 it has been a strategic ally key to implement the EU portfolio of more than EUR100 million to benefit FOs around the world. This has allowed FOs to fully engage in economic development, capture economic and business opportunities, strengthen their voice in policy dialogue at all levels and ultimately improve livelihoods.

Trends and developments in IFAD's partnership with farmers' organizations

As it is the practice at the global meetings of the FAFO, IFAD presented the Partnership in Progress Report, analysing the trends and developments in IFAD's partnership with FOs. The 2020 global meeting happening for the first time after 4-years since the previous one, the report covered the period 2016-2019. Overall, the document showed that the partnership is confirmed and is evolving, and that the aligned decentralization processes of IFAD and the FAFO have provided great opportunities to further strengthen the collaboration.

The report highlighted that the participation of FOs in the formulation of COSOPs is now a well-established norm. Also, FOs were involved in the implementation of 71 percent of the projects designed in the period 2016-2017 and an increase was noticed in terms of their participation in supervision. Between 2016 and 2019, 14 grants to FOs were approved for a total amount of US\$41 million. Regional grants to FOs co-financed by IFAD and the EU covered almost the entire portfolio of grants approved during the period, accounting for 93 percent of all direct financing to FOs. Case studies and reports highlight that the support received by national FOs through regional programmes enhanced their participation in IFAD country programmes and strengthened FOs' capacities to influence public policy.

The report also allowed us to assess the regional FAFO process. Four regional FAFOs were organized between 2017 and 2019, bringing together more than 200 leaders from FOs and over 400 staff from IFAD and IFAD-funded projects, as well as partners and government officials. Regional FAFOs resulted in the development of 55 country-level action plans listing activities to be implemented to further develop the partnership.



The Partnership in Progress Report is presented by Mrs. Fanny Grandval, Senior Regional Specialist of IFAD, during the plenary session of the FAFO.

Some interesting and innovative features observed in the partnership were also shared. For example, in Asia, partnerships between national FOs and IFAD were formalized and secured through the signature of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU). In West Africa and in the Pacific, regional FOs were involved in project design missions and/or as implementing partners. Also, many value chain development projects are providing direct funding to FOs' businesses plans (e.g. in Madagascar) and some investment projects are introducing new approaches to build capacities of both local and national FOs (e.g. in Chad and Tunisia).

Lastly, IFAD launched a short video presenting the Farmers and Rural Producers' Organizations Mapping (FO-MAPP)⁷, an initiative developed by IFAD and the WRF to support FOs visibility and knowledge sharing.

Following the presentation, participants had the possibility to share their comments and contribute to the discussion. In particular, the presentation by IFAD was complemented by a number of representatives from FOs, who shared additional information on successful country experiences (e.g. in Burundi, Mongolia, Tonga). Many participants expressed appreciation for the work of IFAD and the support it provides to FOs. Within that context, decentralization was unanimously considered a milestone in advancing the partnership and an opportunity to build upon. Nonetheless, the need to organize regional FAFOs in the Near East, North Africa, Central Asia and Europe (NEN) region was underlined. Also, it was found necessary to deepen dialogue at the national level by creating platforms for permanent discussion. The question of inclusiveness was also brought to the plenary and participants agreed that more needs to be done to make sure youth is represented and the mix of constituencies (pastoralists, fishers...) better balanced in the FAFO. Strong calls were also made by some participants on the need for IFAD to mobilize resources for land restoration and to further support small-scale fisheries.



Mrs. Annick Sezibera,
Executive Secretary of
*Collectif Des Association
Paysannes Pour L'auto
Development (CAPAD).*

Regional working groups

Five regional working groups⁸ were organized on February 6 to enable FOs and IFAD Regional Divisions to discuss the status of the partnership and the way forward in the different regions in which IFAD operates.

Overall, IFAD acknowledged the key role FOs play in improving the effectiveness and sustainability of its operations, and concrete progress was evidenced in the IFAD-FOs partnership in most regions since the last global meeting of the FAFO. This was particularly evident in the APR, LAC and WCA regions.

IFAD's decentralization, with the establishment of sub-regional hubs and the out-posting of most operational staff at the country level, was particularly considered a milestone, enabling IFAD and FOs to strengthen dialogue and closer relations in the field.

Furthermore, the outcomes from the regional FAFOs demonstrated the commitment and engagement of FOs and IFAD to further strengthen their partnership. The first cycle of regional FAFOs resulted in the development of 55 jointly agreed country-level action plans that include recommendations to strengthen collaboration between national FOs, IFAD country teams and the managers of IFAD-funded projects.

⁷ FO-MAPP (www.fo-mapp.com) is a database that provides geo-referenced information of FOs (e.g. in terms of their membership, geographical coverage, agricultural products, services provided) and was developed based on their request to IFAD at the FAFO to do more to promote FOs visibility and knowledge sharing.

⁸ The full reports of the regional working groups are available in annex 3.

IFAD and FOs also shared examples of successful collaboration on the ground. In Burundi, the *Collectif Des Association Paysannes Pour L'auto Développement (CAPAD)* and IFAD implemented 13 out of the 14 activities agreed upon in the country action plan. In Zambia, IFAD and FOs agreed to set up a committee to coordinate activities and dialogue. In Madagascar, IFAD successfully supported the engagement of FOs in the process of reform of the national Chamber of Agriculture, invested in the capacity building of FOs through its country programme and systematically invited FOs to join supervision and design missions. In Asia and the Pacific, country-level agreements were signed (e.g. in Indonesia) and FOs increased their participation in the preparation of COSOPs (i.e. over 10 cases) and in the supervision missions of IFAD-supported projects. In Togo, the *Coordination Togolaise des Organisations Paysannes (CTOP)* was responsible to strengthen cooperatives in the implementation of the IFAD-funded *Projet National de Promotion de l'Entrepreneuriat Rural (PNPER)* through a ministerial decree. In Chad, the *Conseil National de Concertation des Producteurs Ruraux du Tchad (CNCPR)* is represented in the steering committees of IFAD-funded projects and is responsible for capacity building of local FOs and for the mapping of FOs. In Guinea-Bissau and Niger, FOs are fully involved in the implementation of IFAD-financed projects (the Family Farming Diversification, Integrated Markets, Nutrition and Climate Resilience Project - REDE and the Family Farming Development Programme - PRODAF, respectively). In LAC, new laws were approved for the promotion of family farming with the support of IFAD (e.g. in Guatemala and Panama).

FO delegates also referred to the importance of regional grants to support FOs. In particular, they emphasized that the Medium-Term Cooperation Programme with Farmers' Organizations (MTCP) in Asia and the Pacific, and the SFOAP in Africa, have enabled FOs to grow into effective and professional organizations, and engage in policy dialogue at all levels. AFA particularly reported that MTCP enabled them to reach 43.5 million farmers belonging to over 1,600 organizations. Furthermore, it supported FOs to promote 86 policies at the national and subnational levels on key issues (e.g. land tenure, seeds, price control, sustainable agriculture), to engage in policy dialogue at the international level (e.g. within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations – ASEAN and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation - SAARC), to participate in international campaigns (e.g. UNDF and UNDROP), to improve FOs communication and visibility and to increase and consolidate farmers into commodity clusters to meet market volumes and standards.

Direct support for FOs was overall considered key for their professionalization, to building sustainable and viable cooperatives and enterprises, and to engaging in policy dialogue. The new regional programmes (FO4ACP, the Asia-Pacific Farmers Programme – APFP and Farmers' Organizations for Asia and Latin America - FOALA) will build on these experiences.

Notwithstanding the results, several challenges were also experienced. In particular, while the process of regionalization of the FAFO was considered positive by FOs, there was a unanimous emphasis on the need to strengthen the process at the national level through the organization of national FAFOs. Also, it was felt that the inclusion and integration of fishers was below expectations and that small-scale fishers were not adequately included and represented at all the levels of the FAFO process. Other challenges related to the regionalization of the FAFO included the monitoring and follow-up of the country level action plans and the lack of adequate financial resources to implement them.



Mr. Thales Bevilacqua Mendonça (member of INOFO).

A specific case was represented by the NEN region, where the regional FAFO meeting had not yet taken place. Both IFAD and FOs acknowledged that collaboration in this region was weak. On the other hand, they agreed this awareness could be a starting point to improve collaboration and the partnership. For that purpose, a road map with actions to improve the partnership should be developed.

As far as the progress in the partnership at the country level is concerned, a number of challenges and areas to strengthen the collaboration were identified by FO delegates. In particular, they emphasized the need for IFAD to: (i) facilitate dialogue between FOs and governments; (ii) further support FOs in terms of capacity building, particularly to improve their capacities to negotiate with stakeholders and engage in policy dialogue; (iii) improve communication and ensure continuity in the partnership with FOs beyond staff mobility/turnover (this was particularly important for the ESA region); (iv) appoint FO focal points in IFAD Hubs and support the participation of FOs in Hub planning exercises; (v) support the implementation of the UNDEF at the country level; (vi) promote the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT)⁹ and the VSSF; (vii) address challenges faced by youth and women in agriculture (e.g. in terms of access to land, financial resources, markets), and include youth and women in IFAD projects and programmes; (viii) promote traditional knowledge and modern technologies as well as agroecology. For their part, FOs agreed they should make efforts to be more inclusive, reach out and expand their networks at the grassroots level, and tap into resources beyond IFAD (e.g. governments and the private sector).

Looking at the future, IFAD and FOs expressed their mutual commitment to deepening the partnership at many levels and agreed they should continue working together and promoting closer relations. In particular, they recognized that the new decentralized IFAD structure opens up several opportunities for improving the partnership at the national level through enhanced information sharing, increased involvement of FOs in IFAD processes and capacity building of FOs. Also, several opportunities to replicate and scale up good practices were identified beyond grant and investment programmes, such as the IFAD12 instruments and the new regional grant programs co-financed by the EU and IFAD in support of FOs. FOs were invited by IFAD to fully engage and take advantage of these new instruments.

9 <http://www.fao.org/3/i2801e/i2801e.pdf>

IFAD 12 informative session

On 7 February 2020, an informative session on IFAD12 was organized with the participation of Mr. Paul Winters (Associate Vice-President of the Strategy and Knowledge Department at IFAD) and Mr. Donal Brown (Associate Vice-President of the Programme Management Department at IFAD). Mr. Paul Winters reminded that during the previous replenishment IFAD mobilized US\$1.1 billion, which allowed the Fund to provide loans for an amount of 3.5 billion. He emphasized that IFAD would like to see that amount increase for small-scale producers around the world and called upon FOs to support IFAD in that regard.

He reassured participants that in relation to its strategic directions, IFAD will be maintaining its core mandate, focusing on agriculture as a fundamental driver of economic growth and prosperity in rural areas, as well as on small-scale producers, ensuring women are able to participate and helping young people get into farming successfully. He also stated that IFAD will make sure that one quarter of funding will go towards climate finance, helping farmers to adapt and take steps towards mitigation.

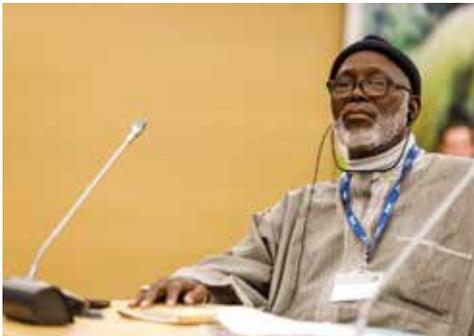
He also shared key information on two new instruments to be discussed during the IFAD12 consultation: the new Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP+) and the Private Sector Financing Programme (PSFP). ASAP+ will build on the experience of ASAP and will expand in order to also make funds directly accessible to civil society organizations such as FOs, and to complement activities for a better impact with a focus on mitigation. PSFP is a facility that would allow IFAD to provide resources directly to the private sector for the benefit of small-scale producers, rural communities and small and medium-sized rural enterprises (SMEs), with a focus on job creation for youth and women.

Mr. Winters invited FOs to engage in the development and implementation of these two instruments, which open up new opportunities for collaboration between IFAD and FOs.

Participants reacted to his remarks by welcoming the development of ASAP+ and the PSFP. They emphasized the need to capitalize and build on the experiences and good practices of farmers in the different countries to mitigate climate change. This will be the basis for engaging meaningfully in dialogue with IFAD and to collaborate in the implementation of these new initiatives.

Furthermore, participants strongly emphasized the need to establish clear mechanisms to enable access to these funds by FOs and requested IFAD include FO representatives in their governance mechanisms. Also, they underlined that funding should particularly touch women and youth, as well as small-scale and artisanal fishers, who are strongly affected by climate change.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Paul Winters welcomed the proposals by FO representatives and confirmed IFAD's openness to include FO representatives in the Steering or Advisory Committees of ASAP+ and PSFP.



“If you want to come up with a programme for us, you need to start from what we have done, how we have done it, what worked, what didn’t work and why so that then we can build a programme that we can co-lead”, said Mr. Mamadou Cissokho, Honorary President of the ROPPA, at the informative session on IFAD12.

Thematic working groups

CLIMATE CHANGE AND TRANSITION TO AGROECOLOGY

What opportunities are there to further partnerships between farmers' organizations and IFAD?

The current and foreseeable effects of climate change are among the biggest threats to food production, food security and nutrition, and the sustainability of local food systems, in particular in developing countries. Smallholder and family farmers' organizations are proactively addressing this challenge at all levels, from promotion of agroecology, organic farming, conservation agriculture and other similar practices at farm and landscape levels, to policy engagement at national and global levels. FOs have developed strong visions on the future of the planet through the adoption of practices for more resilient agricultural production with less emissions.

IFAD, for its part, has focused on mainstreaming climate change adaptation, mitigation and climate resilience in its operations, and has mobilized several funds and financing facilities to that end. Amongst those instruments, the ASAP, that reached 11,000 groups and FOs to address climate change challenges. Agroecology is one promising approach to establishing resilient farming systems, that at the same time store carbon, minimize GHG emissions, and provide a diversity of nutritious food. IFAD is currently undertaking a stocktaking exercise on agroecology activities in its funded projects and is designing new financial instruments, including the ASAP+ that should focus on climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilient food systems.

The working group provided an opportunity to map the opportunities for FOs and IFAD to work together on tools, financing instruments, strategies and innovative solutions to promote agroecology, organic farming, conservation agriculture and other similar practices at farm and landscape levels for sustainable and resilient food systems, and to transform it into policy engagement at national and global levels.

Mrs. Rikke Olivera (Senior Global Technical Specialist at IFAD) illustrated the work of the IFAD team on agroecology. Furthermore, FOs had the opportunity to share their experiences in dealing with climate change adaptation and mitigation through agroecology, and made suggestions to IFAD on how to support them in this regard. They particularly underlined the importance of promoting farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange and peer learning (ANAP¹⁰, CFAP¹¹, INOFO, WFO) and of the collaboration with research and academic institutions (ANAP, COPROFRAM, INOFO) in order to promote technical innovations, document agroecological practices and build the evidence needed to support dialogue with governments on the transition to agroecology. Also, FO representatives emphasized the need to develop financial instruments that support the transition to agroecology (CAPAD) and to financially support farmers, fishers and their organizations to improve their capacities and to engage in policy making (INOFO, KKM¹², SPI¹³, WFFP). The importance of capacity building on agroecological practices and awareness raising on climate change and its effects at the grassroots and community levels were also strongly underlined (CAPAD, CFAP, NAFSL¹⁴, UNFFE¹⁵, WFF). Participants also focused on the importance of traditional knowledge and on the need to promote local traditional seeds which are resilient to climate hazards (INOFO, WFF).

10 National Association of Small Farmers of Cuba

11 Cambodian Farmer Association Federation of Agricultural Producers

12 Kendrio Krishok Moitree

13 Serikat Petani Indonesia

14 National Association of Farmers of Sierra Leone

15 Uganda National Farmers Federation

Overall, FOs representatives (LVC, WFF, WFFP) reminded that despite 25 years of negotiations at the global level, the effects of climate change are worsening and particularly hitting smallholder farmers and artisanal fishers. Improving the effectiveness of the solutions adopted is thus urgent. Within this context, they asked IFAD to support agroecology for a real transition to diversified, small-scale, locally routed and sustainable production models and food systems.

Box 3. Main recommendations of the working group

To governments:

- Orient policies towards an approach that transforms food systems and strengthens resource conservation and farming models based on agroecology
- Public policies are needed with tools and instruments that encourage agroecology, mobilizing in particular resources for women and young people (access to credit, access to land, support for marketing, promotion of farmers' seeds, training on agroecology, local services to farms, early warning systems, guarantee and insurance systems, etc.)
- Take into account the different trades of farmers (agriculture, fishing, livestock farming, processing, etc.)

To IFAD:

- Support the capitalization, valorization and dissemination of the best practices of farmers, fishers and pastoralists
- Promote the dissemination of technologies resulting from researcher-farmer partnerships (e.g. smoking techniques and fish conservation, soil and ecosystem restoration, preservation of fishery resources, etc.)
- Strengthen processes and mechanisms for farmer-to-farmer learning and training
- Encourage collaborative processes between research and academic institutions and FOs to generate technologies and measure the effects of agroecology
- Promote models based on agroecology in favor of smallholder producers
- Support FOs in their participation in international fora on issues related to climate change and food systems: COP meetings, World Summit on Food Systems, etc.
- Facilitate transfer of assets to FOs
- Promote scaling-up of farmers' initiatives to support agroecology to reduce the effects of climate change

To FOs:

- Disseminate information on climate change and innovations, including training and learning opportunities
- Build and support alliances and multi-stakeholder partnerships at all levels (local, national, regional, international) for actions against climate change and for the promotion of agroecology
- Strengthen capacities in policy dialogue starting from farmers' positions, based on field knowledge and research findings

VISION FOR IFAD 12

How do IFAD's new instruments affect Farmers' Organizations?

IFAD's mission is to transform rural economies and food systems by making them more inclusive, productive, resilient and sustainable. To do this, IFAD invests in the millions of people who are most at risk of being left behind: poor, small-scale food producers, women, young people and other vulnerable groups living in rural areas.

IFAD seeks to achieve its vision by stepping up its role in the global effort to end poverty and achieve zero hunger in rural areas by doubling its impact by 2030. Recent reforms and innovations in its operating model have fundamentally altered IFAD's country-level approach. For example, decentralization has increased IFAD's ability to deliver on its mandate in the field. Also, IFAD is currently developing a vision for its future intervention in order to expand its reach. This new vision is at the center of the 12th replenishment consultations and includes the expansion of the kinds of resources IFAD seeks to leverage, and the development of new financing instruments including ASAP+ and PSFP.

The working group enabled FOs to learn more about these new instruments. In particular, building on the experience of ASAP, ASAP+ would provide grant-based climate finance with an increased focus on mitigation and placing greater emphasis on linking climate with nutrition, gender, youth and social inclusion. Civil society organizations such as NGOs, FOs and other United Nations entities, in addition to governments, may access funding. The PSFP would be a facility accessible to cooperatives and SMEs with a focus on job creation for youth and women. The PSFP could also deploy customized technical assistance to support innovative and impactful solutions targeting small-scale producers and their organizations, including delivering assistance to design business plans, implement appropriate accounting and management techniques, improve commodity diversification or strengthen the benefits from market participation and their resilience to climate change.

Overall, FOs jointly expressed strong interest in these two new instruments and underlined the need to facilitate access to funding for the different FAFO constituencies. They particularly acknowledged the lack of involvement of fisher folks and their organizations in most of the existing funding instruments promoted by IFAD, and there was consensus for bridging that gap through the new proposed instruments of IFAD12. FOs requested to be involved in the process of design of both instruments.

In relation to ASAP+, FO delegates stated that funds should particularly support practices on sustainable mechanization, renewable energy, labour saving technologies and adaptable equipment. In addition, beyond professional FOs, ASAP+ should also reach other community-based groupings. In relation of PSFP, FOs called upon IFAD to make sure funds target primarily family farmers, small-scale producers and cooperatives, although they recognized that SMEs in agribusiness should also be targeted.

FOs also requested IFAD seek ways for having an inclusive governing structure for ASAP+ and PSFP, and ensure the participation of FO representatives in their design, steering process and management. Also, they offered to join IFAD in its efforts to mobilize funds.

Box 4. Main recommendations of the working group

General recommendations

- IFAD should seek ways for having an inclusive governing structure with representatives of regional FOs participating in the design, steering process and management of the new instruments
- FOs should identify technical skills at all levels for the formulation, development and management of both instruments
- FOs should work with IFAD to develop mechanisms for earmarking access to both funds by FOs and community-based organizations
- FOs should join IFAD in the mobilization of resources for both funds

On ASAP+:

- ASAP+ should build on stocktaking of best practices in the different agroecology zones to identify potential for scaling-up
- ASAP+ should support practices on sustainable mechanization, renewable energy, labour-saving technologies and adaptable equipment
- ASAP + should also involve communities (rangeland management associations, watershed management associations, agroforestry associations and other community-based groupings)

On PSFP:

- Funds should primarily target family farmers, producers and cooperatives, as well as SMEs in agribusiness
- The fund should reach viable business proposals
- Technical assistance needs to be provided for both upstream (for generating viable business proposals) and downstream (for their implementation)

THE UN DECADE OF FAMILY FARMING AND THE 2021 FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

What support does IFAD provide to boost participation by FOs at these venues for policy dialogue?

Family farming is the predominant form of agriculture today in the world, particularly in developing countries. It offers an opportunity to ensure food security, improve livelihoods and nutrition, bring about the better management of resources, protect biodiversity and achieve sustainable development. Overall, family farmers and their organizations have a key role to play to develop innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition.

The 2020 global meeting of the FAFO is held at a strategic moment regarding two major policy dialogue moments linked to the recognition of family farmers as implementing agents of the SDGs: the UNDFE and the 2021 FSS. The working group enabled participants to discuss on how IFAD-FOs' partnership can be strengthened for better FOs' involvement in these two key policy dialogue moments to achieve results and impacts on the SDGs.

In particular, Mr. Auxtin Ortiz (Director of the WRF) provided some background information and updates on the process and implementation of the UNDFE. He highlighted the fact that the Decade places family farming at the heart of the main social, environmental and economic goals of the 2030 Agenda and emphasized the fact that its approval by the UN General Assembly was the result of a long, inclusive and participatory process led by FOs. He reminded that the UNDFE GAP was developed to accelerate actions to support family farming. Also, an international steering committee was established to oversee the implementation of the UNDFE, composed of representatives of Member States and FOs, and supported by the FAO and IFAD joint secretariat. Furthermore, National Committees for Family Farming (NCFs) were put in place in 43 countries.

FOs shared progress at the regional and national levels in the implementation of the Decade and made some proposals to make it successful. For example, AFA informed that in their region, ASEAN committed to support the UNDFE while in the Pacific they are collaborating with the SAARC to organize a regional consultation meeting for the elaboration of a regional action plan. At the national level, 5 multi-stakeholder NCFs were established. In Central Africa, the *Plateforme Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale* (PROPAC) organized a regional meeting with the participation of strategic partners including FAO and IFAD. As a result, a draft plan of action was elaborated and needs to be validated.

Participants recognized that beyond the global and regional levels, efforts are needed, particularly to implement the Decade at the national level with the development of national action plans. Within that context, FO delegates pointed out some of the issues faced. These include the challenging dialogue with governments, the lack of government recognition of NCFs as well as the lack of financing (FIFATA¹⁶, LVC, WRF). FO delegates requested IFAD mobilize national and regional offices to engage with existing committees and facilitate dialogue with governments in order to achieve the expected result of the GAP to develop 100 national action plans. Also, FOs requested IFAD further support FO capacity building as well as mobilize funds to help organizations establish and develop NCFs, and engage with governments (AFA, LVC). Lastly, FO delegates emphasized the lack of a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to assess progress in the implementation

of the Decade (FIFATA) and stated more needs to be done to improve the communication around the UNDFE, particularly through the organization of launch and promotional events (FIFATA, ROPPA).

In relation to the Food Systems Summit, most FO delegates expressed their concerns due to the absence of information and clarity around the event, and the lack of meaningful participation of FOs in its process of preparation so far. The risk that the Summit will result in advancing the interests of agribusiness rather than those of smallholder farmers, who feed the world and protect the planet, were strongly highlighted by participants.

Positions were divided in terms of FOs willingness to participate in the Summit. While some organizations recognized the need for FOs to engage in the process in order to influence it, others underlined that participation should be meaningful, effective and self-organized, and build on existing small scale producers spaces such as the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) or the FAFO itself.

Box 5. Main recommendations of the working group

To IFAD:

- Strengthen direct financial support to family farmers' organizations to set up and strengthen NCFFs, with organizations in the lead or in the driver's seat, and at the center of these processes
- Mobilize regional hubs and country offices to support the development and implementation of national and regional action plans

To governments:

- Impose 1 percent tax on food industries. The collected tax should be placed under the control of a body that guarantees that it will be used to advance the objectives of the Decade and to support family farmers' organizations
- Integrate the Decade with existing government programs (e.g. national and regional agriculture investment plans)
- Foster a tripartite process (government, family farmers' organizations, IFAD) for the monitoring and evaluation of the Decade

Recommendations to FOs:

- Organize themselves better in order to be able to negotiate with governments
- Use existing mechanisms and tools of IFAD (e.g. COSOPs) to advocate for priority policies within the framework of the Decade

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN AGRICULTURE

Despite the vast amount of work that women perform in the agriculture sector, their role remains largely unrecognized. The concerns and issues of women farmers are scarcely heard at the local, national and global levels. One reason for this silence is that there are not enough women members of rural organizations or in leadership positions able to represent the interests of rural women. This absence is compounded by the fact that women do not have a voice in decision-making processes at all levels.

Ensuring that women have a greater voice is not only a matter of gender equality. Women's membership and leadership, especially in FOs, is essential for increasing the production of smallholder agriculture, as women make massive contributions to the sector.

Evidence demonstrates that, in economies where gender equality is greater in terms of both opportunities and benefits, there is not only higher economic growth but also a better quality of life. Addressing gender inequalities and empowering women is thus vital to meeting the challenge of improving food and nutrition security, and enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty.

IFAD has a long-standing commitment to promoting rural women's leadership, particularly in FOs. This commitment led to the organization of a special session on "Promoting Leadership in Farmers' and Rural Producers' Organizations" at the 2010 Farmers' Forum.¹⁷ Recommendations from the Session became the cornerstone of a number of IFAD commitments and helped to shape subsequent programmes, grants and dedicated initiatives.

The working group enabled participants to discuss the actions taken following the recommendations of the FAFO relating to women and take stock of experiences and successes to support women in FOs.

In particular, Mrs. Beatrice Gerli (Gender, Targeting and Social Inclusion Specialist at IFAD) mentioned that the participation of women in the FAFO increased from 36 percent in 2010 to 42 percent in 2020, and that several women's leadership programmes and projects were designed and implemented, particularly in the period 2010-2015. Also, in cooperation with its partners, IFAD is one of the leading agencies pioneering the innovative approach of using Household Methodologies (HHMs) to change the persistent pattern of gender inequality, particularly among farming families and communities. A grant to support women's land rights is currently being prepared as well as programmes on rural women economic empowerment and gender transformative approaches.

FO delegates also shared best practices and successful experiences in the promotion of women's leadership, targeted technical capacity building focusing on production and access to markets, and the promotion of saving schemes. Nonetheless, they highlighted the glaring imbalance that still exists between women's roles, voice and opportunities in all aspects within agriculture and food systems. The main challenges include limited financial support, access to land, resources, services, technologies for rural women and girls, as well as the limited recognition of women and their organizations at all levels. Also, gender-based bias, norms and behaviors remain the root cause of inequalities.

Some suggestions were also made to address these issues. In particular, participants called upon IFAD to capitalize on best practices across regions on ways to increase women's participation in value chains. Also, they requested IFAD to design and implement

17 <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/publication/asset/39406857>

programmes specifically focused on the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in agriculture, so as to address the multiple and diverse challenges they are confronted with. The need to support women's membership in FOs at all levels and to make efforts to promote rural women's leadership pathways through comprehensive approaches were also considered key. In terms of IFAD's new decentralized structure, delegates considered relevant for IFAD to identify a specific gender focal point at the regional level to improve dialogue and partnership with women's organizations.

Box 6. Main recommendations of the working group

To IFAD:

- Further capitalize on best practices across the various regions aimed at increasing women's participation in value chains and men's support to push forward a gender equal world
- Design and implement programmes specifically focused on the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in agriculture, so as to address the multiple and diverse challenges they are confronted with
- Ensure support for women FOs in IFAD member countries, even if there isn't an active lending portfolio. Non-lending instruments such as grants or partnerships could be used
- Continue to support women's membership in FOs at all levels and closely monitor the progress made. Ensure that monitoring systems can capture women's inclusion in FOs, leadership and also the quality of such participation and leadership
- Continue efforts to promote rural women's leadership pathways through comprehensive approaches that involve literacy and financial skills, business and agronomy capacity building, mentoring to boost self-esteem, gender equality training that involves both men and women, and adequate implementation mechanisms
- Develop long-term support plans for women's organizations or women's wings within mixed organizations, ensuring that they are not side-tracked or confined, and supporting the implementation of their action plans
- Scale up transformative methodologies in IFAD's operations, linking these to support strategies for FOs. These methodologies have helped some FO delegates to transform gender biases and roles, empowering women within the household, communities and organizations, and enabling them to take up leadership positions
- Involve women leaders of FOs in the implementation, supervision and monitoring of development programmes
- Support the provision of financial services suitable and accessible to women
- Identify a gender focal point at the regional level, to be the interlocutor for women's organizations and initiatives to support women's inclusion and leadership in FOs
- Ensure that at the next FAFO and in all the activities supported by IFAD, women represent at least 50 percent of participants within all delegations

YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The world is home to 1.2 billion young people between the ages of 15 and 24, and the youth population is growing the fastest in the poorest nations. Governments around the world face the challenge of providing young people with jobs and opportunities that safeguard their futures. In rural areas, home to 600 million youth, the challenges are particularly complex. These include insufficient access to knowledge, information and education; limited access to land; inadequate access to financial services; difficulties accessing decent jobs; limited access to markets; and limited involvement in policy dialogue. Poor organizational skills have also been identified as a key challenge to youth's full participation in agriculture. Few aspire to remain in rural areas and make a living out of agriculture, mainly because agriculture is less and less attractive to young generations, with very little mechanization adopted on the ground, and the underuse of innovations and technologies. Too often, their only option is to migrate, either to urban areas or overseas.

FOs are using several strategies to focus their attention and action on the future of youth in rural areas. They are mainstreaming youth issues in their strategies, structuring youth networks, investing resources in youth business and activities, and supporting policy engagement to advocate for youth in the agricultural sector.

IFAD understands that investing in rural youth is crucial for dynamic rural transformation, and its portfolio of investments increasingly focuses on young people as a priority following the FAFO special session on youth held in 2012, as well as the subsequent FAFO deliberations on youth and particularly those emerging from the 2016 FAFO working group on youth.

Participants in the group had the opportunity to discuss the actions taken by IFAD in that regard. Mr. Tom Anyonge (Lead Technical Specialist at IFAD) mentioned that youth mainstreaming is a priority for IFAD and that remarkable progress in its work on youth has been made by the Fund. Indeed, a Rural Youth Action Plan¹⁸ was developed and approved by the Board in December 2018. The document sets forth the youth agenda for IFAD for the period 2019-2021 and focuses on supporting rural youth to enhance their livelihoods by accessing decent jobs. The Plan includes commitments to increase its investment in youth, alongside its in-house capacity to develop youth-sensitive projects and to formalize an engagement mechanism to interact with youth. Also, IFAD has held five regional consultations with young people, including some suggested by FOs themselves as representatives. This was the first step of a process that aims at formalizing a mechanism to engage with youth on a regular basis.

According to Mr. Anyonge, all the steps taken by IFAD are in line with the recommendations made at the FAFO, especially on increasing investment (e.g. 50 percent of new projects have to be youth-sensitive) and on helping youth to have greater influence in decision-making (through regular engagement at country and regional levels).

FO delegates emphasized that although progress has been made, challenges still persist and they shared their views on how to attract youth in agriculture based on their experiences and practices. They emphasized the importance for young farmers to have access to resources, these being financial as well as natural (CNOP Mali, EAFV, Mviwata¹⁹, PIFON²⁰). In particular, youth access to their own land was considered a key factor for them to remain in rural areas (INOFO). In this context, the importance of advocating for

18 <https://www.ifad.org/en/document-detail/asset/41190893>

19 Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania

20 Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network

policies that support and encourage young people to remain in rural areas, enabling them to access to land, was also underlined (COPROFAM).

Delegates also stressed that increasing the establishment of processing plants and facilities in rural and remote areas might help create jobs for youth. Many young people are in fact attracted by factory jobs in cities, and moving agri-food processing facilities closer to them might reduce migration from rural areas (Cooperative Amagar, EAFF). Overall, FO delegates acknowledged that post-production activities are more interesting to young people, especially when they include modern technologies owned by them (EAFF, PIFON). Organic farming was also considered an important sector to attract youth for its potential in terms of value addition (INOFO).

Other key areas identified by FO delegates for supporting rural youth to address challenges included: training and capacity building to promote youth leadership in FOs and to help them mobilize and organize into cooperatives; and the creation of spaces and platforms for young people to interact and exchange at all levels.

Lastly, Mrs. Ariane Genthon (Child Labour expert at FAO) made a speech on child labour in agriculture and invited participants to join the High-Level International Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture in 2021, in observance of the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, contributing to the subsequent V Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour.

Box 7. Main recommendations of the working group

Recommendations to attract youths in the agriculture sector:

- Improve the role and independence of youth within their families, recognizing their significant contribution, and help them to access credit and the family income
- Image: Need to restore youth confidence and a good image for the sector
- Improve the conditions for the empowerment of young people on family farms (access to land, access to income, etc.)
- Promote innovation, both in terms of technology and at an institutional level in FOs to cater for young people's needs. Technologies such as ICT (using applications, etc.) and mechanization, and service provision, should be promoted
- Improve access to finance through innovative mechanisms
- More investment in post-production and agricultural infrastructure, and services in rural areas (product processing, etc.): FOs and IFAD might cooperate on this aspect
- Work on the general rural environment with more investments in rural areas to keep young people (energy, education / training, etc.)

Recommendations to make FOs more attractive to youth:

- FOs should set up mechanisms to ensure the succession of leaders and leave room for the new generation (participation of young people in forums)
- Propose institutional innovations to make FOs more dynamic and attractive to young people
- Re-brand what it means to be a young modern farmer
- Promote youth platforms at national, local, and village levels to capture youth voices and issues at all levels
- Develop leadership / mentoring programs for young people (between young people or between generations)
- Encourage communication between young people from different international FOs (networking)

Special session of the Farmers' Forum: Towards the Food Systems Summit 2021

Farmers and food systems, what future for small-scale agriculture? On 10 February, the FAFO hosted Mr. Jim Woodhill (Honorary Research Associate at the University of Oxford) to present and discuss the report “Farmers and food systems, what future for small-scale agriculture?”²¹, conducted by the Environmental Change Institute at the University of Oxford, as a contribution to deeper discussion, analysis and thinking during the FAFO.

The overall objective of the report is to provide a set of conceptual framings to unpack the issues around small-scale agriculture and provide a reference point for debate. The document addresses two main questions on how important small-scale agriculture to feed the world and tackling rural poverty and inequality, by drawing on recent data. It highlights the connections between changes in food systems and the challenges for transforming small-scale agriculture. The dynamics between the evolution of food markets, emerging patterns of investment and changes in how small-scale farmers make a livelihood are explored to offer ideas about an agenda for transformation.

The analysis emphasizes that there are over 558 million farms with 20 ha or less land that play a critical role for long-term global food and nutrition security, tackling rural poverty and hunger, and achieving the SDGs. Nonetheless, of these, 410 million or 72 percent are below 1 ha. A large majority of the smallest farms are not commercial and make a minor contribution to feeding urban populations. This creates a dualism in small-scale agriculture between a small number of commercial farmers above the poverty line and a large number of semi/subsistence farmers who are mostly very poor. This dualism has important policy and development implications.

The key messages from the study are that transforming small-scale agriculture to be more commercial and to tackle poverty and hunger requires a much more nuanced and disaggregated understanding of the diversity of small-scale farms and their farming contexts, a more multifaceted, integrated and targeted set of policies across the sector, and the development of national-level small-scale agriculture transformation strategies based on food systems foresight and scenario analysis.

The Food Systems Summit 2021. Participants in the global meeting also had the opportunity to talk with Mrs. Agnes Kalibata, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General, on the road map to the FSS 2021 to learn about the purpose, vision and process of the Summit. In 2021, a Food Systems Summit will be hosted to maximize the benefits of a food systems approach across the 2030 Agenda and the Special Envoy will provide guidance and strategic direction in terms of the Summit.

Mrs. Kalibata reminded participants of the urgency to accelerate action, with only 10 years left to achieve the SDGs. In that context, the 2021 FSS will be an opportunity to build consensus on key actions to accelerate the transformation of food systems, key to fulfilling the SDGs. She also recognized the value of farming and the role of farmers to feed the world, and emphasized the fact that they need to have a voice at the Summit. She underlined the fact that it will be key to making sure all voices are equally heard and her willingness to have an inclusive, people-oriented and people-focused Summit. In terms of the preparation of the event, she reminded the approach will be to build on existing initiatives and dialogues at all levels. By the end of the first quarter



Participants at the FAFO take part in the special session on food systems.

21 <https://www.eci.ox.ac.uk/research/food/downloads/Farming-food-WEB.pdf>

of 2020, a road map should be ready and a process of consultation should start as key preliminary steps for the organization of the Summit.

FO leaders expressed their concerns in relation to the inclusion of FOs in the process of preparation of the Summit. They stated that small food producers, indigenous peoples, fishers and pastoralists are responsible for 80 percent of world food production and represent half of the population in many countries. This is why they should constitute the majority of participants at the Summit. Also, special attention should be given to the choice of venue of the Summit in order to ensure the participation of FOs from all over the world.

In terms of the quality of participation, they strongly emphasized the need for civil society organizations, such as FOs, to be part of this process, building on their experiences, proposals and solutions as happens with the CSM of the CFS as well as at the FAFO. They reminded the important work conducted by FOs within these processes, resulting in the development of the VGGT, the policy recommendation on Connecting Smallholders to Markets²² and the UNDROP, and stated the Summit should build upon them.

Overall, FO delegates stressed that some voices should have more weight than others and that the Summit should prioritize the voice of small food producers, who are both the category most affected by the negativities of current food systems and the solution to food system challenges. Finally, Mrs. Elizabeth Mpofu (LVC) called upon the Rome-based Agencies, the Special Envoy and IFAD's Member States to make sure FOs are fully involved in all the stages of organization of the Summit, as this will be the precondition for their endorsement and participation.



Mrs. Agnes Kalibata, UN Special Envoy, on the FSS during the Special Session of the FAFO on food systems.

22 <http://www.csm4cfs.org/connecting-smallholders-markets-analytical-guide/>

Final Statement of the Farmers' Forum and discussion with IFAD Management and Governors

Based on the discussions and contributions from the debates and working groups, the Synthesis of Deliberations of the 2020 global meeting of the Farmers' Forum was adopted (see box 8). The Synthesis of Deliberations was read out by Mrs. Ujjaini Halim (WFF) and Mr. Mussa Fomba (ROPPA) on 10 February 2020, in the presence of FO delegates, IFAD's Senior Management, and representatives of IFAD's Executive Board and Governors.

In response to the outcomes of the Forum, Mr. Paul Winters (IFAD) stated that IFAD broadly agrees with the Synthesis of Deliberations. He recognized FOs willingness to participate in IFAD planning exercises, such as COSOP, hub planning, and the design of new instruments, and mentioned their request to participate as observers in the Executive Board of IFAD. Also, he mentioned that in relation to the thematic issues discussed by the FAFO, IFAD is in strong alignment with the suggestions made. Great ideas were particularly shared on climate change and these can be of inspiration for IFAD, particularly within the new ASAP+. He also highlighted the relevance of the UNDIFF and the importance of ensuring the meaningful participation of FOs at the FSS.

Mr. Winters expressed appreciation for the support received for ASAP+ and PSFP, and for the request to make them directly accessible to IFAD's constituencies. He also confirmed that the request by FOs to be represented in the governing mechanisms of the new instruments will be discussed. Lastly, he expressed great appreciation for the support for IFAD12 and wished IFAD will continue to be seen as a partner to work with to achieve the objectives of the Synthesis of Deliberations.

Following IFAD's official response, the floor was opened for discussion with Executive Board representatives and Governors.

Mr. Stephen Potter, representative of Canada, congratulated FAFO participants for the rich discussions and welcomed the exhaustive statements and practical recommendations. He emphasized that for Canada, as a funder of IFAD, it is important to know that what IFAD does on the ground is welcomed and supported by the members of FOs, these representing the target group of IFAD. He further welcomed the Forum's focus on women's empowerment and gender equality, as well as on climate change, further stating that "we will make sure these messages are heard by the members of the Governing Council".

The representative from France echoed the previous remarks, welcoming the focus of the FAFO to support women and youth. In particular, according to the speaker, making agriculture attractive to youth is vital.

The focus of the speech from the representative of the Netherlands was on sustainable food systems and on the need to establish a mechanism for full implementation, as well as on the follow-up and monitoring of the recommendations from the FAFO and for government representatives to be held accountable for this.

Mr. Dominik Ziller, Governor from Germany, highlighted the importance of a venue such as the FAFO, which shows how IFAD listens to its target group. He considered this aspect particularly important for an organization in transformation such as IFAD.

On 11 February, the Synthesis of Deliberations was delivered to the forty-third session of the IFAD Governing Council held at FAO headquarters by Mrs. Ujjaini Halim (WFF).

Box 8. Synthesis of Deliberations of the 2020 Farmers' Forum

Honourable Governors of the International Fund for Agricultural Development,

We, the delegates of farmers, fishers and pastoralists organizations to the seventh global meeting of the Farmers' Forum at IFAD, wish to bring the following statement to your attention.

The 2020 Forum took place during the second year of the UN Decade of Family Farming, which represents a unique opportunity to implement policies in favor of small-scale food producers and to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and more specifically to SDGs 1, 2, 5, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17.

The adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other Peoples Working in Rural Areas by the UN General Assembly in December 2018 is a timely and significant contribution to the Decade and to the 2030 Agenda, as it provides a rights-based framework to our actions.

The global context for the development of sustainable food production by hundreds of millions of small-scale family farmers, fishers and pastoralists around the world requires urgent and massive global action. The effects of climate change on the degradation of land, waters, forests and all our eco-systems are deeply affecting the resilience of rural communities and of their livelihoods, putting at risk the food systems on which they depend.

We urge IFAD and the Governments of IFAD Member States to strengthen their support for small-scale food producer's initiatives based on agro-ecological, organic and other sustainable food production systems and practices for land, water and forests. We also call for the promotion of the use of traditional genetic resources (seeds and livestock).

On the partnership with IFAD and the Farmers' Forum process

We, the delegates to the global meeting of the Farmers' Forum, reiterate our request for an observer status on the IFAD Executive Board and our commitment to use it for contributing to the achievement of the mandate of the Fund, in the interest of our constituencies. We are ready to pursue dialogue with IFAD and its member States in that regard.

We, small-scale food producers' organizations (POs), further value the process of decentralization of the Farmers' Forum, in line with the decentralization of IFAD itself, which should further promote the inclusion of a broader range of regional, national and local organizations representative of small-scale food producers.

We acknowledge the diverse stages of collaboration at regional and national levels and we urge to:

- Promote the involvement of PO representatives in IFAD's sub-regional hub yearly planning meeting wherever possible
- Work towards formal cooperation agreements with national POs by signing MoU / Declaration of Commitment between IFAD (including IFAD Country Directors) and national POs which contribute to the achievement of the FAFO agenda
- Ensure that all COSOP formulation processes are fully inclusive of organizations representative of small-scale food producers in each country
- Ensure that IFAD-funded programmes at country and regional levels involve POs in the design, implementation, mid-term review, monitoring and evaluation processes
- Ensure that the design and loan agreements for IFAD-funded agricultural development projects implemented by our governments include clear provision for the effective transfer of equipment and infrastructures allocated to local food producer's organizations before project completion in order to ensure sustainability
- Organize the regional FAFO in the NEN region in line with IFAD's decentralized structure, hence one in Cairo for North Africa and the Middle East, and one in Istanbul for Central Asia

- Strengthen the effective monitoring of FAFO processes at all levels by the respective FAFO steering mechanisms and consider the possibility of a stocktaking at global level in 2022
- Ensure the inclusion of fisher people and pastoralist constituencies in the FAFO governance and decision-making committees at all levels, including access to existing and new funding instruments
- Increase the visibility of IFAD-funded rural development initiatives and ensure the integration of decentralized IFAD staff in each of the sub-regions in the relevant formal instances of current public policy dialogue
- IFAD should actively integrate the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other Peoples Working in Rural Areas into internal safeguards and procedures
- Ensure the participation of IFAD country directors in the formal spaces of public policy dialogue (such as REAF in MERCOSUR area, ECOWAP in West Africa) and promote the participation of POs in at least one priority policy process as identified in the COSOP

On thematic issues

Following the rich discussions during the thematic working groups, we invite IFAD to support the implementation of the following recommendations:

Rural youth

- More investments in off-farm and post-harvest activities for creating attractive opportunities for rural youth
- More investments in services and infrastructure (energy, sustainable mechanization, education, training, etc.) to keep and attract young people in/to rural areas
- More training and leadership/mentoring programs for young people so as to ensure intergenerational transfer of leadership on farms and in small-scale food POs

Gender and women's leadership in FOs

We note with satisfaction that this year, women delegates represent 40 percent of FAFO participants and we ask for a joint commitment by IFAD and POs to achieve at least 50 percent women participants during all future regional and global FAFO meetings.

- To design and implement programmes promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in small-scale food production and rural livelihoods
- To develop long-term support plans for women's organizations or women's wings within small-scale food producers' organizations
- To increase the involvement of women PO leaders in the implementation, supervision and monitoring of IFAD-funded programmes

Climate change

- To invest massively in land rehabilitation and agroforestry/vegetation for carbon sequestration by small-scale food producers and rural communities
- To invest in building the livelihoods of small-scale food producers displaced by climate change
- To acknowledge agroecology, as well as organic and other climate-resilient sustainable food production models as key approaches for both adaptation to and mitigation of climate change
- To work with governments and small-scale food producers' organizations on public policy and related incentive mechanisms to promote agroecology and other sustainable models which ensure healthy, nutritious food in sufficient quantities for all, including disadvantaged populations

- To support the dissemination of good practices and technologies promoted by small-scale food producers' organizations and jointly developed with the agricultural research community
- To recognize the role of producers as solutions to climate change and support producer-led actions that help in the global fight against climate change
- To facilitate and support farmer-to-farmer exchange to foster farmers' capacity building through the sharing of best practices on climate change adaptation and mitigation that can be replicated elsewhere

UN Decade of Family Farming

- To foster multi-stakeholder processes for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Decade on Family Farming at all levels
- To provide financial and technical support to organizations of small-scale food producers for taking the lead in the setting-up and in the steering of National Committees on Family Farming
- To work with governments to ensure that national and regional policies on agriculture and rural development are coherent in terms of the direction and principles arising from the Decade of Family Farming

World Food Systems Summit

In relation to the 2021 World Food Systems Summit, we, the delegates of the Farmers' Forum, condition our involvement on the provision of sufficient information about the Summit in order to collectively assess within our constituencies the pros and cons of our involvement.

We ask IFAD to support effective and self-organized civil society participation at the world FSS, built on existing small-scale food producers' spaces such as the Civil Society Mechanism of the CFS and the FAFO process at IFAD.

If the above approaches are considered, we ask for support to be provided to POs for the organization of a small-scale food producers' pre-Summit to consolidate our voices.

IFAD 12 new instruments

We, the delegates to the Farmers' Forum, express our great interest in ASAP+ and PSFP as new instruments submitted to the IFAD 12 consultation. These financial instruments should be directly accessible to our constituencies that are ready to scale up good practices in climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as business plans for our cooperatives and farmer-driven investments in value chains. In addition, we:

- Ask IFAD to design both instruments jointly with us
- Offer to work with IFAD to design, implement and monitor mechanisms for earmarking resources specifically for community-based organizations, POs and cooperatives, and to ensure effective inclusion of fishery and livestock constituencies
- Request PO representatives be included in the governance structure for both instruments.

Concluding Statement

We have been partners of IFAD for the last 14 years and we consider the Farmers' Forum process a unique space for dialogue and partnership with an International Financing Institution dedicated to the development of our constituency. We are confident that IFAD will work with us in implementing the recommendations arising from this global meeting of the Farmers' Forum.

We are aware that IFAD and its member states are starting the consultation for the 12th replenishment of its resources and we are eager to join the Fund in the mobilization and efforts to be deployed for a successful replenishment.

We specifically affirm our support to IFAD in promoting broad-based financing for the two new instruments proposed as part of the IFAD 12 consultation process.

The World Farmers' Organization (WFO), a member of the FAFO Steering Committee, endorses the final statement of the 2020 Global Farmers' Forum with the following exceptions:

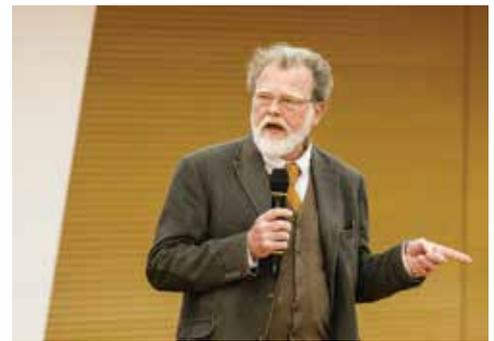
- 1) WFO's global mandates commit it to all solutions to the climate change challenge, including climate-smart agriculture, beyond the ambit of this statement
- 2) WFO supports the 2021 Food Systems Summit and is committed to taking part in the design, preparation and implementation of the process, to secure an opportunity for the voice of family farmers to participate through platforms that are more inclusive than the CFS, such as the multi-stakeholder mechanisms of the UN's major groups and all the other UN mechanisms for representation.

Closing of the Farmers' Forum

In their closing remarks, Steering Committee members thanked IFAD's management and governors for the positive response to the Synthesis of Deliberations. They recognized IFAD for its commitment to support smallholders, and highlighted how the FAFO is a very unique and inclusive process of dialogue, and a special space to discuss areas of partnership and cooperation. IFAD decentralization was again referred to as a very important progress to reinforce dialogue and partnership on the ground. Steering Committee members also emphasized the friendship and solidarity that guides the process, and expressed their wish that in the future the FAFO will remain strong.

The 2020 global meeting of the FAFO was closed by Mr. Mamadou Cissokho (ROPPA), who took the opportunity to particularly thank Mr. Jean Philippe Audinet for his exemplary role in collaborating with FOs at the FAFO over the last 14 years. His patience, capacity to listen and respect have ensured that all the different voices have found a place at the FAFO. According to Mr. Cissokho, with these three characteristics "big ideas can bring expected results".

Lastly, he emphasized that with IFAD replenishment a new commencement begins and it will be important that governments support IFAD through funding to enable the institution and smallholder farmers to achieve their common goals.



**Mr. Jean-Philippe Audinet,
Lead Global Technical
Advisor on Rural Institutions
and IFAD representative on
the Steering Committee of
the Farmers' Forum.**

Side events

Regional grant programmes supporting FOs. Lessons learned from 10 years' experience of the SFOAP and MTCP2 and the start-up of FO4ACP and APFP - FOALA

Side event organized by the AFA-LVC consortium, AgriCord, COPROFAM, FAO, PAFO and its members, and PIFON

In 2019, two major direct grants for FO regional programs were completed after 10 years of positive experience in supporting institutional, organizational and advocacy capacity building for regional and national FO networks, as well as supporting economic services provision of sub-national FOs in these networks: SFOAP in Africa and MTCP in Asia.

The side event enabled participants to showcase main achievements and key impacts of the regional grants, confirming their strategic importance in supporting FOs. Participants highlighted the impact of the programmes in terms of supporting the professionalization of FOs, improving their capacities to engage in policy dialogue and strengthen the capacity to effectively provide economic services to their members and engage in business-oriented activities within relevant value chains. For example, MTCP2 enabled FOs to promote more than 80 policies and raise over US\$13 million through partnership development with public and private institutions. Thanks to their improved capacities, 107 FOs were able to engage in the implementation of IFAD country programmes. SFOAP enabled FOs in Africa to enlarge their membership with more than 500,000 new individual members, develop over 111 strategic plans, train over 7,800 people and increase women's participation in governing bodies by 70 percent. At the farm level, the programme enabled to improve productivity and raise incomes between 16 and 47 percent.

The side event was also an opportunity to exchange best practices and innovations from the various regions, and to draw key lessons learned in order to further improve the efficiency and relevance of IFAD-supported grants in the future, and strengthen the partnership FOs-IFAD. In addition, the event enabled to share the main priorities of the new programs FO4ACP and APFP-FOALA, co-funded by the EU-ACP and IFAD.

Youth in agriculture, an organic perspective

Side event organized by INOFO

Acknowledging the numerous challenges faced by rural youth to remain in the country side, the side event provided a space to discuss organic agriculture as an alternative for the permanence of young people in agriculture.

Participants had the opportunity to share experiences, best practices and solutions to challenges identified by rural youth. In particular, Mr. Thales Bevilacqua Mendonça (INOFO) shared his experience as a young organic farmer in Brazil, succeeding in engaging in the market by grouping production with other associations and producers. Mrs. Janet Gracie (INOFO) discussed with participants the different aspects to be looked at in organic agriculture for youth to add value to production, from access to land and resources, to production and distribution. Participants also shared the main challenges and opportunities in organic agriculture, and particularly emphasized the importance of capacity building and of promoting traditional and local knowledge. Challenges in terms of certification were also raised and some positive experiences shared, particularly with Participatory Guarantee Systems.

**The UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants:
Human Rights – the foundation for the future of family farming**

Side event organized by LVC

The adoption of the UNDROP by the UN General Assembly in December 2018 came at the perfect time to be a significant contribution to the UNDDFF 2019–2028 and was integrated in the work of two major UN agencies: IFAD and FAO.

The side event enabled participants to learn more about the UNDROP as an instrument of recognition and protection of the rights of rural people. Mrs. Francisca Luz Rodríguez Herta (LVC) particularly illustrated the articles of the Declaration and the rights referred to in the document, such as the rights of peasants to participate in the policy processes and programmes that affect their land, to obtain credit, materials and instruments for producing food, to design their production models to overcome adversities, including climate change, and to produce healthy and nutritious food by adopting agroecology within their farming systems. She also emphasized the right of peasant women to be protected against domestic violence and to control their own body, by also enjoying full sexual and reproductive rights.

Participants also had opportunity to exchange views on the concrete possibilities that the UNDDFF as a framework that promotes public policies to support family farmers is offering for the implementation of peasants' rights. Both frameworks were considered key for achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, bringing a direct contribution to sustainable food production and the eradication of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition.

IFAD emphasized the extraordinary significance of the UNDROP and that as a UN institution it can apply the UNDROP to its internal norms, operational policies and guidelines, as it did for the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**Farmers' Organizations Profiling and Digital Platforms.
Sharing tools and experiences in FO profiling, FO online databases
and KM platforms for FOs**

Side event organized by AFA and IFAD

Recognizing it is often a challenge for stakeholders in the development world to get reliable information and data on existing FOs, several initiatives are emerging or already being tested for FO profiling and knowledge sharing on and for FOs. The side event enabled participants to share the initiatives and tools developed in the different regions and globally to provide insights, information and knowledge on and for FOs, and provided an opportunity for knowledge sharing and cross-learning among participants.

In particular, AFA presented their Farmers' Organizations Directory for Asia and Pacific²³, and SEWA²⁴, their sophisticated application utilized to collect data on FO membership, leadership and areas of intervention, as well as to produce reports. Mrs. Annick Sezibera (CAPAD) and Ms. Valeria Galletti (IFAD Consultant) presented FO-MAPP and explained how FOs can register on the database free of charge by filling in an online profiling form with key information (e.g. contact details, status, membership, geographical outreach, services provided and agricultural products). Also, they illustrated the filter system enabling users to find organizations based on different criteria. Mr. Benoit Thierry (IFAD Head of Hub/ Country Director in WCA) illustrated the global platform We Connect Farmers²⁵, an initiative started in Africa to help young farmer entrepreneurs to connect through communities of practices, receive online training and have access to agri-tech applications. Mr. Fabrizio Bresciani (IFAD Lead Regional Economist in APR) and Mrs. Marina Izzo (IFAD Consultant) shared the main outcomes from a pilot study conducted in the Philippines to develop a database of FO profiles reporting key market potentialities to be directly accessed by agribusiness and service providers so as to be a real tool to match the supply and demand of specific commodities. Lastly, Mr. Steven Muchiri (Chief Executive Officer of EAFF) presented the E-granary, a mobile platform run by EAFF to increase access to market information and e-extension services for farmers. The e-Granary platform facilitates input and output aggregation among farmers, provides timely weather and extension advice, digitizes and delivers different loan products, and enables farmers to connect to private-sector partners.

23 www.asiapacificfarmersforum.net

24 India's Self-employed Women's Association

25 www.weconnectfarmers.com

ABC fund: an innovative financing tool

Side event organized by Agriterra, Bamboo Capital Partners and IFAD

The side event provided an opportunity for participants to learn more about the ABC Fund. In particular, a very practical and interactive session on the ABC Fund enabled its structure, its first investments, initial lessons learnt, investment criteria and the process to seek financial support from it to be presented.

The ABC fund is an independent impact investment fund which finances rural SMEs and producers' organizations like cooperatives, with a focus on rural youth and women agri-entrepreneurs. It aims to catalyze financing for the rural agribusiness "missing middle", the gap that agri-entrepreneurs face when their financing needs are too small for commercial financing but too large for microfinancing. The ABC Fund has a blended finance approach aiming at de-risking investments to make them attractive to private investors through a first-loss equity structure, targeted technical assistance and strong pipeline development. Several institutions (e.g. the EU, ACP, the Government of Luxembourg and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa) have made commitments of approximately EUR 50 million to the ABC Fund, while IFAD and ACP provided grant financing for a technical assistance facility managed by Agriterra.

Participants of the side event also had the opportunity to learn more about the initial investments made through the fund, including the support provided to a cocoa cooperative in Côte d'Ivoire to help up to 2,700 small-scale producers secure better access to markets.

Territorial markets as a basis for building sustainable, resilient, and nutritious food systems

Side event organized by ROPPA

The UNDEF provides an important occasion to shape public policies and direct investments in support of a set of actors who have always been at the center of IFAD's mission: small-scale food producers. There is increasing awareness that such support needs to be situated in the context of a holistic food system approach.

Markets are the linchpin of food systems. The recommendations on 'Connecting Smallholders to Markets' approved by the CFS in 2016 highlighted that most of the marketing activities of the majority of smallholders – women in particular – are carried out in local, national and trans-border markets embedded in territorial food systems. These diversified markets are the most inclusive and the most important for food security, since they channel the bulk of the food consumed worldwide. The functions they perform are not only economic but also nutritional, social and cultural. Small-scale producers and family farms that trade in territorial markets can be crucial allies in the effort to make nutritious food more available, and to defend biodiversity and genetic resources linked to territories. Territorial markets also play an important role in retaining the wealth created in the territory and redistributing the value added among the different actors, who tend to relate to each other in a more horizontal manner than in global value chains.

The side event enabled participants to share their different experiences with territorial markets, assess their strengths and weaknesses, and discuss how they can be strengthened through supportive public policies at different levels and through appropriate public and private investments. It particularly drew on the results of participatory diagnostics of territorial markets undertaken by small-scale producers' organizations in Africa, Asia and Latin America with the support of FAO and partner organizations. ROPPA had the opportunity to present its work in participatory market diagnostics through its Family Farm Observatory. Similarly, COPROFAM and SPI presented the main challenges and opportunities of territorial markets in their contexts. Lastly, the WFF outlined the steps needed to enhance local fish marketing by women.

The Climakers: a Farmers-Driven Climate Change Agenda

Side event organized by WFO

No other economic sector is impacted by the effects of the changing climate more than agriculture, but no other economic actor worldwide can do as much as farmers to fight climate change.

The Climakers is a farmer-driven climate change agenda that proposes a reversed approach in fighting climate change, where farmers drive the solutions to tackle climate change. The Climakers Agenda is based on the promotion of best practices that farmers are already implementing as practical solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change. These best practices are collected through an authentic bottom-up approach and are to be proposed to governments with practical guidance on how to include them in the National Determined Contribution for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, to be scaled up or replicated in different areas. The proposed solutions are scientifically assessed by the Climate Change, Food Security and Agriculture programme of the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR).

The event brought together farmers' representatives of the Climakers' Alliance, who presented the objectives, expected outcomes and achieved results in the implementation of the action plan of the Climakers. Reflections on climate change impact and the role of farmers as solution providers in the different regions were shared by Mr. Ishamel Sunga (Chief Executive Officer of the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions – SACAU), Mr. Stephen Muchiri (EAFU) and Mr. Abdelmajid Ezzar (President of the *Union Maghrébine et de l'Afrique du Nord des Agriculteurs* - UMNAGRI). Many contributions from the floor further enriched the discussion and enabled participants to share the main challenges and solutions adopted in different countries to reduce emissions and make carbon sequestration possible (e.g. in Bolivia, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Jamaica and Uganda). The importance of funds mobilization as well as partnership development for climate change adaptation and mitigation was strongly emphasized. At the closing of the side event, Mrs. Elizabeth Nsimadala, on behalf of PAFO, signed the MoU with the WFO to enter into the Alliance.

The United Nations Decade of Family Farming

Side event organized by COPROFAM and WRF

The side event provided an opportunity to further the discussion of the thematic working group of the global meeting on the UNDFE. In particular, it focused on sharing main proposals, initiatives and challenges in the implementation of the GAP of the UNDFE.

Participants emphasized that despite progress (the establishment of a steering committee at the global level; progress and actions at the regional level, the setting-up of NCFs), more efforts are needed at the national level, where the Decade should materialize into policies and programmes that can bring concrete changes. For this to be possible, organizations should be fully engaged and funds mobilized. Also, an effort should be made in terms of visibility, communication and awareness raising to mobilize actors. Progress and commitments should be monitored and evaluated on a regular basis.

IFAD and FAO shared information in terms of their collaboration in promoting the Decade. For example, a framework to provide guidance on how to develop public policies to promote family farming is being elaborated through the systematization of cases and positive experiences from the ground. The technical and political support of the country offices of FAO and IFAD was referred to as an essential element for the success of the Decade to facilitate dialogue with governments, support NCFs and incorporate the Decade agenda in COSOPs.

Also, it was highlighted that while more conducive public policies for the development of family farming are key, these are not enough. Family farmers should gain space in the society, in value chains, and in the market to convince consumers that for many reasons their products are the best. Also, with the agenda of climate change adaptation and mitigation becoming fundamental, family farmers should position themselves as the most powerful force and demonstrate their unique capacity for mitigation, reduction of emissions and the storing carbon in land to avoid other interests will take over.

Branding of family farming products: sharing experiences and development opportunities

Side event organized by IFAD, in collaboration with Maison Guinéenne de l'Entreprise (MGE) and Team Creatif Group

It is recognized that agricultural commodities contribute to over half of total employment and more than a quarter of gross domestic product in developing countries, where over 1 billion farmers derive at least part of their income from them. Modern food chains place increasing importance on branding and packaging distribution services rather than on farmers' traditional role in supplying produce to wholesale markets. As a result, family farmers have been capturing less and less of the total value of their products. At a global level, there is an increased recognition of the important role that family farmers play to produce quality and nutritious commodities and food products. At a demand level, there is also a growing interest among local populations to turn to local, fresh, "natural" quality products. This context provides opportunities to support smallholder farmers and their organizations to upgrade the valorization scale of agricultural products through branding and packaging in order to gain market power and additional income.

The side event enabled participants to share the challenges involved in the branding of products (e.g. in relation to meeting quality standards, challenging rules and norms, and costly and lengthy procedures). Successful experiences and initiatives in the promotion of branding and packaging for smallholder farmers' products were also shared by TeamCreatif and Maison Guinéenne de l'Entreprise. TeamCreatif is a French Company which works in a large number of countries to enable cooperative and family farming households to add value to their products and increase their sales through branding and packaging. Maison Guinéenne de l'Entreprise is a company that supported producers of the Boral Maalé network to establish a collective brand for the Mangrove Rice of Guinea, a variety of rice known for its quality and nutritional value, enabling them to protect their product and engage in new markets.

Voluntary guidelines on small-scale fisheries

Side event organized by WFF and WFFP

Organized by WWF and WFP, the side event enabled participants to discuss how to strengthen the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, to explore opportunities for small fishers to engage in existing and upcoming instruments of IFAD, and to plan integration with ongoing and upcoming dialogues at global level.

A video on the SSF Guidelines was shown as a brief introduction to the discussion. Participants of the side event recalled the importance of the SSF Guidelines in bringing the issues faced by small-scale fisher communities from the local to the institutional level. Despite progress, there is not enough awareness on this instrument, particularly at the local level, and many small fishers and their communities face challenges in using the Guidelines as a tool to engage with authorities.

Participants recognized the need for civil society organizations to build the capacities needed to guide the process of implementation of the Guidelines. In relation to this, it was found that the engagement of small fishers in IFAD's processes and instruments (e.g. the MTCP) was not significant.

Mr. Richard Abila (Senior Global Technical Specialist of IFAD on fisheries and aquaculture) also presented IFAD's work and initiatives on fisheries and aquaculture to jointly explore opportunities for involvement by FOs.

Overall, participants agreed that better coordination and interaction with IFAD is needed to ensure the meaningful participation of small-scale fishers in all processes and initiatives. Also, more needs to be done to facilitate the implementation of the Guidelines at the national and local levels, with the support of development partners such as IFAD and the FAO.

Financing Farmers' Organizations' investments and businesses: sharing experiences and initiatives

Side event organized by FAD, in collaboration with EAFF, CNOP Mali, FIFATA and Réseau SOA

The core mandate of FOs is to provide services to their members (i.e. farmers). At local or sub-national FOs, economic services are the ones that are the most important for smallholder farmers. Even at national and regional levels, there are economic services that can be fostered using appropriate tools.

The side event enabled participants to share models, experiences and initiatives to financially support FOs' provision of economic services. These included the case of Madagascar, where IFAD, through the AROPA²⁶ and DEFIS²⁷ projects, is funding the Agriculture Development Fund, dedicated to finance FO investments. The Fund received so far 35,000 requests for financing, of which 75 percent were satisfied for the benefit of more than 500,000 producers. In Mali, IFAD supported the Association of Professional Farmers' Organisations and the National Coordination Agency for Farmers' Organisations through the GAFSP²⁸ Missing Middle Initiative (MMI). The MMI was launched in 2016 to facilitate the development of partnerships between FOs and private-sector actors in agriculture value chains. Thanks to the support, young farmers-members of the two organizations are benefiting from grant funding for their poultry or fishing projects. Lastly, the experience of EAFF in developing the E-granary, a mobile platform to deliver economic services to farmers, was shared. The mobile platform is an innovative communication and payment platform to create a virtual space for the brokering of commercial partnerships and contracts between farmers and off-takers and input dealers, as well as for the provision of financial services with low transaction costs. With support from a GAFSP-MMI project, EAFF has further developed this platform.

26 *Projet d'appui au renforcement des Organisations Professionnelles et aux Services Agricoles*

27 *Programme de développement des filières agricoles inclusives*

28 *Global Agriculture & Food Security Program*

Other events around the forum

FAFO preparatory sessions.

Preparatory sessions were held on February 4 and 5. These included a meeting of the FAFO Steering Committee and meetings of FO delegates (by region, organization and globally). The main objective of these preparatory sessions was for FOs to discuss and debate the major challenges facing the Forum and make advance preparations to ensure more effective participation in the Forum meetings.

Meeting with the President.

On 4 February, members of the Steering Committee of the FAFO had the opportunity to meet with the President of IFAD, Mr. Gilbert F. Houngbo, at IFAD Headquarters and share their views and expectations on the global meeting.

FO-MAPP stand.

IFAD set up a stand with laptops and brochures on FO-MAPP. Focal points were available to provide information and guidance to participants willing to learn more about the database, its functions and content by directly browsing the database.

AFA Instagram corner and boot.

AFA set up an exhibit at IFAD's premises with products from different countries and organizations. An Instagram corner was also set up.

INOFO boot.

INOFO set up an exhibit at IFAD's premises with products from organic farmers' organization.

Post-FAFO Steering Committee meeting.

On 8 February, a meeting of the Steering Committee was held to assess the FAFO process and the global meeting, and to discuss the zero draft of the Synthesis of Deliberations and the next steps for its finalization.

Meeting with IFAD's new Associate Vice-President Marie Haga.

A meeting between members of the FAFO steering committee and Mrs. Marie Haga, Associate Vice-President, External Relations and Governance Department, took place on 9 February in the morning at the hotel where participants were staying. This was an opportunity for Mrs. Haga and FO leaders to meet each other. In-depth discussions were then held on the possible collaboration between FOs and IFAD during the replenishment process of IFAD 12.

WFO Aperitif.

On 9 February, the WFO hosted an aperitif at the restaurant *Le Vele*, attended by many FO delegates and observers.



Ms. Ujjaini Halim (WFF) delivers the Synthesis of Deliberations of the FAFO to IFAD's Governing Council.



AFA's boot at the global meeting of the FAFO.

Farmers' Forum reception.

On 10 February, IFAD hosted a dinner at the restaurant of the cooperative *Agricoltura Nuova*, in the countryside outside of Rome.

FOs at IFAD's Governing Council.

On 11 February, the Synthesis of Deliberations of the global meeting was jointly delivered to the forty-third session of the IFAD Governing Council held at FAO headquarters by Mrs. Ujjaini Halim (WFF) and Mrs. Elizabeth Nsimadala (PAFO). Previously, Mrs. Estrella Penunia Banzuela (AFA) had delivered a statement during the launch of the 12th replenishment in plenary of the Council on the importance of the partnership between IFAD and FOs, and the role of FOs in sustainable development.

Annexes

Annex 1. Agenda of the Farmers' Forum

Date	Time	Agenda items	Venue
Monday 3 February	Afternoon/ evening	Arrival of the members of the FAFO Steering Committee	Hotel
Tuesday 4 February	Morning: 9:30-12:00	Meeting of the FAFO Steering Committee Arrival of all other delegates	Hotel
	Lunch time 12:30-13:30	Meeting of the FAFO Steering Committee with the President of IFAD	IFAD HQs (C 500)
	Afternoon 16:00-18:00	Autonomous space for FOs (mostly meetings by regions organised by Regional FAFO Steering Committees)	Hotel
Wednesday 5 February	Full day	Autonomous space for FOs (to be organised by the FAFO Steering Committee)	Hotel
Thursday 6 February	Morning 9:00-10:30	Opening session of the Global Meeting of the Farmers' Forum Address by the President of IFAD Speeches by members of the Steering Committee	IFAD HQs Italian room
	Coffee break		
	Morning 10:45-12:30	First plenary session: trends in IFAD partnerships with FOs (Presentation by IFAD on "Partnership in progress 2016-2019" and discussion in Plenary)	
	Lunch break		
	Afternoon 14:00-16:00	Parallel Regional Working groups sessions with the 5 Regional Divisions. Sessions to be co-chaired by regional directors and regional FAFO Steering Committee chairs.	APR – C400 ESA – Oval A LAC- C300 NEN – Oval B WCA – Italian
	Coffee break		
	Afternoon 16:15-17:00	Second plenary session: reports from regional working groups (10 mn report for each region)	Italian room
	Evening 18:00-19:00	Working session of the Steering Committee: first draft of the Synthesis of Deliberation	

Friday 7 February	Morning 9:00-10:15	Third plenary session: presentation of IFAD 12 proposal by IFAD management and Q&A in plenary (AVP-SKD)	Italian Room
	Coffee break		
	Morning 10:30-12:30	Five parallel thematic working groups 1. Climate change and agro-ecology: what opportunities are there for further partnership between FOs and IFAD? (Oval A) 2. IFAD's 12 new instruments (ASAP+ & PS) (Italian) 3. The UN Decade of Family Farming and the road map to the Food Systems Summit 2021 (Oval B) 4. Gender Equality and women in leadership in agriculture (C300) 5. Youth in Agriculture and rural development (C400)	1. Oval A 2. Italian 3. Oval B 4. C300 5. C400
	Lunch break		
	Afternoon: 14:00-16:00	Fourth plenary session: reports from the 5 thematic working groups (10 mn each) First discussion of draft Synthesis of Deliberation	Italian room
Coffee break			
	Afternoon 16:15-17:00	IFAD Management response to draft synthesis (AVP-PMD)	Italian room
Saturday 8 February		Finalization and validation of the FAFO synthesis of deliberations by the Steering Committee Preparation of side events Other meetings with FOs and partners (including steering committee of FO4ACP and Caribbean meeting)	Hotel
Sunday 9 February		Day off	

Monday 10 February	Morning 9:00-10:30	Side events for FOs, IFAD staff and partners (2 in parallel) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional Programs to support FOs (SFOAP/MTCP/FO4ACP/FOALA, co-funded by the EU, ACP and IFAD) (Italian) 2. Youth in Agriculture - An Organic Perspective (INOFO) (Oval A) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Italian room 2. Oval A
	Coffee break		
	Morning 11:00-12:30	Side events for FOs, IFAD staff and partners (3 in parallel) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (LVC) (Italian) 2. FO profiling and digital platforms (AFA) (Oval A) 3. The ABC Fund (Oval B) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Italian room 2. Oval A 3. Oval B
	Lunch break		
	Afternoon 14:00-15:30	Special session: Towards the Food Systems Summit 2021 Presentation and discussion of the report <i>"Farmers and food systems, what future for small-scale agriculture?"</i> Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford FAFO exchange with Agnes Kalibata, Special envoy of the UN SG, on the road map to the Food Systems Summit 2021 with AVP-SKD	Italian room
	Coffee break		
	Afternoon 15:45-17:00	Closing session of the FAFO open to IFAD member country representatives Reading of the Synthesis of Deliberation, interaction with EB/GC representatives, closing statement of IFAD Management, with AVP-PMD	Italian room
Evening 19:30	FAFO diner	Agricoltura Nuova	

Tuesday 11 February	Morning: 9:00-10:30	Side events for FOs, IFAD staff and partners (2 in parallel) 1. Territorial markets for sustainable food systems (ROPPA) (Oval A) 2. Climakers: a farmer-driven climate agenda (WFO) (Italian)	1. Oval A 2. Italian room
	Coffee break		
	Morning: 11:00-12:30	Side events for FOs, IFAD staff and partners (2 in parallel) 1. Voluntary guidelines on small-scale fisheries (WFF & WFFP) (Oval A) 2. UN Decade of Family Farming (WRF and COPROFAM) (Oval B)	1. Oval A 2. Oval B
	Lunch break		
	Afternoon: 14:00-15:30	Side events for FOs, IFAD staff and partners (2 in parallel) 1. Branding of Family Farming products (IFAD) (Oval A) 2. Financing FO projects (FDA Madagascar / GAFSP - MMI Mali & EAFF) (Oval B)	1. Oval A 2. Oval B
IFAD Governing Council hosted at FAO HQs	16:00 Launch of IFAD 12 replenishment at the Governing Council with one speaker from the FAFO 18:45 Reading of the statement of the FAFO at the Governing Council	IFAD Governing Council plenary at FAO HQs	
Evening	Closing meeting of the FAFO Steering Committee for assessment and next steps	Hotel	
Wednesday 12 February	Departure of FO delegates		

Annex 2. List of participants at the Farmers' Forum

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Annex 3. Report from the regional working groups

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC DIVISION (APR)

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IFAD's perspective

According to IFAD, concrete progress has been seen in the partnership IFAD-FOs in APR since the last global meeting of the FAFO, as demonstrated by the country-level agreements signed (e.g. in Indonesia), the improved involvement of FOs in the preparation of COSOPs (i.e. over 10 cases) and the supervision missions of IFAD-supported projects. Good examples of collaboration on the ground were highlighted, such as the case of Vietnam, where FOs were involved in agricultural technology transfer and services. Overall, according to IFAD, FOs are the natural exit strategy of projects in value chains and the main key actors and vehicles for policy reform and advocacy.

Notwithstanding improvements, more needs to be done to strengthen the partnership. The region is in fact very vulnerable to climate change and still has the majority of poor and hungry people globally, as well as the vast majority of family farmers. This is why they should be a priority for IFAD. For their part, organizations in the FAFO should do more to be more inclusive, reach out and expand their networks at the grassroots level, and to tap into resources beyond IFAD (e.g. governments and the private sector).

Looking at the future, several opportunities to replicate and scale up best practices were identified, such as the IFAD12 instruments and the new EU-financed regional grants to support FOs. The division also expressed their commitment to deepening the partnership at many levels and particularly in relation to policy engagement and services provision.

The perspective of FOs

The process of regionalization of the FAFO was considered positive by FOs. Nonetheless, they emphasized the need to strengthen the process at the national level. Also, it was felt that the inclusion and integration of fishers was below expectations and that small-scale fishers were not adequately included and represented at all the levels of the FAFO. In relation to the above, a request was made to have dedicated programs/funding for implementation of the VSSF guidelines at the national level.

In the view of delegates, FOs certainly grew thanks to the support of IFAD. In this context, the MTCP was considered particularly important. It enabled AFA's reach in the region to be increased to 43.5 million farmers belonging to over 1,600 organizations. Furthermore, it helped FOs to promote 86 policies at the national and subnational levels on key issues (e.g. land tenure, seeds, price control, sustainable agriculture), to engage in policy dialogue at the international level (e.g. within ASEAN and SAARC), to participate in international campaigns (e.g. UNDF and UNDROP), to improve the communication and visibility of FOs, and to increase and consolidate farmers into commodity clusters to meet market volume and standards.

Direct support to FOs was overall considered key for the professionalization of FOs, to build sustainable and viable cooperatives and enterprises, and to engage in policy dialogue. The forthcoming FO4ACP APFP will build on this experience.

In terms of challenges, delegates made reference to the lack of recognition of FOs by some governments and called upon IFAD to facilitate interaction at the country level. For this to be possible, the setting-up of FAFO platforms for dialogue at the country level was considered essential. Also, more needs to be done to support women and youth to engage in organic production, this being a sector in which they perceive themselves not only as producers but entrepreneurs.

Main recommendations of the working group

National level

IFAD Country Directors and Hub heads should work towards specific cooperation with FOs in the following areas and with the following objectives:

- Policy reform cooperation on at least one policy issue linked to COSOPs
- The inclusion of FOs in at least one IFAD project as beneficiaries and service providers within the 4Ps approach
- The signature of Memoranda of Understanding between IFAD and FOs
- Resource support to host national Farmers' Fora through COSOPs

Global level

IFAD should:

- Support FOs in organizing a farmers' pre-summit to consolidate the voices of farmers at the Food Systems Summit
- Include FO representatives in the governance structure of the new financing instrument on climate change and on private sector recognizing that FOs are solution providers for climate change
- Increase the allocation of a dedicated fund aimed at FOs to support the implementation of the UNDRR Action Plan.

EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA DIVISION (ESA)

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IFAD's perspective

IFAD emphasized that the region is fully committed to working with FOs and supporting innovations at all levels and also provided an overview of IFAD's organization in the region with the setting-up of three regional hubs based in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Johannesburg (South Africa) and Nairobi (Kenya) respectively. This proximity provides an opportunity to facilitate exchanges and dialogue on the ground.

Suggestions were made to FOs to further engage in the design of COSOPs, as these are the main tools for the definition of national priorities and strategies and the basis for establishing collaboration with FOs in IFAD-supported projects and programmes. Also, FOs were invited to fully engage and take advantage of the new IFAD instruments (ASAP+ and PSFP).

Lastly, IFAD recognized the need to appoint two representatives to join the regional FAFO SC and to have focal points in all Hubs dedicated to the partnership with FOs.

The perspective of FOs

Regional FAFO Steering Committee members provided a brief introduction by presenting the organizations they represent and describing their constituencies.

FO delegates also shared the results and benefits of the regionalization of the FAFO in the past four years and emphasized the results from the regional FAFO held in May 2017. The large participation of FO representatives and IFAD staff during the meeting was considered a particularly notable success, this being due to the organization of the event back-to-back with the implementation workshop of the regional division. As a result of the meeting, 14 country-level action plans²⁹ were agreed upon. Elements of the plans include the following: (i) periodic consultations to monitor country-level collaboration and proposal of corrective measures to improve cooperation between IFAD-supported projects and FOs; (ii) support for the development of country-level farmers' or rural producers' forums to foster dialogue between national governments, FOs and development partners for sustainable rural development; (iii) joint mapping of FOs at the country level to explore ways of developing cooperation with IFAD Country Programmes; (iv) contracts between IFAD-funded projects and apex FOs to support institutional development of local FOs. In addition, the responsibilities for monitoring the implementation of the commitments related to the IFAD-FO partnership were defined in most countries.

Some progress and positive results in the collaboration and dialogue IFAD-FOs at the country level (e.g. in Burundi, Madagascar, Uganda, Zambia) were highlighted by some participants. For example, in Zambia, IFAD and FOs agreed to set up a committee to coordinate activities and dialogue. Terms of reference are being developed for that purpose. In Madagascar, IFAD successfully supported the engagement of FOs in the process of reform of the national Chamber of Agriculture, invested in the capacity building of FOs through its country programme and invited FOs to join supervision and design missions. In Burundi, CAPAD and IFAD implemented 13 out of the 14 activities agreed upon in the action plan.

²⁹ Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Notwithstanding the results, FOs felt that progress in the partnership was below expectations in the period 2018-2019. This was partly due to the lack of financial resources to implement action plans, the need to support FOs in terms of capacity building and IFAD's mobility/turnover. The need for IFAD to ensure continuity in the partnership with FOs beyond staff mobility was considered an important point to be taken into account.

The lack of information sharing and communication with IFAD at the national level was also emphasized by some FOs (INOFO Zambia, LVC, MVIWATA,) as an important challenge. For this purpose, it was proposed a platform be set up to facilitate dialogue at the national level. Issues in terms of inclusiveness were also raised, particularly by representatives of fishers' organizations, and the need to better involve all FAFO constituencies in the FAFO process highlighted (INOFO, WFFP).

Some organizations also shared issues faced in terms of the monitoring of the FAFO process at the national level and questioned the role of regional FOs in that regard. Conversely, EAFF shared their positive experience in the monitoring of the process and explained how this was conducted. In particular, every year EAFF pays a visit to all their members and organizes meetings with partners to discuss potential synergies and collaboration. According to EAFF, this process has been very successful in Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, and has helped empower national FOs in terms of awareness raising and capacity building. Also, it helped FOs to explore opportunities for collaboration with partners.

Main recommendations of the working group

To FOs:

- To make use of the new IFAD financing instruments beyond loans and grants windows, to implement the FOs' agenda also when this is not completely aligned with the governments' agendas/national priorities
- To promote the national FAFO to build a bottom-up approach for action plan implementation with regional/global ones taking on a supervisory/monitoring role

To IFAD:

- To support the FOs' work to follow up on the action plans
- To support FOs to build their capacity to engage in policy dialogue with governments

To IFAD/FO SC:

- To appoint country and hub-level focal points for the SC. IFAD should discuss the proposal with the ESA Director

To ESA FAFO SC:

- To increase the visibility of the regional forum
- To improve communication across the region by using new technologies (e.g. WhatsApp or other virtual means)

To IFAD and FOs:

- To develop a plan to use the infrastructure paid for by IFAD projects in order to keep using them after the project ends (monitored by FOs)
- To be proactive in reaching out to strengthen the partnership even when staff change at IFAD offices.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN DIVISION (LAC)

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IFAD's perspective

According to IFAD, family farmers play a key role in terms of food security and in bringing the climate change challenge into the public arena. Within that context, IFAD's decentralization was a milestone, enabling IFAD and FOs to promote dialogue and closer relations on the ground. The outcomes from the regional FAFO held in Montevideo in May 2019 particularly demonstrated the commitment and engagement of FOs and IFAD to further strengthen the collaboration.

IFAD staff also shared examples and positive experiences in terms of the collaboration between IFAD and FOs, and showed how FOs, youth and women were involved in IFAD's operations on the ground (e.g. in Guatemala and Panama, where new laws were approved in support of family farming; in Nicaragua, where IFAD projects supported artisanal fishers; and in Cuba, where the government collaborates with the FO ANAP).

Looking at the future, IFAD and FOs should continue working together, promoting close relations, engaging with national governments and supporting agroecology.

The perspective of FOs

FO delegates assessed the FAFO process over the past four years. Overall, they welcomed the decentralization of both the FAFO and IFAD. Nonetheless, more efforts should be made to improve dialogue at the national level and platforms should be put in place accordingly (COPROFAM, WFF). Also, it was felt the representation and inclusion of small-scale fishers in the FAFO process was not adequate (WFF).

In terms of the support by and collaboration with IFAD, FOs shared the main areas in which further efforts are needed. In particular, further support is needed: (i) for advancing actions on the ground to implement the UNDFP (COPROFAM); (ii) to improve market access for smallholder farmers (CLOC³⁰, COPROFAM, WFF); (iii) to support FOs in their professionalization and to improve their capacities to negotiate with stakeholders (e.g. governments, the private sector) and engage in policy dialogue (ANAMURI³¹); (iv) to secure land access and management for farmers in recognition of their role in terms of food security and nutrition, and to promote the VGGT (ANAMURI, COPROFAM); (v) to address challenges faced by youth in agriculture (e.g. in terms of access to land, financial resources, markets) and to include youth in IFAD projects and programmes (Tek Kole, UAN³²); (vi) to promote traditional knowledge and modern technologies (ANAMURI).

FOs also highlighted the importance of promoting agroecology and shared some of the challenges faced by organic farmers, particularly in terms of the high costs of certification. The experiences of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay in addressing challenges with participatory guarantee systems were shared by FOs (COPROFRAM, INOFO).

Also, FO delegates emphasized the importance of knowledge management and the learning of lessons, and asked IFAD to identify positive and negative experiences in order to learn from them and replicate best practices (COPROFAM).

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31 *Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Rurales e Indígenas, Chile.*

32 *Unión Agrícola Nacional, Paraguay.*

Main recommendations of the working group

- Maintain, expand and strengthen the global FAFO to better communicate with IFAD, and thus be able to influence the definition of its actions and strategies in the different regions and countries it operates in, adopting instruments to meet the needs of Family Farmers, Peasants, Indigenous Communities and Artisanal Fishermen (AFCI&PA)³³
- Support the Forum activities every 4 years at the global level with regional fora every 2 years (as agreed in 2016), improving the structure and make-up of the current steering committee and adjusting its management and representativity, through the setting-up of national fora as a way of bringing discussion closer to the local level, improving the understanding of the functioning of IFAD grant operations at the regional and national levels and enabling AFCI&PA to take advantage of IFAD resources and initiatives
- Ensure that the UNDF and its plan of action are among IFAD's priorities in terms of promoting its implementation, taking into account that family farming is one of the strategic pillars for countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The Decade should be the umbrella of IFAD's programs and actions in different regions and countries, and IFAD should effectively support the formation of national committees with human and financial resources, stepping up its efforts in the construction and implementation of public policies through country strategies that meet the needs of AFCI&PAs in their territories
- Participate and collaborate with IFAD in the governance of its two new instruments (ASAP+ and PSFP) to complement traditional instruments (e.g. loans to governments and grants), with a special focus on ASAP+ and its focus on women and youth
- Maintain transparent and responsible dialogue with IFAD staff in the different countries where loan and grant projects and programmes are being implemented in order to ensure participatory and cooperative processes leading to the achievement of concrete results
- Expand the resources of IFAD's Investment Portfolio, in response to the demands and needs that arise: via loans and / or donations to governments, and especially through grant programmes to representative organizations of AFCI&PA

³³ From Spanish: Agricultores Familiares, Campesinos, Comunidades Indígenas y Pescadores Artesanales.

NEAR EAST, NORTH AFRICA, EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA (NEN)

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IFAD's perspective

IFAD provided some background information with an overall presentation of the division, the countries covered and the focus of the portfolio. IFAD staff mentioned that the NEN division is a complex one, since it covers 22 countries in 3 extremely diverse sub-regions, ranging from the fastest-growing economies (e.g. Turkey, Morocco, Uzbekistan) to countries with the most fragile situations in the world (e.g. Iraq, Syria, Yemen).

Of the overall NEN investment portfolio of US\$2.8 billion, 81 percent is managed directly on the ground, with 48 percent managed from Egypt (Cairo Hub), and 35 percent from Turkey (Istanbul Hub). The rest is managed from HQ (Rome Hub). The NEN portfolio currently comprises 44 projects.

In terms of the partnership with FOs, IFAD recognizes the key role FOs can play in improving the effectiveness and sustainability of its operations. Nonetheless, it was acknowledged that the collaboration has been weak in the past, mainly due to historical reasons. On the other hand, this awareness could be a starting point to improve collaboration and partnership. For this purpose, a road map with concrete actions to be implemented should be created.

The perspective of FOs

FOs echoed IFAD's remarks, emphasizing the weak collaboration IFAD-FOs in the region. Nonetheless, some positive experiences were also shared. For example, the SFOAP programme implemented by UMNAGRI played a fundamental role in supporting FO institutional strengthening, policy engagement and provision of economic services by FOs, contributing to making FOs solid partners for IFAD and other potential partners. At the national level, with the support of IFAD the Moroccan Coopérative Amagar pour les plantes aromatique et médicinales was able to expand its activities and engage in the market.

FOs also touched on the need for FOs to engage in direct dialogue with IFAD beyond governments (Union Nationale des Paysans Algériens, Union tunisienne de l'agriculture et de la pêche), on the importance of knowledge sharing for replication and the scaling-up of best practices in terms of partnership development, and on the importance of belonging to a network of FOs in order to join the movement of civil society and have a say in policy dialogue (Elkana, Georgia).

Main recommendations of the working group

- Improve mutual knowledge and exchanges. FOs are committed to sharing data and information (mapping, profiling) of organizations in the countries of the region, including members and non-members of regional FOs
- Organize the regional FAFO by sub-regions in line with IFAD's decentralized structure in the NEN region: North Africa and the Middle East (Cairo), Central Asia (Istanbul). The regional forum will aim to link IFAD staff and FOs in the region, and improve dialogue for a more structured partnership within IFAD-funded projects and programmes

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IFAD's perspective

IFAD presented the new structure of the organization in the region with the establishment of three hubs in Senegal (Dakar), Côte d'Ivoire (Abidjan) and Cameroon (Yaoundé), and the decentralization of the majority of the staff of the division. Also, a large number of projects (21) were designed in 2019 for a total amount of US\$590 million. According to IFAD, this decentralized structure creates several opportunities for improving the partnership at the national level through enhanced information sharing, increased involvement of FOs in IFAD processes and capacity building of FOs.

In terms of the regionalization of the FAFO, IFAD and FOs jointly recognized that the regional FAFO held in Nouakchott in 2018 was a success as it brought together IFAD country directors, FO representatives and staff from IFAD-funded projects. Also, it enabled 21 national action plans to be developed and a regional FAFO Steering Committee to be set up. Also, although the implementation of the plans was not regularly assessed, positive results were achieved (e.g. in Burkina Faso, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo and Togo). For example, following the regional FAFO, the CTOP in Togo was given a role in the implementation of PNPFR related to cooperative management through a ministerial decree.

The perspective of FOs

From the point of view of the FOs, the monitoring of the national action plans has been patchy, due to the lack of a better definition of roles and responsibilities, and a lack of resources. However, the regional FAFO steering committee members (PROPAC and ROPPA) were able to follow up on the execution of action plans in some countries (e.g. Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon).

Overall, IFAD and FOs agreed that although the follow-up of the implementation of national action plans was challenging, the regional FAFO was key to providing guidance for consultation between FOs and IFAD, and made it possible to create dynamics for FO-Government-IFAD partnerships in the countries.

Other positive experiences in terms of the collaboration IFAD-FOs were also shared: in Chad, FOs are present on the projects' steering committees and are responsible for FO capacity building and mapping; in Guinea-Bissau and Niger, FOs are fully involved in the implementation of the IFAD-financed project REDE and PRODAF respectively.

Main recommendations of the working group

Regional level

- Improve the organization of the regional FAFOs by involving Regional Economic Communities, such as the Economic Community of West African States, and through the establishment of collaboration frameworks between Regional Economic Communities and IFAD
- Appoint FO focal points in the IFAD WCA Hubs to facilitate contact with the steering committee of the regional FAFO
- Ensure the participation of FOs in IFAD Hub planning meetings
- Promote the signature of MoUs between IFAD and FOs at national/Hub levels
- Document and promote best practices of partnership between IFAD and FOs
- Associate FOs in the WCA's Sahel strategy and the Sahel regional intervention
- Jointly conduct (IFAD-FO-governments) a prospective reflection on the future of agriculture in the region
- Strengthen regional FO networks to support national FO platforms

National level

- Ensure the systematic involvement of FOs in project cycles at the national level and in particular: (i) mobilize national resources (e.g. from ongoing project resources) to enable the contribution of FOs to COSOPs and project design processes; (ii) improve the mandate of national FO platforms in IFAD projects: empower national FOs/platforms or apex FOs to implement some IFAD-funded project activities; (iii) systematically involve FOs in project supervision processes, mid-term reviews and completion missions
- Develop the concept of evaluation by a third party piloted by FOs, as an instrument of "feedback mechanism" and consider it in at least 70 percent of projects
- Strengthen/build the capacities of national FOs/platforms to support the involvement of local FOs in IFAD-funded projects and improve their members' marketing capacities
- Where relevant and depending on requests from FOs, support the organization of a national farmers' forum
- Help FOs to engage in policy dialogue with governments, including in the national road map of UNDFP. IPAR, a regional think tank based in Dakar with offices in Niger, could be a strategic partner to support such activities

Annex 4. List of background documents

Thematic area	Document with hyperlink
2017-2019 Regional FAFOs	Report from the APR regional FAFO
	Report from the ESA regional FAFO
	Report from LAC regional FAFO
	Report from the WCA regional FAFO
2020 FAFO	FAFO 2020 Brochure
	Partnership in Progress Report 2016-2019
	Promotional video on FO-MAPP (FR, EN, ES, PT)
	IFAD Image Bank
FAFO background documents	Farmers' Forum Consensus
Other IFAD documents	IFAD 2016-2025 Strategic Framework
	IFAD, Rural Youth Action Plan, 2019-2021
	IFAD, Framework for Operational Feedback from Stakeholders: Enhancing Transparency, Governance and Accountability, 2018
	IFAD, Promoting Leadership in Farmers' and Rural Producers' Organizations, 2010
Other documents	CSM, Connecting Smallholders to Markets, 2016
	UNDRR Global Action Plan
	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, 2018
	Jim Woodhill, Saher Hasnain and Alison Griffith, Farmers and food systems, what future for small-scale agriculture?
	FAO, Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, 2015
	FAO, Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, 2012



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