

# 2019 - 2028 DECADE OF FAMILY FARMING

## MID-TERM REPORT ON RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2024

In 2024, the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-28) has reached its mid-term. To mark this important milestone, [FAO and IFAD published a Review of the First 5 Years and the Path Towards Sustainable and Resilient Food System](#). The webpage [UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-28: Main Results by 2024](#) has also been published in the [openknowledge.fao.org](https://openknowledge.fao.org) website.



These publications have been developed through a series of events involving the main members of the initiative, to collectively evaluate the results achieved and the work prospects for the next five years. Among these events it is important to mention the [Global Family Farming Forum](#) which was held at FAO Headquarters between 15 and 17 October 2024, parallel to the [World Food Forum](#).



In December 2017, the [Resolution A/RES/72/239 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly](#) proclaimed 2019-2028 the United Nations Decade of Family Farming. The UN Resolution called upon FAO and IFAD to lead the implementation of the Decade in collaboration with other organizations of the United Nations system and invited governments and other relevant stakeholders, including international and regional organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia, to actively support the implementation of the Decade.



The key facts presented in the [United Nations Decade of Family Farming UNDF website](#) show the great impact of family farming and its potential for a sustainable future:

- Family farms produce more than 80% of the food in the world;
- 90% of fishers operate on a small-scale;
- Family farms occupy around 70-80% of farmland worldwide;
- Women hold only 15% of farmland, while they provide almost 50% of farm labor;
- More than 90% of farms are run by an individual or a family who rely primarily on family labor;
- 0033% of forests are managed by indigenous peoples and local communities;
- There are more than 600M farms in the world.



Family farmers, including pastoralists, fishers, foresters, indigenous people and other groups of food producers simultaneously fulfil environmental, social and cultural functions. They improve environmental sustainability of agriculture, preserve landscape, restore biodiversity and ecosystems, produce nutritious and culturally appropriate food as part of local traditions, contributing to a balanced diet and to the maintenance of cultural heritage in rural areas.

[According to the mentioned web page published by FAO and IFAD, the most important results of the first 5 years of work of the Decade of Family Farming were the following:](#)

### Family Farming

Family farming includes all family-based agricultural activities. It is an integral part of rural development. Family farming is agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production managed and operated by a family and is predominantly reliant on family labour, including both women's and men's.

Both in developing and developed countries, family farming is the predominant form of agriculture in the food production sector. Family farming also has an important socio-economic, environmental and cultural role.



- 113 countries of the world working together for the objectives of Family Farming.
- 2.625 Farmers organizations, non-governmental organizations, public entities and academic institutions engaged in the processes.
- 80 Intersectoral coordination mechanisms including National Committees for Family Farming and other platforms created or strengthened.
- 364 Laws, Policies and Regulations developed and approved in 82 Countries.
- 46 Countries with adopted policy Framework for Family Farming.
- 16 National Action Plans for Family Farming officially adopted in Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Gambia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Nepal, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Spain, Tunisia, Uruguay.
- 13 Countries with advanced progress towards a National Action Plan.
- 28 Countries mobilizing actors to develop a National Action Plan.
- 3 Regional or Sub-regional Action Plans for Family Farming created in Central America, Near East and North Africa, and South Asia.

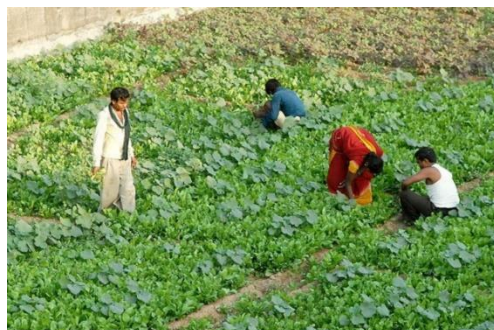
The [FAO and IFAD Review published about the First 5 Years and the Path Towards Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems](#) underscores the significance of the UNDF as a unique tool for supporting family farmers and their vital role in enhancing the sustainability and resilience of food systems. Elaborated by the World Rural Forum (WRF) through a participatory process, it provides an overview of the first five years of UNDF implementation in collaboration with various family farming organizations from five continents which are deeply involved in promoting and implementing the Decade.

The document underlines that during these five years of UNDF implementation, significant progress has been achieved for family farmers and the organizations representing them. Family farmers' organizations and their members have gained broader recognition as key agents in the transformation towards sustainable and resilient food systems. This progress has increased their visibility and established their importance across various political and social platforms, where they have been prominently featured in major global discussions on food systems transformation, the climate crisis, and addressing inequalities.

Despite the significant progress made in the first five years of the UNDF, family farming continues to face enduring challenges that demand coordinated and intensified efforts. Pandemics, economic crises, security issues in rural areas of certain regions, emerging conflicts, and climate change have severely impacted family farmers. Moreover, political setbacks in some countries have hindered dialogue and participation, particularly affecting women and youth. To maximize the impact of the next five years of the UNDF and empower family farmers, it is essential to implement key recommendations that strengthen their role in building sustainable and resilient food systems:

Recommendations made for the Second half of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 (UNDF):

- Scaling up the UNDF and enhancing its global impact in territories around the world, implementing effective policies and securing the necessary resources for family farmers.
- Defining and coordinating a concrete agenda among UN agencies, especially FAO and IFAD, to promote the UNDF in various regions, seeking synergies with other agendas, both general and climate-focused.





- Promoting and consolidating regional and national Plans and Resolutions. Promoting the creation, consolidation and adequate financing of UNDF action plans and policies at the regional and national levels.
- Focus on women farmers and young farmers. Ensuring the inclusion of women and youth in decision-making processes, addressing their specific challenges and guaranteeing the generational sustainability of family farms.
- Establishment of stable financial mechanisms. Creating stable global financial mechanisms to support and stimulate UNDF national and regional processes in support of family farming
- Permanent Dialogue Forums. Maintaining and promoting opportunities for regional and national dialogue that include family farmers' organizations, governments and other relevant institutions, such as the National Committees of Family Farming and the national sections of the REAF MERCOSUR.
- Strengthening the participation of Family Farmers' Organizations in the setting of strategic agendas, political dialogues and the implementation of policies and programs.
- Raising awareness and training of local, national and regional actors. Ensuring the effective implementation of policies and plans and improving the understanding of the UNDF and the importance of family farming in rural development.
- Research and data generation. Conducting detailed studies and generating data on changes in the family farming sector in various regions in order to make informed decisions and design effective policies.
- Improving synergies between cooperation institutions. Improving synergies between FAO, IFAD and other cooperation institutions to mobilize and coordinate ongoing programs that support family farmers.



Designed around seven Pillars of work, the [Global Action Plan](#) of the Decade of Family Farming recommends a series of interconnected actions from the local to the global level. The interventions should be adapted to regional, national, local socio-cultural and socio-economic conditions. To guarantee the success of the UNDF, [all actions should place family farmers at the center and be implemented through bottom-up, participatory and inclusive processes](#):

1. Develop an enabling policy environment to strengthen family farming;
2. Support youth and ensure the generational sustainability of family farming;
3. Promote gender equity in family farming and the leadership role of rural women;
4. Strengthen family farmers' organizations and capacities to generate knowledge, represent farmers and provide inclusive services in the urban-rural continuum;
5. Improve socio-economic inclusion, resilience and well-being of family farmers, rural households and communities;
6. Promote sustainability of family farming for climate-resilient food systems;
7. Strengthen the multi-dimensionality of family farming to promote social innovations contributing to territorial development and food systems that safeguard biodiversity, environment and culture.

The Family Farming Decade represents a great opportunity for actors who carry out territorial development processes throughout the world, investing their efforts in creating local food systems that safeguard biodiversity, the environment and culture, in line with the Objectives of Sustainable Development of the 2030 Agenda.



**To know more**

[UN Decade of Family Farming website](#)

[UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-28: Main Results by 2024](#)

[Family Farming midtermreport 2024](#)

[Global Conference in ruralforum.org.en](#)

[Global Family Farming Forum](#)

[World Food Forum.](#)

[Global Action Plan](#)

[Global Action Plan Pillars](#)

[Communication tool kit](#)

[UN Resolution](#)

