

F@RMLETTER

The E-magazine of the World's Farmers
issue n. 23, january 2014



E-magazine:

Editorial	02
Farmellaneous	03
Best Practice	19
Farmatory	24
News&Events	28

Editorial Board

Editor

Marco Marzano de Marinis

Deputy Editor

Anette Engelund Friis

Assistant Editor

Paul Bodenham

Editorial Team

Alessandra Giuliani

Simona Mazzuca

Luisa Volpe

Graphic Design

Maura Casaburi

Subscribe to
the monthly Farmletter
by sending an e-mail to:
info@wfo-oma.org

World Farmers' Organisation

Via Aurora, 39 - 000187 Roma, tel +39 06 42 74 11 58
info@wfo-oma.org



2014
International Year of
Family Farming

GERD SONNLEITNER,
UN GOODWILL AMBASSADOR FOR FAMILY FARMING



Boosting Family Farming is key for a world without hunger

A

Agriculture is a key-sector of the future. After a period of marginalization, agriculture is back on the international agenda. A consistently growing world population draws new attention to agriculture – especially on the background of limited resources. These are so far good news for farmers. However, the situation worldwide is di-

verse. On one side, there are countries where farmers have an excellent reputation in society. On the other side, there are countries where farmers and farming are not considered to be a profession or sector with a high reputation. In Germany for example results of a survey show that farmers rank in professional prestige on third place after medical doctors and teachers.

The United Nations (UN) declared 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming. This gives the unique opportunity to raise awareness on our sector and for our work as farmers. Farmers from all continents have welcomed the decision of the UN. As the farming community, we should actively promote this initiative. More than 90% of farmers worldwide are Family Farmers. We can and should as farmers authentically emphasize our contribution to the society, which is first of all providing daily food of best quality. Furthermore, we protect and shape diverse landscapes and contribute to preserve dynamic rural areas.

At the same time, we should express our worries and the challenges we are confronted with. It is unacceptable, that in the 21st century still nearly 900 million people go hungry to bed every day. I am always shocked by the highly sophisticated answers and recipes given as an answer to this alarming figure. However, the solution to eliminate hunger is simple: boost Family Farming!

What is Family Farming about? It is an overall model in which the farming family has full responsibility for decision-making and entrepreneurial risks. This allows the necessary flexibility to respond quickly to changing challenges. Reliable political framework conditions are essential to farmers allowing them to fulfill their role to feed an ever growing world population. And this requirement is exactly what is missing in nearly all countries where hunger is an urging issue.

For centuries, farmers have always been confronted with altering challenges. Today farmers have to deal with even more complex tasks, for example climate change, price volatility and a lack in functionality of the food chain. In developing countries we see fundamental problems which hinder farming or make it even impossible. There is limited access to land, legal rights are missing, training and education of farmers are poor or completely missing. Last but not least, access to finance and markets is not guaranteed.

These enormous challenges cannot be solely managed by farmers. Foremost, a reliable political framework is an absolute must. In all regions of the world where we have observed or still observe a positive development in agriculture and a rising production, sound conditions for farmers were in place.

For a better world, for a world of zero hunger, I would like to address the following recommendations:

1. Reliable political conditions (good governance) are indispensable for a successful agriculture in all parts of the world.
2. Support training and education in agriculture as a fundamental basis for prosperity and resilience in agriculture.
3. Put agriculture at the center of politics for development: Positive development in agriculture is a starting point for economic activities in rural areas.
4. Give special attention to small scale farmers, they have to be empowered to become more productive.
5. Recognize the importance of politically and economically independent self-helping-organizations of farmers (farmers associations, producer organisations, cooperatives, machinery rings) to develop agriculture.
6. Modernise and intensify agriculture in a sustainable way. This is the only answer to meet a growing demand for food.
7. Respect local and regional conditions. There is no “one-fits-all-solution”.

As the farming community, being members of the World Farmers’ Organisation, we should lobby on the occasion of the International Year of Family Farming in 2014 for a renewed attention to Family Farmers. Let us closely cooperate together! Farmers deserve appreciation for their multifunctional role in contributing to society and should therefore receive a fair income. By increasing profitability in agriculture, zero hunger can turn from a dream into reality.



AUSTRALIAN COTTON'S FAMILY HERITAGE

Adam Kay
CEO, Cotton Australia

the average Australian cotton farm is a family run enterprise, employs six people and grows an average of 467ha of cotton each year.

The 2013-14 Australian cotton crop is forecast to produce approximately 4 million bales with an export value of more than Aus\$2 billion Australian cotton farmers are amongst the most efficient in the world, and participate in voluntary best management practice systems including our myBMP program, an initiative so successful that other industries are now using it as

FAMILY COTTON FARMING IN AUSTRALIA
Australian cotton growers are sophisticated family farmers. Although large companies do have a role in our industry,

More than 1500 farms grow cotton in Australia, with over 150 rural communities and 4000 businesses relying on the industry, which employs 10,000 Australians in a typical year.

a model for their own BMP programs.

The family-oriented nature of Australian cotton farming has not prevented growers from making enormous strides in efficiency and sustainability.

In the 2012-13 season Australia's cotton crop returned an average yield of just over 10 bales per hectare, which was the strongest yield on record for Australia and believed to be a world record.

In the past decade, the Australian cotton industry has achieved a 40% increase in water productivity and, over the same period, has reduced pesticide use by 87%.

ACTIVITIES IN 2014 – THE YEAR OF FAMILY FARMING

Australian cotton farmers export more than 99% of the crop, and so they are sensitive to the changing trends of global markets.

In 2014, the Year of Family Farming, the biggest initiative Australia's cotton growers will embark on is the 'Cotton To Market' program.

This program builds on the work done in 2013 to engage with the Better Cotton Initiative and Cotton LEADS responsible cotton-growing programs, and behind-the-scenes work to liaise with international brands, manufacturers, allies and affiliates to begin building Australian cotton's position in the world market.

In 2014 that groundwork will be transformed with the launch of the Cotton To Market global marketing project, which combines our work on the Cotton LEADS and BCI with direct and indirect marketing initiatives to overseas manufacturers and brands.

This initiative is a milestone event for Australia's cotton industry, which has never before conducted an international marketing exercise of this magnitude or sophistication. The industry's advocate for cotton growers, Cotton Australia, is leading this initiative.

Other important programs Cotton Australia will roll out in 2014 include:

- Ensuring research & development funding produces positive results for cotton-growing families: the Australian Government has promised an extra \$100 million towards research and development funding, which will ultimately help growers. Cotton Australia will work with the Government, and with partner with organisations such as the Cotton Research & Development Corporation (CRDC), to make sure that additional funding finds its way to projects that will give growers the most bang for the buck. We will also build on the 'CottonInfo' program, a joint initiative between Cotton Australia, the CRDC and Cotton Seed Distributors (CSD) to create a five-year, \$9.3 million campaign to advance research development and delivery. In 2013 the team of CottonInfo regional development officers were deployed to key cotton-growing areas, and in 2014 the team - supported by its founding partner organisations - will improve the delivery of practical research and development outcomes to growers.

- 2014 - the year for best management practices: 2013 was a milestone year for myBMP, the industry's best management practices system. The system was streamlined, new modules and important content were added, and Cotton Australia regional managers have worked hard to make it easy for growers to participate. The world market is starting to demand more environmentally friendly, responsibly grown fibres, and myBMP is the best mechanism for Australian cotton growers to meet that demand. Cotton Australia will be working hard in the coming year to get even more growers participating and on their way to accredited growing practices.

- Handling the next crop: Australia's cotton industry learnt a great deal about capacity from the record crop two seasons ago, and we are now in a better position to help smooth bumper harvests from farm to export markets. Cotton Australia will continue to evolve its services to ensure growers can more easily bring their crop to market.



KEEPING IT COMPETITIVE CANADA'S FAMILY FARMS



Jordan MacGregor,
Canadian Federation of Agriculture

the world farming is predominately undertaken by the family unit. In Canada, census data indicates that 98 per cent of agricultural operations identify as family farms, and generated 88 per cent of gross farm receipts. The term 'family farm' generally means a farm where a farm family provides much of the capital and labour for the farm, which is often handed down from generation to generation.

As the concept and construct of family continues to evolve in Canada, so must the very definition of what it is to be a 'family farm'. What makes a 'family farm' so difficult to define is the wide variety of shapes and sizes that family farms

come in. At the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA), we do not have an official definition of family farms, but a basic understanding would include any family-managed farm operation, be it an enterprise, partnership, or single proprietorship.

One of the most important contributions family farms provide Canadians is unmatched stewardship of the land. In keeping the next generation in mind, farm families look to leave their homesteads in better condition than when they acquired it, which results in constant improvements and innovations. Family farms are always adapting, moving fluidly with the market and consumer

Family Farms in Canada:
It was in the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly that 2014 was declared the International Year of the Family Farm (IYFF), and how could it not be? Farmers are increasingly in the spotlight as a sustainable food supply is the world's most essential challenge, and all around

demands. The emotional tie that exists between farming and the families who do it runs deep. Unlike other industries, agriculture can be more than just about the owner's bottom line; it's a lifestyle that can motivate families to stick with farming, no matter the sacrifices. No matter how early the morning chores, or how late the harvest, family farmers enjoy the freedom of running their farms – making the decisions, and being hands on. Being their own boss, the close-knit communities, and the ability to raise a family on their farms are just some of the benefits that make the lifestyle appealing to so many operators in Canada.

Family farms in Canada come in many forms: some managed by families with one or more members having a job outside the farm to ensure adequate family income, some are “retirement” farms or acreages; and some are farms that are structured like enterprises but often have primary family members working on them as well as additional paid employees. There are currently 294,000 operators across Canada, and although the number of farms in Canada has decreased and farm size is on the rise, this is not viewed as a negative trend as long as the environment, animal welfare, and product quality are maintained. Canada's agricultural landscape is diverse and constantly evolving. For instance, since last year, oilseed and grain farms have grown in size by 30 per cent, while beef farms have decreased by 18.2 per cent. Canola has also surpassed spring wheat as Canada's number one field crop. Another trend that is on the rise in Canada is organic farming, having increased to represent 1.8 per cent of Canadian farms.

In 2014, the family farm faces numerous threats that must be addressed in order to protect the very foundations of many Canadian rural communities. These threats include, but are not limited to: a lack of publicly-conducted research, the aging farmer population and barriers to new entrants into the sector, and the absence of a federally supported and implemented National Food Strategy (NFS) – a strategic plan for agriculture and agri-food policy. Farmers need as much research and knowledge as

possible to make informed decisions about the future of their farms. Without a continued emphasis on long-term, publicly-conducted research, family farms of all sizes will be less resilient in the future. Additionally, for the first time, farmers in the 55 and over age category comprise the highest percentage of total operators in Canada, with the average farmer age being 54 years old. Young farmers are the future of farming and will need proper financial support and innovation to produce more with less. Finally, the lack of a federally-supported NFS threatens the family farming system. A federally supported NFS would provide a long-term vision for players in the food chain, including family farms. CFA continues to work with stakeholders, its members and government to ensure the family farm endures the test of time and continues to thrive.

CFA and Family Farms:

The CFA is very excited about the International Year of Family Farming and has planned various initiatives to honor our hard-working farm families. CFA's 2014 Annual General Meeting has been themed “Keeping in Competitive – Today's Family Farm,” and plans to draw attention to the family farm and include some international perspectives through a trade panel featuring representation from various countries, including: New Zealand, Japan, United States, and the European Union. Another initiative the CFA has undertaken to bring family farms to the forefront in 2014 is the creation of Farm Leader Profiles of our Board members, all farmers themselves, which are

designed to showcase the experience and evolution of family farming from coast to coast in Canada, through first hand accounts.

CFA will also be supporting family farms by participating in and sponsoring the North American Continental Dialogue on Family Farming, which will be held on April 7 and 8 in Quebec City. Other sponsors of this year's event include: the Quebec Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) and the Coopérative fédérée, the World Farmers' Organization (WFO), the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), the World Rural Forum and the FAO. The event has been constructed to bring together over 100 representatives from professional agricultural organizations and governments, as well as researchers from Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

Additionally, the CFA supports family farms through endorsing many programs and projects that are aimed at reducing threats to the family farm. Programs and projects such as Food Freedom Day, National Food Strategy, Canadian Agricultural Safety Week, Pollinator Partnership, and “Ag more than ever”, amongst others, go a long way in supporting and raising awareness of issues affecting Canadian farm families. CFA is also working towards raising awareness through a new magazine and website initiative entitled “Farm to Table,” published by The Globe and Mail. The magazine and website will inform and educate readers with compelling editorial content on matters addressing issues affecting Canada's food supply – further exploring the family farm.



THE IMPORTANCE AND ROLE OF FAMILY FARMING IN AFRICA AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY REDUCTION

Aggrey Mahanjana, *Managing Director: African Farmers Association of South Africa (AFASA) & Tinashe Chavhunduka; AFASA Secretariat*

Introduction

Agriculture is one of the most strategic and important sectors of African economies. It is the primary source of livelihood for about 65 per cent of Africans. It represents 30 – 40 per cent of Africa's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and accounts for almost 60 per cent of Africa's export income (International Food Policy Research Institute, IFPRI 2004). As things stand today in Africa, agricultural production is carried out mainly by family farmers. According to the 2008 World Bank report, 1.5 billion people live on small farms. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 80 per cent of farms are owned by families and about 60 per cent of the active population work in these family farms (World Bank Report, 2008). These facts and figures show that family farming plays an essential role in food production, sustaining rural economies and stewardship of biodiversity.

The concept of family farming

Farming is a system by which human

beings use resources especially land and water to produce food and other crops, livestock and aquaculture products for their own consumption or the markets. Any person who performs such an activity as defined is regarded as a farmer. Family farming is thus when a family engages in the production of food, fibre or livestock as a way of producing food for their own consumption or for sale to get income which can be used to buy other goods which the family might need.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2012), family farming (also family agriculture) is a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family labour, including both women's and men's. The family and the farm are linked, coevolve and combine economic, environmental, social and cultural functions.

The concept of family farming covers various elements. From a sociological perspective, family farming is associated with family values, such as solidarity, continuity and commitment; in economic terms, family farming is identified with specific entrepreneurial skills, business ownership and management, choice and risk

behaviour, resilience and individual achievement. Family farming is often more than a professional occupation because it reflects a life style based on beliefs and traditions about living and work (European Commission, 2013).

Since the majority of families in Africa reside in the rural areas, the main activity they engage in is agricultural production and that is the reason why family farming is regarded as a way of life for most African families. In as much as most families practice or perform farming activities; in most cases it is more for a sociological purpose than a business and most families still use traditional ways of farming and can hardly produce enough to feed themselves let alone for sale.

Nature of family farming in the African context

Due to low levels of sophistication, the majority of African family farms usually have a mixed type of farming where crop production is complemented by livestock rearing. Crop production is normally for food, seed for next season, for barter trade, to produce grain for brewing beer for traditional ceremonies and occasionally for sale to get money to cater for other family needs. Livestock production is one of the core or primary activities of African

families such that kraals or shelters of cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, chickens, etc, are common features found as part of the infrastructure of a homestead in the African rural areas. There are many reasons why smallholder farmers keep livestock, amongst them, for store of wealth (sometimes referred to as the moving bank), for attaining respect among peers and a better social status in the community, for use in rituals and traditional ceremonies, for paying bridal obligations, for food (meat and milk), for tillage and other transport requirements. In times of crises, these animals can also be sold to bridge family financially gaps from time to time.

In contrast to mixed farming generally practiced by most family farmers in Africa, the Maasai are a Nilotic ethnic group of semi-nomadic people inhabiting Kenya and northern Tanzania who are pastoralists. They are among the best known local populations due to their residence near the many game parks of Southeast Africa, and their distinctive customs and dress. The Tanzanian and Kenyan governments have instituted programs to encourage the Maasai to abandon their traditional semi-nomadic lifestyle, but the people have continued their age-old customs.

Recently, Oxfam has claimed that the lifestyle of the Maasai should be embraced as a response to climate change because of their ability to farm in deserts and scrublands.

One peculiar characteristic of the African family is that it is very paternalistic, with the man being the leader and owner of all resources the family has, especially the land. The male family head is the sole power who directs what the family should produce, when, how, where and also what to dispose of even if he is working somewhere in the mines or some 1000 kilometres away from home.

Commercial family farming

There is another dimension to the family farming in Africa, the Euro- Africans who came to Africa in the sixteenth through to the eighteenth century established themselves as farmers in most African countries. Since then, they have been owners of farms that are transferred from generation to generation and remain properties of the same family and are another form of family farms found in Africa. This is another set of family farming in Africa, which is more of a commercially run agri-business that may include hiring of a significant number of employees to work on the

family farm. The family farmers in this category play a major role in economic development through the following functions:

- a) Employment creation;
- b) Foreign currency generation through exports;
- c) Contribution to national food security; and
- d) Driving the economy through backward and forward linkages

South Africa as an example

South African agriculture has been described as being of a dual nature – with a sophisticated, technologically advanced and globally competitive commercial sector - and on the other hand a subsistence sector that is under resourced, unsophisticated, and with a low technology uptake (The former President of South Africa, Mr Thabo Mbeki coined this as “the first and second economy in one country”). This was largely as a direct result of centuries of neglect and marginalisation of the subsistence sector where the vast majority of the indigenous African people still trying to make a living or livelihood in the rural areas find themselves. Since the advent of democracy in the mid 1990’s the focus of the South African





government has been firstly on redress and secondly on transformation in order to try to bridge the divide. At the heart of these programmes have been land reform initiatives.

Challenges and opportunities of family farming in Africa

Challenges

a) Access to productive land

The era of colonialism and apartheid created an unjust and unfair land ownership pattern in Africa where the indigenous African people were pushed to very poor and agriculturally unproductive marginal areas while the highly productive soils were allocated to the colonizers. In most African countries not even the dawn of political independence has managed to change this land ownership pattern with a lot of constitutional and institutional bottlenecks scuttling the land reform processes. A case in point will be the South African land reform process. The slow land reform process means that the majority of indigenous African families remain in these highly unproductive areas rendering them perpetually

dependent on their governments for food hand-outs and other social needs. In countries where land has been transferred to the African smallholder farmers (like in Zimbabwe), challenges with regard to security of tenure remain, hindering these farmers to access lines of credits from the formal financial markets. This again means that even with the land these farmers remain unproductive because they do not have the capital to purchase agricultural inputs.

b) Effects of climate change on family farming

In recent years, the weather pattern, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa has been very erratic and unfavourable for agricultural production. There has been a high frequency of floods and droughts and sometimes a combination of these two in one year leaving family farmers without irrigation facilities not knowing what to prepare for every farming season. Most family farming communities in Africa are wholly dependent on rain-fed agriculture and droughts hit hard on these family farmers than any other group in the agricultural sector. Even

for livestock farmers, water remains a critical component of the production system with droughts causing severe shortages of forages and pastures as well as animal drinking water.

c) Lack of production capacity

Production capacity is a combination of a number of factors that include the human, financial, physical, social and natural capital. The human capital is comprised of the knowledge and the age and health of the family members involved in the agricultural production. Lack of or inadequate extension services in most African countries means that there is still a gap with regard to technological transfer in order to improve the production capacity of family farmers. The impact of the HIV and AIDS and rural to urban migration by the youth are constant threats to family farming in Africa.

Finance remain a major challenge to most family farmers in Africa as production input costs continuously rise beyond the reach of these poor farmers. In addition to lack of finance, there is also lack of physical farm machinery and

equipment amongst most smallholder farmers to improve their efficiency.

In some cases land reform processes separate members of the same community thereby diminishing levels of social capital previously obtaining in the society. For instance, the land reform programme in Zimbabwe did not consider moving people in groups; people were allocated plots or farms individually thereby mixing people of different cultures, norms and values. This has a tendency of weakening social capital and negatively affecting family farming production capacity. Natural capital talks to the availability of good and fertile soils in addition to good climatic conditions that favours family farming, which in this particular case are lacking and reduces the production capacity of the family farmer.

d) Rural to urban migration

The movement of people especially of the youth from the rural to urban areas continues to strain family labour supply to agricultural production. The young people move to the urban areas to look for employment opportunities leaving the old people to work the land thereby reducing and weakening the families' production capacity.

e) Dumping of foreign agricultural commodities in the African Market

African farmers have recently raised concerns about agricultural products flooding the African markets thereby squeezing out local products or forcing prices down. Agricultural products from other countries that subsidise the production and marketing costs depress the market prices of agricultural products thereby making local production uncompetitive and unprofitable.

f) Technical barriers to trade

Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary standards, rules of origin and labelling and packaging standards are sometimes used by established markets to make it very difficult for agricultural products from the developing world to enter these markets. In as much as standards are important for human safety and hygiene, it is an unfair international trade practice to use these standards as a means of blocking market access for other countries.

g) Lack of market power to determine commodity prices

Generally, farmers are price takers than they are price determiners since they are disempowered by large world retail supermarkets that use their global influence to fix prices of agricultural commodities. Farmers are forced to sell their produce at very uncompetitive prices due to the perishability of most agricultural commodities making huge losses in the process.

Opportunities

With the current rate of population growth especially in Sub-Saharan Africa coupled with the growth of the middle income class, the demand for food is set to increase opening opportunities for family farming to take advantage of this high food demand. There is also an opportunity for African family farmers to take advantage of the current global interactions where information sharing and exchange of ideas can assist in improving their production capacity.

AFASA ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS IN THE YEAR OF FAMILY FARMING

In South Africa, the government has tried over the years to support, especially the smallholder or emerging farmers, with quite a number of programmes but the challenge was that of lack of coordination of the effort and hence the subsequent failure to implement, monitor and evaluate the impact of all these programmes in tangible transformation of the lives of the rural poor. African Farmers' Association of South Africa (AFASA), a union of predominantly black emerging farmers formed in 2011 has taken an initiative through its cooperative chamber to use a model of one secondary cooperative per district to drive agricultural

development.

To kick-start this cooperative movement drive, whose goal is to have self-sustaining and successful commercially run enterprises which will contribute meaningfully to the economy and to sustainable rural development, a pilot secondary cooperative has been successfully established in Chris Hani District in the Eastern Cape province. As indicated earlier on in this document, lack of production capacity by the farmers is one of the many challenges faced by the smallholder or emerging farmers, but also, lack of markets or inaccessibility thereof is also a major problem facing the same group of farmers. AFASA, through the use of this secondary cooperative model is trying to deal with this twin-problem by mobilising agricultural inputs to capacitate production and provide markets to these farmers through primary agricultural cooperatives that are well capacitated to manage and operate profitable enterprises.

AFASA will use its expertise and its local structures to determine the best secondary co-operative model per district and craft business plans that will give guidance on how to drive agricultural development in each district. At the core of CHABSCO's strategy is the facilitation of market access for its members.

This model is going to be replicated in the other 52 districts of South Africa. There is real potential in using the secondary cooperative model to transform the rural communities by ensuring food security at the household level whilst creating employment and hence curb unwarranted rural to urban migration.



FAMILY FARMING: PLAYING AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE BASES

Daniela Medeiros do Nascimento,
*Institutional Adviser in Trias
 Brazil and institutional advisor
 for international relations and
 production chains cooperatives in
 Unicafe.*



The contemporary world is facing an unprecedented crisis, based on the act of accumulating wealth in the hands of minorities without considering the natural and human limits. This fact generated a global systemic crisis, which has provoked a historic crossroads for the world, to which, the combination of a growing global and urbanized population, with the accelerated degradation of natural resources and global climate change, causes a disturbing scene with critical dilemmas.

However, faced with an increasingly urbanized world, where

agriculture is highly artificialized and driven by the expansion of monoculture and the international flows of agricultural commodities, it is possible to find perseverance among family farmers, whom as far as possible have thrived, even in a hostile world.

Fighting against the dynamics of rural exodus, family farmers have shown resilience against industrial agriculture and capitalism system in the field. Family farmers and their movements have been key in promoting a model of democratic and sustainable society that must be consolidated. Thanks to family farming, new jobs have been created, as well as new

production techniques, with attention to environmental conservation, with higher production levels achieved. Notwithstanding, it has encouraged the strengthening of short supply chains and increased the marketing for local products.

Whereas the mentioned context, Brazil has played an important role within an environment of political, economical and social raise process. Such condition, enhance its position as one of the world leaders in several sector of economy highlighting its potential of productive growth in agricultural and energy sectors. However, it is necessary to identify the best processes that lead

to sustainable development to meet the challenges of society, especially in regard to demands for quality of life, security and food sovereignty.

In order to achieve autonomy and sustainability, it would be a strategic approach to stimulate countries like Brazil, as well as its South American neighbors, in define key issues, such as land reform, family farming and social policies as inducing factors for sustainable rural development, aiming to strengthen and consolidate the “rural with people.”

Such policies are essential to overcome poverty and eliminate social exclusion, generating appropriate use of land, adequate income distribution and promotion of food security and sovereignty. However, although good socio-economic policies have been created in Brazil and in South American countries from this past few years, in general, do not exist to many concrete advances in the construction and consolidation of structural policies for family farming in the world.

The year of 2014 has been declared by the United Nations General Assembly as the International Year of Family Farming - IYFF, this is a crucial moment to redeem and expand the strengthening of this segment of society. In Brazil, member-based organizations, such as Unicafes- Family Agriculture Cooperatives and Solidarity Economy Union, seek recognition for family farms and stakeholders. Together, the organizations are proposing improvements to existing public policies and establishment of structuring programs, focusing in better quality of life and socio-economic development.

Moreover, they intend to discuss action for sustainability with appreciation of family farming and its important role for food sovereignty and environment. It's expected the consolidation and strengthening of family farming through: land reform, agroecology, and laws that legally support the performance of peasants in the economical and social environment of their countries, boosting rural-urban unit.

The IYFF represents a substantial proof that family farming issues are being considered important focus on discussions into influent planarians, not only in Brazil, but also in countries



worldwide. The challenge consists of finding sustainable ways of production, which avoid the damage or destruction of environment and must increase the added value of cooperatives and the human labor. The production models shall effectively contribute to the wellness of the population in the fields and cities.

Despite of hostility from the current economical systems, family farmers are being capable to contribute with their invaluable experience of caring the land and water. Furthermore, from their movements, they have been able to organize and express their views and acquire allies to their cause. Besides, family farmers more and more have gained influence within several networks at national and international arenas.

Unsustainable factors characterized by the conventional agricultural system from the so-called “green revolution” must be overcome. The current and future agriculture should be aware of proper use of non-renewable natural resources. It shall recover and conserve biodiversity, water and soil valorizing the culture and ethnic knowledge present within agricultural communities. Following this logic, peasant farmers worldwide have shown that a system with such characteristics is gaining strength, which is based on agroecology principles.

Thus, agroecology becomes a potential alternative to the inclusion of family agriculture in processes that involve all the links in the systems of production chains. As a science of production technique, agroecology doubts the sustainability of current agricultural model that intensively uses external inputs under unlinked food production from care and protection of biodiversity. In addition, it allows the analysis of socioeconomic and political dimensions that are inherent in the food production systems.

Currently in Brazil, the national agendas from social movements that represent peasants are focusing on policy proposals and demands to foment sustainable models of production, including Agroecology. Such interest and demands became larger and achieved all biomes from several regions in the country. This implies that changes in the current patterns of socioeconomic and ecological organization in the field and in the conceptions linked to rural development will not happen without the interest and support from the majority instances of society. It is need that the government accepts and adds agroecology as part of the construction of a national project for agricultural development.

At present, farmers around the world are challenged to find ways that address the autonomy and prudence in using natural resources. They must



adapt existing technologies to their local realities and improve productivity with reduction of costs throughout the production chain. Furthermore, they need to expand their sales channels and stimulate consumption by the quality of its products and fair prices.

However, there are bottlenecks that limit the consolidation of family farmers in the supply chains of which they are inserted. Weakness on technical and productive capacities, incipient research focused on agroecology and small-scale agriculture, few strategic spaces for exchanges and networking, low access to credits and policies for insertion to the market, are some of challenges faced by family farming around the world.

Nevertheless, relevant examples from groups of producers organized in networks have shown that the establishment of an alternative model of production based on agroecology, can provide family farms with the adaptability to market and boost their socio-economic inclusion. This is the case of Dois Pinheiros Group, consisting on agroecological family farmers in the metropolitan region of Curitiba in southern Brazil.

The group is linked to an organization

called Ecovida Network, which supports them to commercialize their organic products through the government purchasing programs. Being part of Ecovida network, these farmers are encouraged to participate in extended discussions with other groups and organizations where good opportunities are created. For this particular group, technical and commercial partnerships were acquired with educational institutions and with non-governmental organizations, such as Unicafe and Cresol - Credit Cooperative of Family Agriculture and Solidarity Economy. Working together with civil society organizations, the Dois Pinheiros Group believes that it is possible to suggest institutional changes on issues regarding to researching, education and extension, as well as, assisting the formulation of public policies to develop legal frameworks, in order to promote the inclusion of family farms in the economy and society.

The experience of Dois Pinheiros Group organized into a network, linked to the reality of its region, indicates that not only processes and products should be improved. There is the need for continuous innovations that require combinations of instruments and

alternatives, which can be found in the political, economic and productive dimensions. Considering the inherent potential in each dimension, it is possible to envision possibilities for confronting the challenges of the globalized environment in which these producers have been acting and survived.

Despite of challenges, family farms have established itself as a strategic segment for the world population. They are being responsible for the production of most agricultural products and raw materials in several countries. In Brazil, for example, according to IBGE (2006), family farming is responsible for 70% of food that feed the Brazilian nation. In addition, it represents 10% of the national GDP and creates 75% of jobs in the countryside.

By stating the IYFF, FAO-UN recognizes and encourages the world to reflect on the strength and potential political and social influences of family farming. They are capable in stimulating changes in agricultural development strategies in their countries, which shall promote environmentally sustainable production models, ensuring greater food sovereignty and security for today's society and for the future generations.



NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY FARMING SYSTEM WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO INDIA

Dr. Dinesh
Chief Executive, NCU

Food is the essential need of human being and many countries in world are facing worst food crisis in the recent years. It may be worthwhile to mention here that as per recent estimates of FAO, around 826 million people in the developing world do not have enough to eat and one fifth of the world population representing almost all these people are subjected to extend poverty. The latest UN update of the world economic situation states that the total number of food insecure people is probably closer to three billion or about half the population of the world. The proportion of hungry people is greater in Africa (about 33%) than Asia (16%). The FAO in its report also indicated that there are 22 countries, in which 16 are in Africa, where undernourishment

prevalence rate is over 35%. About 75% of the world's poor live in rural areas and make their living from agriculture. It has been proved that there is direct positive co-relation between agricultural productivity and hunger as well as poverty. Observing importance of agriculture product the British Food Minister, Sh. Hilary Benn in G8 Meeting said "The single most important thing you can do it, to get agriculture production up. We all have a responsibility that when crisis strikes, people have got enough food to eat". Therefore, it should be responsibility of every nation to produce adequate food for attaining self-sustenance for eradication of hunger. It is the prime need of the hour to increase food production for eradicating poverty and improve livelihood, but simultaneously also important to protect the environment, soil health, and bio diversity.

Taking cognizance of this problem, the FAO at its World Food Summit held in 1996 wherein heads of different nations

were present reaffirmed the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right of everyone to be free of hunger". Likewise, it is important to take note of the Rome declaration "Food Security exists when all people, at all time have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet life". There was a commitment also to eradicate hunger in all countries with an immediate objective to reduce the number of undernourished people by half their present level not later than 2015. It is projected, the global demand for cereals, due to growing population will increase about 35 percent between 2000 to 2020 amounting to 2497 million tonnes and other types of agri foods will require 327 million tonnes for better living.

But the situation is being reversed in the case of food production. The growth of agriculture production in both developed and developing countries is slowing down and is expected to further slow down in the coming decades. The

environment of health is also damaged tremendously. As per forecast the import of food grains of developing countries may be almost double by 2020 with maximum increase expected in East Asia and South Asia. Now the significant question is to provide food security to all thereby improving livelihoods of each and every man.

The FAO giving due importance in its 37th session of the conference proposed that 2014 be declared the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) with the objective of raising the profile of family farming by focusing world attention on its role in alleviation of hunger and poverty, providing food security and improving livelihood, while protecting the environment bio diversity. Subsequently, the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming and invited FAO to facilitate its implementation.

The prime objective of the International Year of Family Farming is to promote,

in all countries, real active policies in favour of the sustainable development of farming systems based on the family unit, provide guidance to put them into practice, to boost the role of farmers organizations and to raise the awareness on the part of civil society on the importance of supporting family farming. All this is geared to fight against poverty, to seek food security, and to achieve an equitable social system based on respect for the environment and bio diversity.

The progress in the development of family farming will directly contribute to the Millennium Development Goals: to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, to reduce infant mortality, to guarantee the protection of the environment, to promote equality of men and women etc. Creating world-wide association for development is the ultimate objective.

This International Year is not seen as an end in itself but as the beginning of a process in which, through a succession of events, family farming and its many professional associations will be

recognized as the leading force in rural development.

In most of the Asian countries including India, sizable percentage of the population is residing in rural areas and depends on agriculture and allied activities for sustain of their livelihood.

In most of these countries, the system of joint family has been continuing which comprises grandparents, grand children, distant cousins, parents siblings, husbands and wives all staying together as a well knit family and agriculture and animal husbandry sector. Their primary vocation in farming, all the members of this large family contribute in range of farming activities as per their skill, knowledge, physical strength, body structure, age group and interests. It has been seen that a typical farming family exhibits a very good case of division of labour and jobs in the farming sector where all the member of the family are involved in various operations. An illustrative example in a typical case of rice cultivation is given below:

S.No.	Activities	Performed By
1	Seedbed preparation for rice nursery	Adult male with the help of animals/machines
2	Sowing of Nursery	Male/Female
3	Nurturing of Nursery	Female Members
4	Seedbed preparation for rice plantation, field	Adult male with the help of animals/machines
5	Uprooting of nursery and bundling	Female members and grownup children
6	Planting of Sampling	Female members and grownup children
7	Irrigation	Male/Female Members
8	Weeding	Female/ Children
9	Fertilizer Application	Male members/Grownup Children
10	Protection from birds, animals and other external damagers	Grown up children
11	Application of insecticides/pesticides	Male Members
12	Harvesting and bundling of the crop	Female Members/Children
13	Drying the crop	Female Members/Children
14	Seed separation and winnowing	Female Members/Children
15	Gradation and drying	Female Members/Children
16	Packaging and Storage	Male/Female/Children
17	Dehusking and bagging	Female/Children
18	Marketing	Male/Female



Family Farming System in India

India is an agrarian country and farming is the prime source of livelihood for more than 68 percent families in the nation. India has about 2 percent of world geographical area with 2.16 million sq.km. of cultivated area, but meets the food requirement of 18 percent world population. The per capita availability of land is declining of late. The average cultivated land holding is about .13 ha. Approximate 95.95 percent of farmers are within the small and the marginal category owning about only 62 percent of the land. The land productivity in India is inversely related to farm size class per hectare.

The agriculture productivity in marginal and small holding was found to be much higher than the average productivity for all size categories. The reason behind this, is that the small and marginal farmers do cultivation themselves. However, large farmers mainly depend on labour. Hence, due to hard working, more skill, better management of land and keen interest of small and marginal farmers the average production of their fields is more.

As per scenario of India, the small and marginal farmers cultivate their farm themselves and all family members e.g. husband, wife and children are engaged in farm practices as well as crop production, storage and marketing. The women farmers in small and marginal land holders are also playing very important role in farm production. More than 55 percent of agriculture work is being done by women work force, however, population is less than male farmers. The division of work in agriculture practices is also helpful for more production. Some work like ploughing, use heavy machineries/ implements are practised by



male farmers but works like, weeding, paddy plantation, sowing, nipping of tea, winnowing, harvesting, threshing, storage etc. are mainly done by female farmers.

The family members of Indian farmers are doing production work professionally, and skillfully. Due to family profession, the male and female farmers would become skilled workers. Weeding, milking, storage are being done efficiently by women farmers. It is also found that the body structure of women is suitable to do these work efficiently. The children also help and support in crop production by uprooting of paddy seedlings, carrying vegetable from the fields, supplying food from home to farm etc. We can see in India effective classified work distribution among farmers families, mainly small and marginal farmers.

The family farming system may be useful to enhance agriculture production in

the other countries and as an authentic model for real farming development, directed to the service of humanity through the commitment of millions of men and women producing harvests sufficient to feed the world. However, policy supports of the governments along with systematic training are highly required.

The International Year of Family Farming is based on a positive and dynamic approach. It is intended to demonstrate to civil society and its numerous institutions, not only the challenges and difficulties of family, but also its great contribution, real and potential, to the world's food, to the fight against poverty and to the fulfilling of the Millennium Development Goals. No doubt this will be the driving force behind a number of initiatives in favour of family agriculture. This impulse should be maintained after its celebration to optimize the results achieved and to critically follow up its public policies, its programmes and the development of its agreed projects.



FAMILY FARMING IN ARGENTINA

Raul Roccatagliata

*MBA, Institute of Economic Studies
and International Negotiations, SRA*

THE CONCEPT OF FAMILY FARMING

It is worth to mention the definition of family farming with consensus from the official technical team of the MERCOSUR and associated countries (Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay), which is limited to economic and productive aspects:

“Family farming is a type of production where the Domestic Unit and Production Unit are physically integrated, agriculture is the main occupation and source of household income, the family provides the predominant fraction of the labor force used on the farm and

output goes to consumption and market together. “

Various concepts and terms are included in this definition, such as: Small Producer, Smallholder, Farmer, “Chacacero”, “Mediero”, Family Producer and, in this case, also landless farmers and communities of indigenous peoples.

The concept of “family farming” includes agricultural, livestock or livestock activities, fisheries, forestry, agro-industrial and the artisanal, traditional harvesting and rural tourism.

Family farmers are considered individually or in associative structures.

IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY FARMING SECTOR

The small farms (SF) in Argentina reached, in 2002, a total of 218,868, occupying an area of 23,519,642 hectares. This means 65.6 % of all farms in

the country and 13.5% of the total area of all farms of the country (information provided by the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock of Argentina).

- 71% of producers in the agricultural sector belongs to SF.

- The estimated gross value of production of the SF represents 19.2% of the value generated by all farms.

- The 19% of SF are involved in hiring agricultural machinery service.

- In relation to employment: the SF accounts for 87.3 % of working families producers; and contribute to 53% of total employment (54% of permanent work and 29 % of direct transitional work) in the agricultural sector at national level.

In the expanded MERCOSUR, Family Agriculture represents an average of 88% (85 to 90%) of all existing farms, totaling an estimated 5,727,163 households that, despite its important role



in food production in each country and the large amount of natural resources they manage, are mostly located in poor and socially-marginalized areas.

CATEGORIZATION OF FAMILY FARMING

Family Farmers can be divided in two main categories: A farmers who produce primarily for home consumption in minimum subsistence, and E for category where producer can live in the property or in a nearby area, with all the necessary services and support the family allowing their children to complete the entire educational cycle, in National Universities.

POLICIES FOR THE FAMILY FARMING

In regard to family farming, it would be necessary to approve different long-term policies, which should regulate the access to land, to water and natural resources, which are necessary for growth, development and expansion of family farming.

- INFRASTRUCTURE

Lack of basic infrastructures in rural areas, pushes family farmers to migrate where services that allow human and social development of the family are guaranteed. Therefore, most of the population is obliged to migrate in urban areas, This situation may generate cases of pockets of deprivation and loss of cultural heritage in the farm family.

In rural areas, there is a need of creating infrastructures that could support the population as a whole. Investments in the rural sector, to improve health, education, communication, water supply, energy, are needed to enhance the quality of life for all people thanks to a better social inclusion that facilitates the knowledge and information sharing.

A) WATER

Access to water is a very sensitive issue since the family farmer can not access an adequate volume, quantity and quality that would be required for human and productive development. All this is due to lack of adequate infrastructure. In this context, to ensure the fair provision of water for: human consumption, animal consumption and irrigation,, it would be worthy approving adequate public policies that could regulate the procurement, distribution and storage, of water.

B) ENERGY

All rural households should be provided with enough energy to conduct comfortable family life. Because of lack of basic services smallholder farmers decide to leave rural areas for more comfortable conditions. It is necessary to ensure access to conventional and alternative energy sources at local level.

C) TRANSPORT ROUTES

The Government should make sure that funds for opening and maintenance of routes and trunk roads, waterways, railways are used properly.

D) HOUSING

Farmers should be involved in the planning system of housing construction in rural areas by the national and provincial Ministries for Planning and Social Development., This would guaranteed that the farmers' perspective be taken into consideration at the moment of making relevant decision.

E) PRODUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure in support to farm production should be created. This would include support to plant processing, equipment for the transport of goods and services, , spaces for local markets.

F) OTHER COMMUNITY NEEDS

Schools and health centers, access to the media (radio, telephone and internet).

Financing Systems Family Producers We need to develop a financing system founded on the logic of production rather than on financial systems and the participation of organizations in defining the profile of beneficiaries is critical.

COMMERCE

It would be important to Create a Business Network of Family Farmers that could allow the producers and organizations of FF to articulate with local, national and international markets, through :

New marketing channels for different productions, producers and organizations; space for commercialization in big cities.

Strengthened networks of commercial exchange among different organizations. Appropriate regulations for quality conditions.

SUPPORT AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING

Government should promote research for alternative technologies and agroecological production adapted to each area and disseminate the existing ones. Also generate permanent training programs according to the needs of each region.



THE “LA SAGLIUTELLA” HOLIDAY AND EDUCATIONAL FARM OF GABRIELLA BARON

Confederazione Italiana Agricoltori

This family-run farm specializes in the cultivation of vines, olives, various types of fruits and seasonal vegetables, as well as raising farmyard animals, cattle, sheep and poultry.

is combined with new generation’s innovation and ideas, with a view to making agriculture still “actual” and providing prospects for the future.

The “La Sagliutella” holiday farm is an excellent example of how multifunctional family farming is promoted in the Italian region of Campania (which is characterized by the presence of the famous Caserta Palace). It joins together typically agricultural activities with the ability to offer services to tourists and provide educational activities.

The farm, which is located in the municipality of Alvignano, is to be found on a green hill that has a spectacular view of the beautiful Volturno valley (in which there is an abundance of lowlands, hilly areas and woodlands).

The farm uses organic farming productive methods.

The farm’s activity has been handed down from father to son. Family is, in fact, still today the farm’s strength since the parents’ wisdom and tradition

All of the farm’s products are made available to customers on-site, where they can taste healthy and wholesome local dishes that have lovingly brought back to life ancient flavors in a manner that only traditional farming knows how to do. There is, however, more: extra virgin olive oil, excellent red and white wines, honey, cheese



and various vegetables are also produced on the farm.

The farm also has hotel accommodation and is equipped with wonderful swimming pools that are unique in the province of Caserta. This variety is able to meet and satisfy even the most disparate needs of customers since such swimming pools (and, therefore, the games and relaxation typically associated with water) are located in virtually untouched natural surroundings.

“La Sagliutella” is also engaged in numerous initiatives for people with disabilities, who are welcomed and assisted by qualified personnel.

The farm is registered, moreover, in the Regional Role of Educational Farms. Educational Farms are working farms which not only are museums that document farming traditions and civilization, but are also large outdoor laboratories that give children and

young people the opportunity to rediscover Italian agro-food traditions.

“La Sagliutella” can be visited by all primary and secondary schools students and its aim is to disseminate basic nutritional and environmental principles, as well as show how the area’s typical productive and transformation activities are carried out. The farm offers students the following educational activities: biological horticultural courses (from milk to cheese); grandmother’s bread laboratory; grandmother’s dough laboratory; as well as the production of jams, marmalades and juices.

The farm’s educational activities aim to show how farmers work and highlight the initiatives taken by them so that their work is done in an environmentally-friendly fashion with a view to enhancing the uniqueness and authenticity of their products.





THE AGRIYOUTH OF FAMILY FARMS

The Agriyouth of Family Farms
Keron Bascombe, YPARD
representative for Trinidad and
Tobago

Striving towards the development of her family's farm, Kezia Black is a fully fledged agri-youth of Trinidad and Tobago. Currently she is pursuing a masters course in livestock production given that one of the main activities of her farm is pig production. Working on the enterprise from a young age, Kezia made a conscious decision to pursue studies in general agriculture for her Bachelor's degree even after facing difficulty in the agricultural sciences and being accepted to pursue her other passion in English Literature.

Kezia's family farm has always been a major contribution to coverage of their livelihood expenses and it allowed the youth of the family to be educated. Kezia explains, "Presently my only aim is to assist my family's farm. No other member of my family received any agriculture based education. However my father worked in an agricultural institution."

The Black family farm is approximately 4.5 acres located in a traditional farming community of the country. As a

mixed enterprise they pursue livestock, crop and vegetable production. They are heavily involved in pig rearing. The family once practiced duck production but due to high incidences of praedial larceny (a term used to refer to theft of any type of agricultural produce) they have discontinued its use. However the family still has local chicken, used mainly for eggs which they use for their own consumption.

For their long term crops the family grows mango and citrus fruits such as oranges and grapefruit. Short term vegetable production (6 month growing period) varies however. Some items that have been planted include bodi, melongene (eggplant), tomatoes, sweet pepper, hot pepper, ochro, lettuce, cabbage, patchoi and local seasonings such as chive, parsley and chadon beni (cilantro). The family also plants root crops such as dasheen, cassava, sweet potato and eddoes which take 9 months to mature. Currently the family has an impressive dasheen bush field which is a highly demanded item to the local population. Planting all depends on demand and seasonality.

With a 13 member family it is not always possible for everyone to assist in farm activities at all times. However, once family members are not engaged in another livelihood activity or otherwise they all assist. "The little ones are definitely very involved and encouraged on the

farm, they all have farm boots and are always excited to help plant, harvest, water plants, and assist in any way they can. However they are guilty at times of harvesting young fruits or stepping on seedlings, therefore a watchful eye and care is needed. They look forward to handling the pigs, but only when they are older of course" explains Kezia.

The family's farm also serves as a small enterprise in which crops and vegetables and other common commodities are sold in a small grocery parlor. On weekends fresh pork products are sold as butchering takes place on site at the farm. A small meat shop with the necessary support infrastructure is also present at the family's enterprise as a major contributor to business. For both business and farm activities male and female members partake or perform most if not all tasks.

Together with her family, Kezia continuously seeks to improve the farm in any way she can regularly passing on what she has learned from her tertiary studies. Currently she is in the process of creating a tailored record keeping system for the farm business having started record keeping some time ago. Such efforts have the full support of family members. With the young of the family engrossed in the progress of the enterprise, this family farm has ensured its continuity and is well on its way to future successes.

THE FAMILY POGGIONI: THE FUTURE IN FOUR HANDS



The Agriyouth of Family Farms

Gaetano Menna, Editorial Coordinator of Mondo Agricolo (House Organ of Confagricoltura) .

In Orvieto, Confagricoltura has made clear choices, creating a “provincial” organization even though, from an administrative point of view, the Province of Orvieto does not exist, thus confirming the fact that this is a rural area worthy of note which must be taken into consideration (and in which farmer’s organisations have been constantly active).

The President of Confagricoltura in Orvieto, Roberto Poggioni, says that “The agricultural sector in the Orvieto area is very important”.

Confagricoltura’s President and Board

for the Orvieto area wanted to make their local organisation more responsive to the needs of its members, and set about this by choosing a director, setting up a new decentralized (and more functional) provincial office and providing once again assistance and training courses for members and employees (from those related to Law 626 on safety in the workplace to those for tractor drivers, vintners, olive pruners etc.). These have been the cornerstones of the organisation’s new strategy at provincial level.

Mr. Poggioni is also the National President of the “Federazione Nazionale dell’Impresa Familiare Coltivatrice” (the Italian Federation of Family Farmers). Such appointment is, of course, due to not only to his personal talents, but also to the area from which he comes, in which family farms have specific characteristics.

The personal and professional stories

of Mr. Poggioni and his wife, Maria Adelaide Tozzi, seem emblematic, insofar as they show how family farms can be solid and flexible businesses which are rooted in tradition, but which, at the same time, are modern and capable of building for the future with the contribution of all the family members.

We find the activities of the Poggioni family in full swing: Summer (we are told) is a season which is, from a business point of view, particularly challenging for Mr. Poggioni and Mrs. Tozzi. On the one hand, peppers are gathered from mid-August until October and, on the other hand, it is the high season for the “Le Macchie” family farm is taking ...

“For three days a week” says Mr. Poggioni “I personally deliver our products to a vegetable wholesaler located in Fondi (LT), who purchases the entire crop of about 1200-1500 tons.”

“My husband is an extremely impor-



tant point of reference especially for guests who have been here before. He is always available to accompany them on tours and attractions in the purchase of Orvieto olive oil and wine to be taken home at the end of the holidays. There is an American family that comes every year: My husband goes welcome them at the airport and then acts as their guide: They come not as guests but as friends.”

“Here”, adds Mr. Poggioni’s wife, “it’s as if you were at home and your holiday is tailored to your needs. I think that this is the true meaning of our holiday farm: The ability to give guests something more than just accommodation, a swimming pool and services. The atmosphere, hospitality and availability of the hosts is vital”.

“My father was from Città di Castello and moved to this area after the war (at the end of the forties)”, Roberto Poggioni tells us. “He came here to bring his tobacco-growing experience and skills, which he had acquired previously. Then with commitment, he began to build up his own business (in the tobacco sector), making it grow. Today the farm counts a hundred hectares, which are partly owned and partly leased.”

“I grew up with tobacco, I played as a child among the tobacco leaves... In the mid-nineties, however, when I took over the farm from my father, who had retired due to health problems, I decided to make a radical re-conversion of the business, which was not easy but necessary.”

”Even though the EU’s decision to dispose of the tobacco sector - which was so important for us in Umbria - was already in the air, my choice was also influenced by the fact that I was finding it increasingly difficult to find labor skilled in tobacco growing. Hence my decision to convert to cereals (common wheat). We already rotated cereal crops with tobacco crops, but I decided to abandon the former altogether. Now I’m studying what crops should be included in the rotation: corn or sunflower.”

Simultaneously, he took the decision to cultivate peppers on a part of the land. “At first I entered into agreements with Verona and Sarno food industry companies and a factory in Modena was also interested in the delivery of cut and de-seeded peppers. The competition of the Spanish greenhouse products supplied to industries at (for us) non-remunerative prices prevented us, however, from continuing in this direction”.

“Even though the Spanish product is “watery” (whereas ours is “full-bodied” and has flavor), the quality of our peppers did not pay off at an industrial level. I decided, therefore, to focus on the sale of fresh produce to shops. I prefer to collect and deliver the products directly and not sell them on-site because I manage to get a much better price. I have 2 employees and 5-6 seasonal workers who are used for the gathering the peppers.”

As regards common wheat, difficulties are encountered with fluctuating prices.

“I prefer to sell the product at harvest time and not store it: Whereas I would not become rich as a result of an upward swing in prices, I would, on the other hand, risk making a loss should there be a downwards swing.”

“Always at the end of the Nineties”, adds his wife, “We decided to start the holiday farm, using the old abandoned stone farmhouse which had been owned by my family of origin: It had been the home of the sharecropper. When he stopped sharecropping, it had been not been lived in any longer.”

“Taking advantage of regional subsidies” Mary Adelaide Tozzi continues to explain to us “we also decided to start the re-building and re-adaptation of the farmhouse, turning it into hotel accommodation consisting in an apartment and five rooms (of which I am very proud). I now want to integrate the holiday farm activities with olive and small fruit growing activities. What is my dream? I want to grow saffron. Yes, I like to experiment and do innovative things.” In short, the third millennium has witnessed great (and successful) changes and innovations for the Poggioni family. “It is nice to see this family, which has strong roots in the countryside, planning, investing and reconverting. You need to be able to sniff the wind and seize opportunities, using your experience and making sacrifices with enthusiasm and with a smile on your face, so as to be able move forward with pragmatism and passion.”



EMPOWERING THE YOUTHS AND THE FUTURE OF FAMILY FARMING

Apeh Omede,

YPARD Member and PhD Candidate in Poultry Nutrition at the University of New England, Armidale, Australia

In 2011, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, during its 66th session, having affirmed that family farming and smallholder farming are an important basis for sustainable food production aimed at achieving food security, recognizing the important contribution that family farming and smallholder farming can play in providing food security and eradicating poverty in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, decided to declare

2014 the International Year of Family Farming¹.

Family farming includes all family-based agricultural activities, and it is linked to several areas of the rural development. It is a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family labour, including both women's and men's. Family farming is an essential factor in helping to sustain the livelihood of

human beings, balance economy and protect the global environment.

In developing and developed countries, family farming is the predominant form of agriculture in the food production sector. For example, in Australia, it is that 99 per cent of Australian farms are family owned and operated², in Nigeria, about 90 per cent of food cultivated is grown on small family farms, with landholdings measuring less than two hectares³ while almost in its totality, agriculture in Europe is organized in family farms (97% of all holdings). And although these farms are small in size, the potential that they have to improve yields and environmental sustainability of agricultural production is big.

Youth support family farming and generally carry out gender-specific activities as well. Young women help their mothers in production and caregiving tasks, whereas young men help with or take charge of some of the activities left undone by the absent father. In both cases, they also seek paid employment to contribute toward the family's income without abandoning the domestic chores or other tasks at the farm⁴. These farms are faced with challenges as governments in the regions where family farming is active implement structural adjustment policies and local markets/food systems become increasingly globalized. These challenges and their intricate relationship with the overwhelming local and global economic environment under which family farms operate have rekindled a new interest in them as well as the debate on their future⁵.

Against the background of challenges family farming system faces, farm youths like other family farming's natural and economic resources, must be supported. They are the future generation, who will work the land in the twenty-first century. Without their involvement, agricultural development, food security and sustainable livelihood efforts will not succeed. Although youths are noted for their active involvement in family farming⁶, there is a growing awareness of their changing attitude worldwide. Psychological factors and economic pressure on farm families are found to be factors influencing the

change. In some countries, many youths wonder about the viability of a career in agriculture, and yet others perceive farming as less dignifying.

Apart from the challenges of access to resources and markets, access to appropriate research and development, weak power in the food chain; finding the right successor is a treat to the future of family farming. It is important to point out that if the goal set by the UN must be achieved, then youths must be retained to continue in the tradition of family farming. However, for this to be achieved, and considering that family farming is mostly in the rural areas, governments need to empower young members of family farmers, by creating policies conducive to equitable and sustainable rural development.

There is the need for provision of technical and institutional support to the youths. As future farmers, these youths deserve such support, in order to motivate and empower them to remain in farming. In this regards, a well packaged agricultural development support programme, specifically designed for youths in family farming is desirable. There is the need for dynamism, positive attitude towards family agriculture and other assets of the youths to be harnessed, mobilized and empowered. Public institutions must make the right kind of investment on the youth, so as to support and encourage them to develop their agricultural potentials. Specific programs to promote incorporation of young persons into the rural areas must be initiated by governments and organisations working in the area of agriculture. Promotion of entrepreneurship and job creation through value chains development needs to be a priority. Development of services in rural areas would be key to retaining youths in those areas to curb migration.

Supporting and empowering the youths will enhance their access to agricultural innovations, extension services, training, inputs, credit and markets at regional and international levels and motivate them to remain in family farming, achieve sufficient increase in productivity and income and living standards.





PROMOTING YOUNG WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Dinesh Panday
Nepal representative, YPARD

Nepalese agriculture is typically characterized by small holder, traditional and subsistence farming; however, recent declines in agricultural production have depressed rural economies and increased widespread hunger and urban migration. The agricultural sector of Nepal experienced several changes over the time. The most common trends of out-migration of males from villages across the country have fueled a “feminization of agriculture” i.e. women engagement in agriculture has increased from 8 to 19 percent in the last 10 years (6th National Agriculture Census, 2013). This demo-graphic change has created new opportunities and challenges for the women left behind.

Nepalese women have always played an important and often unrecognized role in the traditional agriculture

that depends nearly 83 percent of the population where 60 percent of farmers are unable to feed from their own production. Thus recent finding of agriculture census reveals that real scenario of Nepal where it belongs? The government policy is generally focused on the agricultural diversification and commercialization for broad based growth and poverty reduction. However, the family farmers are still greatly deprived and there is no appropriate alternative approach and programs to address the issues.

The majority of agricultural lands are small (even not sufficient for subsistence of the family) with an average size of 0.6 ha. The trend of the agricultural lands remaining fallow and conversion into non-agricultural purpose is rapidly increasing. It also means that farm sizes have continuously been fragmented, and there is less food available per



household which has adversely affected their food security.

Around 40 percent of the population is 16 to 40 years old. Many youth feel discouraged by insufficient education and employment opportunities, and lack the confidence they need to play productive leadership roles in their communities. Our education system seems to be counterproductive for agricultural development in Nepal which has distracted the rural youth from agriculture. It has been perceived as lowest grade occupation. The government policy in agriculture development remains to be the major factor for alienation of the youth from agriculture as our national culture grows away from the farming.

The phenomenon of agricultural feminization has created a shortage of labor force leaving only senior citizens, women and children in the villages. This has created two problems; reduction of agricultural production and added the burden to women and children. Similarly, modern agricultural technologies has brought with more male friendly developed agricultural tools, resulting in difficulties to operate and to get access for female farmers. So that the woman who basically

engages in agriculture activities, she is coming with new responsibility of managing productivity from farm, accessing with resources and securing land ownership. To achieve these requirements, investing in women and empowering them with new techniques seem most essential to yield better incomes and improved quality of life for their families.

The reason behind the unrecognized role of women in agriculture is due to lack of access to land and widely held cultural beliefs that farming is not a suitable career for a woman. Women are not encouraged to become farmers by either men or women and therefore don't aspire to be farmers. There is fear of encouraging the role of the women in case it undermines the role of the man. However, communication or information sharing is an effective strategy to address the objectives and desires of women in agriculture.

For us it is very important to radically change both primary and secondary methods of teaching and to improve the standard of university education so that we can encourage our bright kids to stay here and run their family farming. As recent publication of

FAO states, "secure land tenure, empowering of women and public investment in education, health, transport and research are among the key requirements needed to promote sustainable family farming in mountain regions." To promote young people, there is also need of assistance and access to resources, such as technical knowledge, finances, water; seeds, fertilizers, equipment, technologies and markets. To increase prestige and respect for farming is an important environment to attract more young people in agriculture sector. Government needs to develop suitable policies and institutional linkages which can facilitate and strengthen family farming.

I believe that ultimate thinking about youth, farming and food raises fundamental questions both about the future of rural youth, and of agriculture itself. Family farming is much more essential than an economic agrarian model, since it is the backbone for livelihood, employment, food security and poverty reduction. It ensures sustainable management of land and associated biodiversity, and is the foundation of important cultural dimensions of local people.



THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN FAMILY FARMING

One of the greatest global challenges we face today is how to ensure healthy and nutritious food for the world's growing population, while safeguarding our environment and the precious natural resources we all depend on. The 2014 International Year of Family Farming (IYFF), which was officially launched at the United Nations headquarters in New York on 22 November 2013, aims to raise the profile of smallholder farming in an effort to rethink current agricultural development approaches.

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), there are an estimated 500 million family farms across the developed and developing world, which rely primarily on the labour of family members. Women are a vital force behind the success of these family farms, as they make up 43 percent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries, and up to 50 percent in parts of Africa and Asia. Women also account for an estimated two-thirds of poor livestock keepers; they represent around half of the people employed in small-scale fisheries; and are often responsible for growing food for their families and local markets.

To ensure that investing in family farms will generate valuable social as well as economic benefits, it is crucial that we start by addressing patterns of gender disparities entrenched at national, community and household levels. Unless rural women have the same access as men to productive resources, assets, services and infrastructure, we risk perpetuating these inequalities instead of unlocking the full potential of family farms.

In many parts of the world, for instance, rural women are heavily burdened by unpaid domestic and caregiving responsibilities, whilst having little bargaining power within their homes. In the absence of child-care facilities, quality public services, time saving technologies and greater decision-making ability, women are less likely to fully participate in and benefit from public policies in favour of family farming. Moreover – as rural people face increasing threats from land-grabbing and corporate control of water and seeds – women will continue to be disproportionately affected unless their rights to land and resources are strengthened.

The family farm model does offer tremendous potential for sustainable food production throughout the world. A

study examining smallholder agriculture covering 286 projects, more than 37 million hectares in 57 developing countries, found that average crop yields increased by 79 percent when sustainable agriculture was adopted. Family farms tend to diversify agricultural activities by growing more than one crop, or several varieties of the same crop, in a field. Unlike monoculture farming, typically used in intensive agriculture, this helps to sustain biodiversity and often involves a deep knowledge of the interactions between what is being produced and the environment. Family farmers who own their land are also more likely to make long-term investments in soil and water conservation.

In many farming communities, women are important custodians of knowledge about crop varieties and they play a key part in selecting and preserving seeds for the next crop. They have a vast understanding of agricultural processes, including pest management, harvesting, water conservation and soil enrichment. Recognizing and valuing their knowledge and ability is therefore essential to stimulating a model of family farming that can boost local economies together with the well-being of communities.



FAMILY FARMERS IN THE PHILIPPINES KNOCK AT HOTEL DOOR

A new way of doing business for farmers has been introduced in the Philippines. Family farmers got in touch with the hospitality business to market their products and increase their sales. Family farmers in the Philippines were able to understand a new need on the consumers' side. Consumers are no longer looking for just commodities like apples, oranges, tomatoes, and rice. There are a growing number of consumers looking for products and they are willing to pay more for these products. Farm to Hotel marketing is a totally new concept in the agriculture sector and it represents an opportunity for the many family farms in the Philippines.

<http://foodtank.org/news/2014/01/>

[family-farmers-in-the-philippines-knock-at-hotel-door](http://www.ifad.org/farmer/)



FARMERS' FORUM

The Farmers' Forum is an on-going, bottom-up process of consultation and dialogue among small farmers' and rural producers' organizations (FOs), IFAD, and governments, focused on rural development and poverty reduction. The event will take place on 17-20 February 2014 in Rome.

In celebration of the International Year of Family Farming 2014 IFAD will sponsor a Side Event on Family Farming, as well as a Special Session on Small-scale Fisheries.

<http://www.ifad.org/farmer/>



"MOUNTAIN FARMING IS FAMILY FARMING"

Today, family farming in mountain regions is undergoing rapid transformation, due to population growth, economic globalization, the spread of urban lifestyles and the migration of youth from rural to urban areas. This results in increased workloads for women, higher pressure on local resources and the increased vulnerability of mountain farmers to global changes.

The FAO publication provides case studies from all over the world to show how mountain regions and family farmers can benefit from the opportunities presented by these transformations.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/it/item/209864/icode/>



NORTH-SOUTH FAMILY FARMING: HOW TO RESPOND TO THE SAME CHALLENGES?

The World Farmers' Organisation, in cooperation with Copa-Cogeca, organizes a one day event to exchange views on the main challenges of the family farming and the different ways to address these challenges in countries in various stages of development.

The event will take place on 19 February 2014, from 10:00 to 17:00, at Copa-Cogeca Headquarters.

<http://www.fao.org/family-farming-2014/events/coming-events/en/> ◇◇◇



