



**Launch of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028):  
synergies and main contributions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development  
16 July 2019, 3:00 – 5:00pm, Conference Room 2, UNHQ, New York**

This year marks the beginning of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028), [proclaimed](#) by the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The resolution acknowledges the indispensable role that family farmers play in achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, contribution to sustainable food production and the eradication of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition.

Family farming is the predominant form of food and agricultural production in developed and developing countries alike. There are over 500 million family farms across the world. The majority of family farmers are small-scale, with limited opportunities for improving their livelihood and the well-being of their communities. In many cases, family farmers, and the rural communities they belong to, are being left behind, with less access to energy and clean water and sanitation, decent jobs and higher rates of poverty. Despite these constraints, family farmers produce over 80 percent of the world's food in value terms and hold unique potential to become key agents of development strategies. Given its multi-dimensional nature, in family farming, the farm and the family; the food production and the life at home; farm ownership and work; traditional knowledge and innovative farming solutions; and the past, present and future are all deeply intertwined.

A shift to sustainable production can transform food systems from a problem to part of the solution to climate change, as currently agriculture accounts for around 10 percent of global anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, as well as contributing to the degradation of soils and deforestation, the depletion of freshwater resources and the loss of biodiversity. Building the resilience of family farmers through locally-tailored mitigation and adaptation measures are an essential component of building a sustainable food system and to ensuring continued economic opportunity for rural people.

Family farmers can also play a central role in ensuring that our sustainable food systems contribute to healthier diets if they are appropriately supported and empowered. Supporting family farmers so that they can fulfil their potential means more investment and shifting the focus of today's food systems from staple crops production to nutrient-rich foods, like fruits and vegetables.

This change is critical as the world faces multiple malnutrition challenges. In recent years, the number of undernourished people has been increasing, reaching 821 million in 2017. At the same time, we are also witnessing an unprecedented rise in obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) affecting developed and developing countries alike.



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Investing in rural people

The coexistence of undernourishment and obesity in a world that produces enough food at the global level, production methods that are unsustainable in the long-term, and food loss and waste that reaches one-third of total food production are symptoms of a broken food system that needs to be fixed. Family farmers can be gamechangers and must be empowered so they can fulfil their role as central actors in a shift towards sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems that are critical to achieve sustainable development, contributing to food security and nutrition and climate action efforts.

## About the Event

From 27-29 May 2019, the Global Launch of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028) took place at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. Continuing on this momentum, the side-event during the HLPF will mark the launch of the UN Decade of Family Farming at the United Nations in New York and will provide an opportunity to share with member states and delegations in New York the efforts made to pave the way for the implementation of the Decade of Family Farming as well as the next steps (Global Action Plan).

Moreover, by promoting a dialogue between family farmers, governments, UN System and non-state actors, the side-event will explore the potential of family farmers and how the UN Decade of Family Farming can mobilize actions at global, regional, and national levels to support the transformation of food and agriculture systems for healthy diets and improved nutrition, contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a whole and, in particular, to creating decent work opportunities in rural areas and along the agricultural value chains (SDG 8), reducing inequalities (SDG 10) and addressing climate change (SDG 13).

The event in New York will feature remarks from the Principals of the FAO and IFAD and co-organizers Costa Rica and France. As well, a segment will be dedicated to hearing from the voices of La Via Campesina, World Rural Forum and World Farmers' Organization.

Following the segment with family farmers, a moderated open discussion will take place. Delegations and other participants wishing to speak are encouraged to provide action-oriented remarks on the implementation of the Decade, limited to 2 minutes.

For more information on the UN Decade of Family Farming, click [here](#).

## RSVP

To RSVP, click [here](#).

Please note that if you do not have a United Nations ID, the registration deadline is 10 July 2019 and a special event ticket will be issued to you. Information on how to obtain the special event ticket will be sent to your email at a later date.



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