



**INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FAMILY FARMING CAMPAIGN
FEEDING THE WORLD, CARING FOR THE EARTH**

ASIA CONTINENTAL MEETING

**3 days Continental meeting. 23-25 March, 2010
New Delhi, India, ASIA**

The International Year of Family Farming-IYFF Campaign, as a worldwide activity, demands a great coordinating effort. In order to give to the IYFF Campaign a growing relevance, it is planned to hold regional and international seminars to work together on some strategic issues related to the IYFF Campaign: how to involve more and more governments and civil society, how to reach a common understanding of the main issues and challenges of Family Farming, in what could the UN international organizations' support to the Campaign consist? etc. We will also share knowledge and the problems that small farmers have to face in their rural life and make some general statements or agreements about these issues, in order to make the IYFF more crucial and meaningful.

During the 2010 year, 4 regional IYFF strategy meetings will be held in Africa, America, Asia and Europe. The first of them will be held in India. The Asian meeting will provide important lessons to be applied to the 3 following meetings.

The host organization in Asia will be the Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations-CIFA-, as they are at the origin of the proposal of an Asian IYFF event.

The organizations more involved in the implementation of this important event will be:

CIFA: as the host organization and the representative of the Indian Family Farming.

AFA -Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development-: as a regional alliance of 9 farmer federations in 8 Asian countries, representing 10 million of small men and women farmers.

AsiaDHRRA -Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia -a regional partnership of 11 social development networks and organizations in 10 Asian nations that envisions Asian rural communities that are just, free, prosperous, living in peace and working in solidarity towards self-reliance- as the Regional representative of WRF's Asian Network in the Board of directors.

WRF's Secretariat: as the responsible of the worldwide IYFF Campaign Coordination.





OBJECTIVES OF THE ASIAN REGIONAL MEETING

- To have a clear understanding of what family farming means in different Asian regions.
- Define and strategize procedures to get the involvement of some policy makers and governments in Asia to boost this campaign at the UN level.
- To spread the campaign among other Asian organizations not yet involved.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- To have an Asian description/definition of family farming.
- To draw the road map for the campaign in 2010-2015, with its milestones.
- To define the action plan for the IYFF Campaign for 2010-2011; strategies and commitments from different participants on how to push the Campaign.

PLACE AND DATES

The Meeting will be held in the CONSTITUTION CLUB. All the participants will be accommodated in Hotel Southern.

CONSTITUTION CLUB

Vithal Bhai Patel House,
Rafi Marg
New Delhi
phones:91-11-23751189- 23237337

HOTEL SOUTHERN

18/2, Arya Samaj road,
Karol Bagh,
New Delhi-110005
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The participants will arrive on March 22nd and will leave on March 26th.





Rationale of the IYFF

In the words of Jacques Diouf, the General Director of (FAO), “the time has come to re-launch farming, and the international Community should not squander the opportunity”.

For our organizations, coordinated by WRF, the celebration of an International Year dedicated to family farming would create a unique opportunity to develop means, which would assure in the medium and long term, a prosperous and sustainable family agriculture development and, as a result, in the rural areas on all the continents, especially, in the developing countries.

The FAO has recently emphasized that the “confrontation because of the lack of food and the consequent rise in international prices require strategies such as the strengthening of family agriculture”.

This proposal by the WRF in favor of the declaration by the UN of an International Year of Family Farming is intended to give a decisive boost to its potential and development which, at this moment, face, among others, the following challenges:

- The difficulty of access, at fair prices, to resources and production inputs (land, water, pastures, local quality seeds, equipment, etc.).
- In the crucial issue of access to land –often exposed to a very serious legal insecurity and pending real agrarian reforms, many small agricultural families, indigenous communities and shepherds are deprived of their assets through the forced “acquisition” of their land to establish vast domains of export oriented industrial crops, nourishing a growing spiral of precarious day-laborers, rural exodus and new forms of rural marginalization and urban poverty.
- Aging of the rural population and the migration to cities because of lack of rural employment, pushing many rural women to remain in charge of agricultural activities.
- Scarce incorporation of young people in agriculture.
- Effective recognition of the role of women in agriculture, as an essential part of the adequate legal regulation of the concept of family farm household.
- Lack of or insufficient participation of small farmers in the making of decisions and policies that affect them, and, particularly, in the area of fixing agricultural prices along the distribution chain, starting from the local markets.
- Volatility of prices, subject often to speculation.
- Inclemency of the weather, and impact of the negative effects of the climatic change, including the serious alteration of landscape, plants and fauna, provoked by the industrial plantations on national eco-tourism assets and on the natural equilibrium.





- Lack of access to services of marketing, extension, information and farming capacity and of credit and finance, unfair competition due to subsidized imports, etc.
- Interference of middle men with big commercial margins, detrimental to food producers and to consumers as well.
- Absence of fair access to all levels of education and to health services.
- Lack, often total, of equipment, infrastructures and basic services.

In the measure in which family farming, on a world level, has greater access to resources and productive inputs at fair prices, improved policies and support services, it will be able to raise the living conditions of rural women and men, as well as those belonging to indigenous communities, etc., addressing also in a more adequate and efficient manner the consumer necessities, contributing in this way to prevent food crises.

In this context, apart from other factors, the strengthening of the whole rural and farmers' organizational tissue –trade unions, cooperatives, technical extension offices, etc-, represents a key factor in the way towards a prosperous and solid sector based on a local or regional agro industrial transformation of their produce, increasing the added value of the crops, the employment and the quality of life.

No way do we wish that family farming should be synonymous with abandonment and marginal production. For this reason we opt for the creation of cooperatives and supervising offices which allow access to markets, preferably local or regional, sustainable technical improvements, formation and advice.

For its part, the International Evaluation of Knowledge, Science and Technology in Agricultural Development (IAASTD), points out that “in agriculture, the current dominant focus, industrial on a grand scale, is not sustainable for it depends on cheap petroleum, produces negative effects on the ecosystem and worsens the growing lack of water”.

Far too often, the effect of family farming on the world food supply and on rural development, as a whole, is underestimated and often ignored. The decisions about the policies that affect it are very often taken far from its reality and its voice, on many occasions, is ignored. The International Year of Family Farming will provide the opportunity to promote agreement among the authorities -whose job it is to formulate farming policies-, countrymen and countrywomen, their rural associations as legitimate representatives, and other entities.

The focal point of the International Year of Family Farming which we are proposing is based on a positive and dynamic approach, demonstrating to civil society and its numerous institutions, not only the challenges and difficulties of family farming, 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.





Family farming, along with being the greatest source of employment in developing countries, represents the social base on which the Right to Food should be made a reality as recognized in the Charter of Human Rights, 1948.

To sum up, the International Year will be the driving force behind a number of initiatives and stakeholders cooperation in favor 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 programs and the development of its agreed projects.

Essentially, we are promoting family farming 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.

At the same time, we are decidedly promoting the role of country peoples' organizations – trade unions, farmers federations, unions of cooperatives, etc-, as the true leaders in rural development, whose advice and social criteria should be kept in mind while formulating agrarian policies or any other norm which affects their way of life and their fundamental rights.





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PROGRAM FLOW

Day 0: Monday, 22 March 2010

Attendants arrival

Day 1: Tuesday, 23 March 2010

Timing	Item	Speaker
9:00 – 9:30	Registration	
9:30 – 10:00	Opening Ceremonies (Rituals to welcome guests and delegates and Lighting of the Lamp)	
10:00 – 10.30	Welcome Remarks Opening Remarks	Host Organization, CIFA WRF Asia Desk Coordinator, Ms Miren Larrea
10:30 – 10:45	Introduction of Conference Delegates	Participants
10:45 – 11:15	Break and Photo Session	Participants
11:15 – 11:45	Keynote Message	IYFF Campaign Coordinator. WRF, Mr José Osaba
11:45 – 12:15	Solidarity Messages (Africa, America, Europe Continental Partners- 5 minutes each)	Africa, America, Europe Continental Partners: - PELUM Regional Secretary General. Ms. Mary Jo Kakinda. Kenia - COPROFAM Organization Secretary. Mr. Rigoberto Turra. Chile - ILEIA. The Netherlands
12:15 – 12:25	Video Presentation	
12.25 – 12.30	Announcements from Organizers	
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch Break	





1:30 – 3:10

Plenary Panel Session 1: Significance of Family Farming in the Asian Region

South Asia Perspective

Lead Discussant: AFPRO Executive Director, D.K Manavalan. India (5 min)

Country Presentations:

- CIFA, Hon Chairman P Chengal Reddy. India (10 minutes)

- RDR Director General, M. Asim-Pakistan (10 minutes)

Lead Discussant:

- AFA General Secretary. Ms Esther Penunia. Philippines. (5 min)

Country Presentations:

- SorKorPor. Secretary General. Mr Pote Chumsri. Thailand (10 minutes)

- WAMTI-Indonesian Farmers Society Organization. Executive Secretary. Ms Lany Eugenia. Indonesia (10 minutes)

Lead Discussant:

- Dr Teruo Miura. Japan. Country presentations:

- TaiwanDHRRRA Chairperson. Dr. Wen Chi. Taiwan (10 minutes)

- KAFF. Korea (10 minutes)

Southeast Asia Perspective

North Asia Perspective

Open Forum (20 minutes)

Synthesis (10 minutes)

3:10 – 3:30

Break and Announcements from Organizers

3:30 – 4:30

Plenary Panel Session 2: Impacts of Working with Small Farmers/Producers: Sharing of Good Practices

3 case presentation: South Asia, Southeast, Northeast (15 minutes each)

- AFPRO Executive Director, D.K Manavalan. India

- Binadesa. Secretary General. Ms Dwi Astuti. Indonesia

- TaiwanDHRRRA Chairperson. Dr Wen Chi. Taiwan

Governments (10 minutes each)

- Government of India. Dr.V.V.Sadamate. Advisor (Agriculture). Planning Commission

- Philippines. Not confirmed yet.

- Vietnam. Not confirmed yet.

Intergovernmental Bodies:

- ASEAN. Mr Sundram Puspanathan. Deputy Secretary General. Economic Integration Department. Not confirmed yet

4:30 – 5:30

Perspectives on Family Farming from Policy Makers and other stakeholders



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- Indian Council of Agricultural Research-ICAR. M.H.Mehta. Assistan Director General. India. Not confirmed yet

Food and Agri Agencies:

- FAO. Dr David Kahan. Senior Officer for Agribusiness and Enterprise Development. Thailand

- IFAD. Ms Judith D'Souza. IFAD India Country Office. India

5:30 – 5:45 **Synthesis for the Day**
6:00 End of Day 1 (announcements)

Day 2: Wednesday, 24 March 2010

9:00 – 9:15	Opening and Recap of Day 1 Session	Preparatory and parallel meetings of FOs networks
9:15 – 11:45	Workshop 1: Defining the Road Map of IYFF 2009-2015 Workshop (1 and half hours) Plenary Reporting (40 minutes) Open Forum (20 minutes) Synthesis of Workshop Results (30 minutes)	Registration of participants
11:45 – 12:30	Responses and Recommendations from Policy Makers on the Road Map	
12:30 – 2:00	Press Conference and Lunch Break	
2:00-4:00	Workshop 2: Country/Sub-regional Workshops – Planning for IYFF Campaign Workshop (1 and half hours) Plenary Reporting (30 minutes) Synthesis (30 minutes)	
4:00 – 4:40	Other Continental IYFF Campaigns	Africa, America, Europe Continental Partners: - PELUM Regional Secretary General. Ms. Mary Jo Kakinda. Kenia - COPROFAM Organization Secretary. Mr. Rigoberto Turra. Chile - ILEIA. The Netherlands.
	Closing Session: Reflections and closing Messages	Host Organization, CIFA and IYFF Campaign Coordinator, Mr José Osaba.

Day 3: Thursday, 25 March 2010

Field visit to Taj Mahal

Day 4: Friday, 26 March 2010

Departures



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