

17 October AM

IX. MARKING THE KICK-OFF OF THE UNDFP 2019-2028

CHAIRPERSON

I really do hope that you have rested nicely yesterday. I hope that you were able to attend the block of side events that we had this morning and last night of course, and that concluded recently and that we have all the necessary energy to face a very interesting day, full of work of course. We have today and tomorrow left. Today is the 4th day into our week.

In the change, the podium was rearranged. I have the magic bell right here, that I'm going to use to make sure that we keep time.

Okay so let's move on to item number 9 on our agenda of the 46th session of CFS. And I'm going to now switch to English.

Marking the kick-off of the UN Decade on Family Farming. The UN Decade of Action on Family Farming. CFS will take a further step in support of this system-wide initiative that is putting a spotlight on family farmers between now and 2028.

This partnership has already started as the office of the CFS Chair has been integrated as a standing member of the International Steering Committee for the Decade of Action. We all know that FAO and IFAD jointly operate the Steering Committee.

During the global launch of the Decade here at FAO last May, and again at the regional launch for Latin America and the Caribbean held in Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic, that is my home country, in August of this year, I called attention on the fact, quote, that "80% of all food is produced by family farmers. And at the same time, 80% of those suffering from chronic hunger and malnutrition are family farmers and their children".

I also said there is a simple logic in searching for people with a full stomach among diners exiting a restaurant. We must however suspend common sense to find the hungry and the malnourished among food producers. More than a paradox, I said then, and I repeat now, this is absurd, and this is disgraceful.

Next the CFS Secretary is Marcela Villarreal, FAO director of partnerships, who will moderate the discussion that will feature from the podium; Martin Uriarte, Chair of the World Rural Forum. I spoke as CFS Chair in the assembly that elected him in March of this year in Bilbao Spain.

We also have Sam Herodian, a senior adviser to the Minister of Agriculture of Indonesia. Welcome Sam. And next to me is Amarilli Villegas, the Charge d'Affaires of the permanent mission of Costa Rica, the country that spearheaded the International Year of Family Farming 2014, as well as the Decade of Action.

Without further ado, I will ask Miss Villarreal to take over. She is a Doctor of rural sociology from Cornell University New York. That is one of the Ivy League Colleges. And systems engineer from the Universidad de Los Andes in Bogotá. She is an international expert in numerous issues including gender

equality and rural development. And I have to say that in my years I have seen no finer moderator of discussions. Marcela the floor is yours.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Thank you so very much, Mario, for those very kind words. Good morning to all. It's a pleasure to be with you here this morning for this very, very important topic. Family farming as the Chair said is the predominant form of agriculture today in the world, not only in the developing world but also in the developed world. It also offers an opportunity to ensure food security, to improve livelihoods, nutrition, better management of resources, protect biodiversity and achieve sustainable development, which means family farming contributes throughout the SDG agenda, to almost all of the SDGs in a direct way. And it is also a way of ensuring sustainability, because at the roots of the idea of family farming is that the family leaves the farm for the next generation, and that's the idea of sustainability.

So in December 2017, the UN General Assembly proclaimed the Decade of Family Farming, starting 2019 to go to 2028. And the idea is that this decade is going to be a framework to be able to develop public policies on investment in a coherent way. To provide strong support to family farming and to be able to make family farmers able to develop the potential they have to contribute to all of the SDG agenda.

This was possible for us today to be discussing the decade, was made possible not only by the very big success that we had in the International Year of Family farming 2014, but thanks to the commitment of actors throughout the world including those that are here, and that you will be hearing from, but that includes hundreds of organisations of rural workers, of farmer's organisations, governments, civil society, academic and other organisations. And therefore the success of this decade is thanks to many and will only be successful if all of you also participate.

So the UN resolution gave FAO and IFAD together the mandate to implement the Decade, and today I'm speaking on behalf both the FAO and IFAD. This is a Rome-based agencies initiative. And so we set up a Steering Committee, International Steering Committee, with the objective of overseeing the implementation of the Decade, ensuring the coherent implementation of the different policies. And this committee is composed by member countries and by organisations that come from the rural sector, farmer's organisations from around the world. And we are very happy to have here the Chair, which is Costa Rica. And we also will be hearing today from Indonesia, who is one of the members representing the Asia Regional Group, and the World Rural Forum.

With the oversight of the International Steering Committee and the participation of people throughout the world, we engaged in a consultation process that lasted months, and that culminated at the launch of the Decade of Family Farming this year, and we put together a global action plan. You will see it, hopefully you can pick up a copy when you leave, and it has basically 7 pillars. 7 pillars to be able to offer potential solutions, not only to the issues in the rural areas, but throughout the development agenda.

So the 7 pillars are, 1 is about enabling environment, that is necessary for this potential to be developed, coherent policies, investments, institutional frameworks, legal frameworks.

There are 2 crosscutting pillars of course on women's empowerment and gender equality and another one of course on youth access to resources, exercising their potential in leadership.

Then we have pillars that are of a substantive nature that will be strengthening family farmers organisations that will be improving the socioeconomic inclusion, resilience and well-being of family farmers. That will be promoting the sustainability of family farming for climate resilient food systems, and that would also be strengthening the multidimensionality of family farming to promote social innovations contributing to territorial development and food systems that safeguard biodiversity, environment and culture.

So in a nutshell, that is what it is in this global plan, but of course the next steps are going to be to take what is here and make it relevant at the national level. And we have set up for ourselves very ambitious targets to make sure that that is happening. We will hear from some of our panellists, it's already happening, that's the good news. It is already happening. We already have, for example, from the country from the Chair of the committee, the National Action Plan on family farmers already launched. So we are already moving towards our targets.

Excellences, ladies and gentlemen, now we will hear from our distinguished panellists and we will be asking them to give us their thoughts and their reflections on 2 issues.

On the one hand, we will be asking them on, how can the Decade of Family Farming benefit from the policy guidance that is produced here in this committee, the CFS policy guidance. And also, what support can be developed also in the broader use of the framework of accelerating progress of the SDG2 to achieve all the SDGs. So that's the first question.

The second question I'm going to ask our panellists to give us their reflections and their views on, is, about the connections of the Decade of Family Farming with other international years, other international initiatives and decades such as the Decade of Action on Nutrition, and the Decade of Water, Decade of Biodiversity. So these are the 2 questions I'm going to be asking our panellists.

And now I am very pleased to give the floor to Amarilli Villegas Cordero who is the Minister Counsellor from the Costa Rican Embassy and has been, as I said before, Costa Rica is the Chair of International Steering Committee for the Decade. Amarilli you have the floor.

Ms Amarilli Villegas Cordero, Costa Rica

Thank you. Before all else, I'd like to thank you all for having me come here this morning to attend this event. I understand it is very early on and our message today is, let's be positive as of now. Because I'm here to be able to convey to you a lot of good news concerning what we have been working on from May until the present day. As the result of the launch of the Global Plan, we had 500 participants, and this speaks volumes about the success and the interest elicited by the Decade of Family Farming. There were delegates from 113 countries and 216 were family farmers representing civil society, academia, the private sector. There were small and medium businesses, as well as foundations.

We are very happy to know that now after the launch, which as Marcela said, many of you that might be interested in, can grab a copy of the Global Plan of Action. Anyway I was saying that I'm happy to see that already there are countries that make their transition to the implementation phase, but there are some like in the case of Costa Rica that are still in the phase of drafting policies.

What does this mean? It means that this is a decade and the primary role will be given to family farmers and that means that family farmers themselves contributed their ideas, in order for our Secretariat to take notes and incorporate them in such an important document as this.

So I am truly very glad to be able to tell you that in addition to the launch that happened here in FAO in May, there was also the launch in July in New York and in October in Geneva. And already you can see some of the outcomes that have come to our Secretariat, coming from the different regions of the world. For example, Latin America and the Caribbean, the regional launch of Decade of Family farming happened in the country of our Chair of CFS, and the 00:14:01 approved and recognised the prominent role of family farming and the achievement of the sustainable development goals, which is the great obviously target and great objective we are pursuing that we hope to achieve.

I was saying this plan was launched in the Dominican Republic and it's the outcome of the discussions between the different actors and that is the exercise that all of us need to engage in. I mean of course policies come from governments, but they need to have the involvement of those who are directly involved. And this plan recognises the strategic role played by rural families and households, and it is conceived, in order for each country to be able to adapt it to its reality according to their own concept of sustainable development.

So I can truly tell you that in the case of Latin America, there are countries that already launched the plan, and this is amazingly good news like Uruguay, Guatemala, Bolivia. And in addition of course to the Dominican Republic. Other countries announced the launch like Ecuador, Honduras, Peru and Panama.

So what is going in Africa, Europe and Asia? Well other launches have been announced to our Secretariat. For example, in Africa, PROPAC organised a regional seminar for the drafting of the national plan for Central Africa. The other regions especially in Asia and the Pacific, Near East, North Africa, Europe and Central Asia, a reflection on family farming will be a theme or a topic of discussion at the next regional conferences of FAO, that will begin in the early months of 2020.

So what do we expect? Well if we continue at this pace, I think we will be able to achieve a goal, i.e. that by 2024 we will be able to have the implementation of over 100 national plans on family farming. And this is just a very brief summary of what we have been able to do up until now at the Secretariat.

Now of course there are already other regions that have already confirmed their plan of action. We have Gambia, Madagascar, Philippines, Kyrgyzstan, and of course we would like to very warmly thank you for giving us this space here, this platform, because through this forum and the worldwide forum, we were able to indeed collect and collate all the information that we are now presenting to you. Some of the countries are already developing policies, that is the case of Costa Rica, but also Gambia, Sierra Leone, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines and Colombia. Other countries are in the process of doing that, like Mexico, Senegal, Nepal, ARC in Asia, Mali, Cameroon, Togo, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Tanzania. The necessary dialogue is already underway in order to be able to move on to the drafting of the national plans.

So this is a very quick and brief summary, but I just wanted to tell you that this is a very special day. We need to be positive and during this whole week we have received the news that perhaps is not so encouraging, we weren't hoping to hear that, but at least we have tools and at least we have a departure point and we have an extraordinary guide that saw the participation of many actors and stakeholders. So we have that guide to keep working.

And I'd like to now tell you a story about a girl, a family farmer who lived out in the mountains. It's a small story. Going back home with her mum after a long day at work, she went into her room and she realised they were 4 candles that had been lit. There was a lot of wind, but she was able to hear the conversation that these candles had between themselves.

So the first was very depressed and said, I don't want to keep burning this flame because I just don't see that people understand that we need to live in harmony. That we need to make an effort to agree. I see that war is raging on and so is hunger and starvation, and weapons are wielded by some people kill each other and I just want to go out, and she went out. The candle was the candle of 'peace'. Then the next candle next to it said, well in this darkness I don't think I need to keep burning this flame either. A lot of people use me. They take me, they love me today and tomorrow they dispose of me. I don't have any reason to live, and that candle went out. And that was the candle of 'love'.

The third candle in seeing that her 2 next door neighbours were out said, you know what, often I'm there, sometimes I'm not and some opportunities they even deny my existence. I shouldn't be burning my flame. I should go out. That was the candle of 'faith', and it went out.

The fourth, well the girl saw that the room had become really dark and she started crying because she was so scared. But the last candle said, don't be afraid. I'm the only one left but with me we are going to put on the other 3 candles. So we are going to continue and forge ahead, because I am 'hope'.

So may we leave here with a message of hope, of positivity. We can do it if we all get together and do our work. Thank you.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Thank you so much Amarilli Villegas. Indeed, together we stand, and together we have to make sure that these candles will all be lit once again, and their flames will be burning. Thank you so much for telling us about the quantum leaps that have been made and we are beginning to see already. Of course, our goal is quite far-reaching. For 2024, we hope to have more than 100 national plans in implementation in the different countries and I am sure that we are going to be able to achieve that goal. Thank you very much for that. Next Sam Herodian who is Adviser to the Minister of Agriculture to the Republic of Indonesia. You have the floor Sir.

Mr Sam Herodian, Indonesia

Thank you Chair. Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour and pleasure for me to be here today to share Indonesia's views on the implementation on the UN Decade of Family Farming, UNDFP 2019 to 2028.

For the Indonesian government increasing the welfare of smallholder farmers has been one of our top priorities. In this regard Indonesia has further shown its leadership in the implementation of this Decade, among others, by hosting the regional conference on strengthening CFS food security, nutrition and farmer's welfare to UN Decade of Family Farming in April this year.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, going forward there are 2 aspects that we believe are vital in the implementation of UNDFP. We should take advantage of existing CFS recommendations especially if Family Farming Decades, as a basis for developing policies and actions that could support the implementation of the 7 pillars of UNDFP Global Action Plan.

In this context, the Indonesian government has been implementing to offer equality in land share structure, offer permanent land ownership to landless farmers for farming. In addition, the Indonesian

government has also provided subsidies for agriculture inputs such as machinery, seed, fertilisers, also provide insurance, financial support, and establish full price of agricultural products.

Second, we need to align the implementation of the UNDFP with ongoing and develop for other UNDER Decade, to create more opportunities for synergies and joint exchange. For example, the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, has underlined the need for implementing national policies and investment to strengthen local food production and processing for family farmers.

In the case of Indonesia, we have implemented a programme to alleviate poverty and ensure prosperity and sustainable food is safeguarded. These programmes aim to create a better livelihood options and ensures the achievement of socioeconomic inclusions with silence and well-being of family farmers.

The synergy and implementation of published programme that we have done, has seen remarkable results. Such as decreasing food inflation, decreasing poverty in rural areas, increasing farmer welfare and even reducing something.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to reaffirm Indonesia's strong commitment to support the implementation is of the UN Decade of Family Farming, including through our development of the National Action Plan of Family Farming.

We invite Rome-based agencies to continue providing more specific and targeted support, including through recommendations and capacity worthy effort for the benefit of family farmers.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, there is not 1000 steps without a single step. Therefore, let us begin to take a step for the success of the Decade of Family Farming, and the welfare of family farmers throughout the world. Thank you very much.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Thank you very much indeed. Thank you for sharing with us the achievements that your government is already having in terms of implementing the principles that are in the Global Action Plan, and also in your National Action Plan on the Decade of Family Farming. Indeed no 1000 steps without a single step, but I see that your government is already moving ahead with more than one single step. So thank you very much for that.

Now it is my pleasure to give the floor to Martin Uriarte, who is the President of the World Rural Forum. And I would like to remind all of us that the World Rural Forum was one of the main activists that made possible for the world to have an International Year of Family farming in 2014 and then again the main actor in ensuring that the world can benefit now from the Decade of Family Farming. Martin Uriarte.

Mr Martin Uriarte, World Rural Forum

Thank you very much Marcela. The first thing I would like to do is to thank the Committee on World Food Security for giving the opportunity to the World Rural Forum to participate in this event. And I also wish to thank FAO, IFAD and our representative from Costa Rica for their engagement in the process.

As you might know, the World Rural Forum is a group. It's a mixed global network made up by agricultural producer organisations, research centres, cooperatives, federations of cooperatives. And basically, we group together more than 32 million farmers across the 5 continents of the planet.

Our organisation includes groups like PIFON, COPROFAM, PROPAC, UMNAGRI, AFA, UAGA, UPA, and more.

As with regards the questions that we were asked, I would like to answer one of them by saying that initially the first phase for us was the launch and now we've moved on to implementation. And I was really interested to hear the words spoken by Miss Villegas, about the fact that things are moving along. Something is happening. It's not just the launch that is happening. We have moved beyond that. We are already generating global plans of action and national action plans as well.

We encourage that to continue, because we really do feel it is crucial to get to the ground, to really go out into the fields and to have national plans. That's why we encourage governments to work in each country with their organisations, agricultural organisations and national committees and any actor that might contribute something positive to generate these plans of action for the Decade. And it would be important to develop together public policies that foster family farming. Indeed the commitment that was made that we might be able to come up with 100 action plans, and we see that that is actually quite feasible. We are moving towards that goal. So we would like to reiterate our engagement towards that goal.

We also encourage governments to tap into the guidance provided by the Committee on World Food Security in order to help with the development of these action plans. As for example, the voluntary guidelines on land tenure or the link between smallholder producers and markets.

As regards the existence of other decades, like the Decade on Nutrition, Biodiversity and Water. Well, as regards that question, we don't really think there is much of a connection between these different decades and we think that our Decade has to learn from the good practices and good experiences gleaned in those earlier decades in order to indeed, continue make to make progress. And for this to happen we believe that monitoring is a formidable tool.

We have to make sure that this tool is used so as to transfer these good practices, so that in our responsibility for this Decade, we will have an easier task trying to achieve our goal and therefore honour our commitment.

As to the design of tools to achieve SDG2, well we believe that of course this SDG is a very much inherent in the UN Decade of Family Farming, and its launch too.

We believe that working in favour of family farming means that working towards the achievement of SDG2, which has to do with reducing hunger, of course. And we believe that SDG2 is absolutely crucial in order to be able to attain the other goals under the 2030 Agenda.

Thus we really feel it is crucial to involve and have the commitment of the governments in order to design public policies that will facilitate the life of these family farmers and their work as well. We have an experience that we acquired during the International Year of Family Farming. During that time we were able to develop 16 new policies for family farming in 13 countries. We were able to gain public recognition of family farming and we even got to the point where international bodies and organisations were able to introduce a strategy on family farming, whereas they didn't have that before. And I think there were about 52 national committees that were created on family farming and many of them are still in existence today and working quite well.

We therefore really do feel that we have the right numbers, we have the commitment, and what we hope is that we can keep working to foster public policies that place family farmers at the centre. Our engagement at the World Rural Forum is to continue to work and to assist you all to achieve this goal.

And I would like to finish my presentation by telling you about the slogan of our organization, which is, let us feed the world by looking after our planet. Thank you.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Thank you, Martin Uriarte, Chair of the World Rural Forum, especially for highlighting the enormous importance of monitoring and moving from an International Year of Family Farming to a Decade of Family Farming, of course objectives change. They have to do with policies more and how these policies can be implemented in order to have a positive impact on the life of individuals, so that this can contribute to all these sustainable development goals. So monitoring is truly a very important pillar of the implementation of the Decade.

It is my pleasure to open the floor for discussion. We do have very limited time and I'm sorry for that, but this is the way it is. So I would like to ask you to please limit your interventions to 1 minute, and if you are speaking in the name of a regional group, I will give you up to 2 minutes, but sorry no more than that.

So the floor is open. I see we already have a list. The first speaker is the Philippines. Chair of the International Year of Family Farming 2014.

Philippines

Thank you, Marcela and good morning to everyone. Our delegation commends the successful global launch of the UNDF, the regional launch and the Latin America and Caribbean region and the recent national launches in some countries.

We are very pleased that seeds planted during the 2014 International Year of Family Farming initiated by the World Rural Forum has grown and expanded into a Decade, which would advance the gains of the year, noticeably the policies and legislations in favour of family farmers worldwide up to the highest level. In fact we are grateful that family farming was incorporated in the statements of Italian Prime Minister Conte, and a number of ministers and heads of delegations during the World Food Day in this CFS session.

We encourage members and stakeholders to use UNDF as one of the premier vehicles to promote the role and contribution of family farming in achieving Agenda 2030 SDGs. And we are glad that CFS is well integrated into the UNDF. The Philippines is now in the process of formalising its national committee conducting the national launch and drafting a national plan.

We look forward to collaborating with FAO, IFAD, WFP and other state and non-state actors for the regional launch of UNDF in Asia. Finally, long live to the family farmers.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Now Finland has the floor. 2 minutes.

Finland

Thank you very much Madame Chair. I'm honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 member states. We welcome the launch of the UN Decade of Family Farming as a recognition of the indispensable role of family farmers in providing food for the great majority of the world's population.

In response to the first guiding question, we wish to commend the Secretariat for the Family farming package of relevant CFS policy guidelines and recommendations. This plenary session is an excellent opportunity to draw attention to those valuable CFS products, which should be duly taken into account when developing public policies and investments to support Family Farming. We invite Rome-based agencies in particular, to use the reference to those products in the future.

The holistic approach is key to fully using the complementariness and synergies between the different CFS areas of work, particularly at field level. Adapted to national context, the relevant CFS policy guidelines and recommendations can be excellent tools for formulating country level policies. In this context, it can also be useful to apply the CFS multi-stakeholder model at national level to ensure the necessary inclusiveness.

As regards the second guiding question, we would underline that the relevant UN International years and decades are strongly interlinked. Obviously, the UN Decade of Family Farming has a specific focus on the people who play an essential role in providing fresh nutritious quality food for healthy diet, to their own communities and to the market.

It is also important to acknowledge the clearest possibilities, which involves family farmers, irrespective of their scale of location, in responsibility to managing our natural resources.

Finally we would like to encourage policy makers at all levels to create an enabling policy environment for family farmers, in particular smallholders to improve their livelihoods and to stimulate wider use of sustainable practices, such as agroecological and other innovative approaches. Thank you very much Madame Chair.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

CSM, 2 minutes please.

CSM

Thank you. My name is Patty Naylor. I am a family farmer from the United States speaking on behalf of the CSM.

We would like to convey our deep appreciation for this discussion taking place at the CFS. We welcome the fact that the UN Decade of Family Farming is being discussed here, the foremost space to address food security and nutrition in the UN. The guidelines and policy recommendations selected by the CFS as a family farming package are a great first step for integrating the Decade in to the CFS and vice versa. We also congratulate the initiative of the CFS Chair to join the International Steering Committee of the Decade.

In order to achieve the objective of the UNDF, family farming must be based on agroecology and food sovereignty, embracing small-scale food producers including fisher folks, pastoralists, forest people,

waged workers and indigenous communities as the key agents of sustainable development. Based on the latest data of FAO the number of undernourished people in the world has been on the rise, climbing to 821.6 million people in 2018.

In order to realise a Zero Hunger goal, the implementation of the UN Decade of Family Farming must also be synchronised with the progressive realisation of human rights, which are universal and inalienable. Indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.

In this vein, we would like to emphasise the importance of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Peasants and other people working in rural areas, which should be the source of inspiration for future policy convergence processes here in the CFS, and for the public policy process related to this Decade.

The recognition, fulfilment and protection of the rights of peasants contained in this UN declaration will be a basis of norms and indicators of the success of implementation of the UN Decade of Family Farming Agenda.

Finally, we wish to conclude by saying the CFS can play an important role in the implementation of this Decade. We are committed to work with our governments, with the Rome-based agencies and other CFS participants for building a solid process for an effective implementation of the Global Action Plan for the UNDFP at national and regional levels. We hope this Decade is a chance to end poverty and hunger and elevate the human rights in rural areas. Thank you.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Japan please.

Japan

Thank you, Madame Chair. Japan recognises the importance of family farming, and its development from now to the future. Actually the majority of our farmers are family-based farmers, almost 98% and each of them have 2.5 hectares farm as an average. Therefore Japan has been supporting any type of farmer, including family-based farmer, especially farmers who have strong motivation for continued farming in the community as a deed farmer.

Japan would like to exchange our knowledge and experiences in the global community. Furthermore, Japan also recognises the importance of sharing the co-commission of the family farming and UNDFP in the global committee such as CFS. It is a key for education, hunger and poverty in the SDG. Thank you very much.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

PSM has the floor. PSM you have 2 minutes.

PSM

Good morning. My name is Karl Kassan, and I am a farmer from Ireland. It is a pleasure to speak today on behalf of the private-sector mechanism. The PSM welcomes the UN Decade of Family Farming, and its Global Action Plan, and looks forward to actively contributing to its success. Its success farmer's contributions to the 2030 Agenda and achievements of the sustainable development goals depends on farmers being able to become economically sustainable.

We are happy to see that in clarifying the plan recognises the importance of improving the livelihoods and economic viability of farmers. Because, let's be frank, the top priority for the farm sector is to become economically sustainable. There is an honourable calling and farmers deserve to make a decent living. Economic viability is usually derived from some degree of trade in agricultural products at local, regional, national or international level. Such trade can help achieve the goals of sustaining agriculture, improving living conditions in rural areas particularly in developing countries ensuring increased food quality and quantity, providing employment opportunities, contributing to the protection of natural resources and environment. So economic policies that promote open and fair trade of agricultural projects are in the interest of all stakeholders.

Today many people have referred to family farming as the backbone of the economy in many developing countries, but also those who are suffering the most. Let's help all family farmers improve their livelihoods, build value chains and on-farm processing, and use innovation to improve the sustainability of their farms. We have many ideas to do this and look forward to actively sharing them within the Decade framework. Thank you.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Thank you very much PSM. Now Spain has the floor.

Spain

Thank you, Madame Chair. Spain would like to endorse the statement delivered by the European Union for the action implementation of the UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 and going on to the questions we were asked, concerning the first, we believe the CFS has a large number of recommendations and guidelines in terms of policies that can focus on family farmers.

Joint work, the exchange of positive experiences, a further dialogue and common engagement are definitely key to giving impetus to the Decade. It's important to jointly implement the action plan of the Decade for Family Farming as a key tool to implement SDG2, and promote the planning, implementation, and follow-up and evaluation of public policies for sustainable rural development and the improvement of the quality of life for family farmers.

As to the second question, the nature of the 2030 Agenda such that we need to apply an integral comprehensive approach. We need to make the transition from a traditional approach that simply promotes agriculture, to one that is integrated and that focuses on the links between different stakeholders. Thank you.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Thank you, Spain. The USA.

United States of America

Thank you, Chair. The last 5 months I have had the benefit of serving in Rome with the rest of you, serving at WFP and FAO. Prior to that, for 45 years I have been a family farmer. I know what it's like to put my hands in the soil. I knew what it was like to grow up walking in the steps of my father as a young child. And then later in life, to see my own children have that same experience, my son and daughter who run the farm today. So I am a family farmer more than I am anything else.

We appreciate the Decade of Family Farming and being one of 2 million farms in the United States which is made up by 98% family farmers. We see this as a very important issue. We look forward to being involved in the discussion.

We know how farmers contribute to food security in our local communities and across the region and around the world. And I know first-hand how family farmers need access to modern agricultural tools and innovations like biotechnology, crop care products, fertiliser, digital tools and mechanisation. This includes many digital tools and I think really will revolutionise those in the developing nations. With hunger and malnutrition on the rise, access to modern agricultural tools is more important than ever. So in order to make progress on SDG2, I hope we can consider all innovations as we look at agroecology and the Decade of the Family Farm.

We as members pursue several options to implement and promote this Decade. We welcome the opportunity for collaboration on these activities with interested stakeholders, including the international and regional organisations, civil society, private sector and academia to actively support the Decade including through voluntary contributions as appropriate. We look forward to participating in the Decade of Family Farming. Thank you.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Thank you so much Ambassador. Now Portugal has the floor.

Portugal

Thank you, Mdm Moderator. Portugal fully aligns itself with the statement made by Finland on behalf of the European Union and its member states.

Recognising the key role of family farming in 2011, COP, a Committee of Portuguese speaking countries agreed to launch a common food and nutrition security strategy, in which family farming is one of the basic pillars. Despite of that strategy, in June 2017, the CPLP adopted in Brazil, the guidelines for the support and promotion of family farming in CPLP member states.

In Portugal family farming is on the top of the agricultural policy agenda. In August 2018 the Portuguese government approved the family farming strategy, which established a set of economic, social, financial

and fiscal positive discrimination policies aimed at protecting the family farming as well as give favourable conditions for sustainability.

Portugal together with other CPLP member countries has supported the declaration of the Decade of Family Farming, which we hope can make a key contribution to the recognition of these kind of farmers, while creating a favourable environment for development worldwide. Thank you.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Now the floor is for France.

France

Thank you, Chair. So of course I endorse the declaration made by Finland on behalf of the EU. 1 minute is extremely short to deal with such an important subject, so just a few points to mention the importance of France of this Decade, because of course the cultural and family farms produce 80% of all our production. And also are pre-eminent in the way that they deal with climate change, and the way they are affected, most of this is affected in rural areas.

Now when it comes to the impact on how they can benefit from our work within the CFS, well in fact everything we do benefits them, whether it is the importance of land policies, and the importance of the investment of those responsible, the work we do, what we are going to discuss in MYPoW, whether it's the women or the young on the importance of data, agroecology. All this is at the very heart of the Decade on family agriculture. So what I encourage you and I would encourage the whole of our committee to work along those lines. Thank you.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Thank you, France. Now to give the floor to Switzerland.

Switzerland.

Thank you. Switzerland welcomes this kick-off session on the UN Decade of Family Farming, and assembly of the family farming package of CFS guidelines and recommendations in this regard.

Since May and the official launch of the UN Decade of Family Farming, Switzerland has been active to implement the UN Decade. Let me mention 2 initiatives. The first was the creation of an International Innovation Award for sustainable food and agriculture, together with FAO. This award is designed to encourage innovations that meet the needs of family farming. The first award ceremony took place during the FAO conference under the patronage of the International Decade and the prize will be awarded every 2 years throughout the Decade.

The second was the organisation of 2 events in June 2019 here in Rome, with the permission Costa Rica and September in Geneva with the permission of Bolivia to present the link between the UN Decade of Family Farming and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants, and other people working in rural areas.

A good example then, of cross feeding within the United Nations between the Geneva Human Rights hub and the Roman Food Security hub. In Switzerland as in most countries around the world, family farming is the backbone of agriculture. Without farmers the transition to more sustainable food systems would not be possible. The Decade is a great opportunity to promote the role and commitment of farmers as key actors in building our food future. Thank you so much.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Thank you very much, Switzerland, and the last speaker is Hungary. You have the floor Hungary.

Hungary

Thank you very much. We align ourselves with the statement on behalf of the UN and its member states. As a member of the International Steering Committee, I very much appreciate the role of the Secretariat in preparing the activities of the UN Decade of Family Farming. In particular, the active contribution of the RDA, FAO, IFAD programme. We wish to strongly recommend that CFS policy guidelines and recommendations are applied in synergy throughout the UN Decade of Family Farming. While preparing national policies and actions, we fully support the principal inclusivity to be respected in warming local communities including smallholder family farmers.

In this regard, we agree that economic viability is an important issue and it draws attention to the need to consider all the positive and negative environmental and social extremities of all the food systems. Based on scientific evidence, true cost accounting can clearly demonstrate the economic viability of family farming, even if they are small-scale farmers.

Finally we support the UN Decade of Family Farming, and happy to know that this issue and the use, will be on the agenda of the Indigenous Conference in 2020. Thank you.

Ms Marcela Villarreal, MODERATOR

Thank you very much Hungary. Thank you very much to all of you. Thanks very much to all of our panellists. One of our panellists had to leave because he had to talk to his meeting now with the Director-General. But it has been in my view a very, very productive session. I'd like to thank you all very much.

I think the discussion that we engaged in, how to have interaction and how to benefit, how to create much more benefit between the Decade and the CFS, is more than evident.

We heard very clearly how to go about, how to ensure that as we are implementing the Decade throughout the 10 years, we will be applying the CFS multi-stakeholder model. We will be using dialogue as is done within the CFS. We will be sure to be listening from all of the different needs of the family farmers. And today we heard about some of them like the importance of becoming economically sustainable, innovation, biotech, access to input, agroecology. And very importantly one of the important lines of action as well in the Decade is, how to apply the very, very successful and very powerful instruments that have been developed by the CFS, which are the [unclear 00:54:33] CFS, and hopefully we will also be in time to apply some of the guidelines for food systems.