



UN Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028) – opportunities in the Western Balkans

Morten Hartvigsen

Land Tenure Officer / Regional Initiative Delivery manager

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UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 (UNDFFF)

- Builds on the International Year of Family Farming 2014.
- Globally, family farms produce more than 80% of all food and more than 90% of all farms in the World are family farms.
- Many family farms are small, poor and food-insecure: Globally, 72% are smaller than 1 ha.
- Family farming offers a unique opportunity to ensure food security, improve livelihoods, better manage natural resources, protect the environment and achieve sustainable development, particularly in rural areas.
- UNDFFF serves as a framework for countries to develop public policies and investments to support family farming from a holistic perspective.



UNDFFF Global Action Plan (GAP)

- **Pillar 1** - Develop an enabling policy environment to strengthen family farming
- **Pillar 2** - Youth and generational sustainability
- **Pillar 3** - Gender equity and women's leadership
- **Pillar 4** - Strengthen family farmers' organizations and their capacities
- **Pillar 5** - Improve socio-economic inclusion, resilience and well-being of family farmers
- **Pillar 6** - Promote sustainability of family farming for climate-resilient food systems
- **Pillar 7** - Strengthen the multidimensionality of Family Farming



UNDFE National Action Plans (NAPs)

- The UNDFE aims to establish 100 National Action Plans (NAPs) by 2024.
- NAPs to be developed by Governments in dialogue with Family Farmers' organizations and with multi-stakeholder platforms for policy dialogue, including the National Committees of Family Farming.
- A NAP is a contextualized, country-specific framework of action for the support of family farming, providing a roadmap for countries to progress in the implementation of the UNDFE.
- The NAP is an opportunity for all relevant national stakeholders to mobilize resources, consolidate, align, and reinforce their actions in support of Family Farming and the achievement of the SDGs.
- FAO REU is ready to support development of NAPs and their implementation.



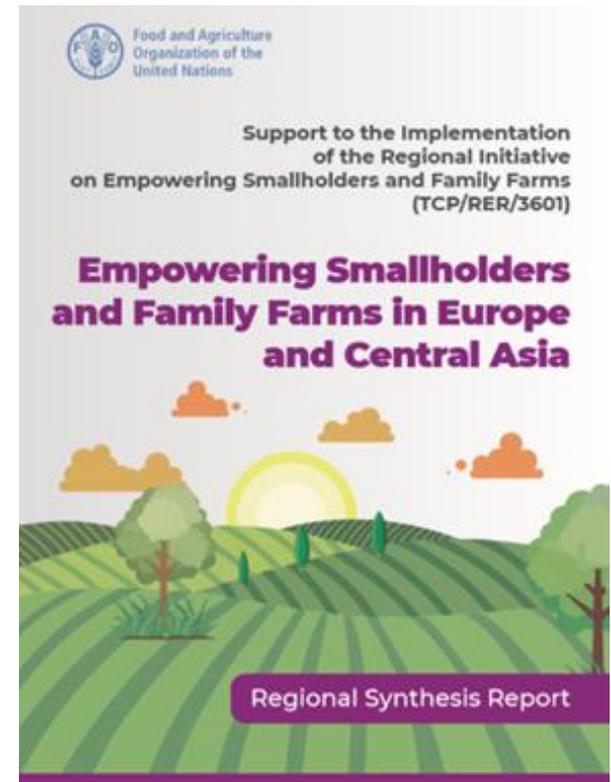
Family farming in the Western Balkan

- Commercial family farms are the backbone of agriculture in most EU member countries.
- Farm structures in the W B countries are dominated by small family farms (average farm sizes 1.5-2 ha in Albania and North Macedonia and 4.5 ha in Serbia).
- Structural problems in agriculture with excessive land fragmentation and land abandonment widespread (33% in North Macedonia and 45% in BiH).
- Support to smallholders, family farms and youth is one of four regional priorities for FAO in Europe and Central Asia.
- Support is provided through the programmatic umbrella of the “Regional Initiative on Empowering smallholders, family farms and youth, facilitating rural livelihoods and poverty reduction”



FAO smallholder country studies in eight ECA countries

- **FAO REU published in 2020 country studies on needs and constraints of smallholders and family farms in eight countries in Europe and Central Asia (Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia and Tajikistan).**
- **Small farms have many needs and constraints that are often not fully considered in public policy.**
- **The reports provide policy recommendations on supporting the development of small family farms.**



<http://www.fao.org/3/ca9586en/CA9586EN.pdf>

Smallholders and small family farms are not a homogeneous group of farms

Need to differentiate support to different groups of small farms

1. Development of commercial family farms (agricultural path)
2. Diversification of the rural economy (e.g. creation of new jobs in processing, agro tourism etc.).
3. Support to vulnerable groups – Leaving no one behind (e.g. social protection measures)





FAO support to family farming in the Western Balkans (1/2)

- Study on good regional practices on community development (study report with policy recommendation and practical guidance).
- Study on good practices in the region for support/ grant measures targeting directly small farms.
- Training and policy recommendations on the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP).
- Legal Guide on land consolidation legislation (published 2020).
- Study on European good practices on land banking (to be published in 2021).
- Training materials developed and disseminated through sub-regional workshops to enhance biodiversity and promote agro-ecology in small-scale family farming (to be published in 2021).
- Regional study on non-wood forest products to identify new opportunities and good practices for income generation in rural areas.



FAO support to family farming in the Western Balkans (2/2)

- Expert dialogue to exchange best practices on artificial insemination programmes among small dairy holders in the region.
- Best practices on the family poultry farming enhancing productivity and income identified and disseminated.
- Good practices on livestock feeding identified and disseminated through awareness and training for increased smallholder productivity.
- Technical assistance projects at country level on all above technical areas.
- Regional youth consultation planned in 2021.
- To launch in 2021 a FAO Regional Technical Platform on Green Agriculture (to encourage multi-stakeholder dialogue and share good practices).
- Support to the preparation of a National Action Plan on Family Farming (NAP) in the Republic of Moldova and in Kyrgyzstan. ⁹

To support development of NAPs in Western Balkan countries?



Thank you very much

Morten Hartvigsen

Morten.Hartvigsen@FAO.ORG



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**FAMILY
FARMING**

2019-2028