



MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
OF HUNGARY



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Concept Note
(second updated version)

GLOBAL FORUM AND EXPO ON FAMILY FARMING

High Level Ministerial Round Table, Academic Discussion and Multi-stakeholder Dialogue in Preparation for the International Year of Family Farming (2014) accompanied by a Global Expo on Family Farming hosted by the Hungarian Ministry of Rural Development
4 -6 March 2014, Budapest (Hungary)

Background

In 2011, taking note of a proposal put forth by the Government of the Philippines, the 37th Session of the FAO Conference proposed that the United Nations declare 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF). The 66th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, declared 2014 as the “International Year of Family Farming” (IYFF) and invited FAO to facilitate its implementation, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. The agenda of Family Farming presents an opportunity for FAO to re-position family farming at the centre of agricultural, environmental and social policies at all levels.

There are several events in many parts of the world that will contribute to the International Year of Family Farming celebrations. During the last quarter of 2013, five Regional Dialogues on Family Farming have been organized by FAO in collaboration with the World Rural Forum (WRF), the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the World Farmers Organization (WFO) in the following regions: Asia and Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia, and the Near East. The FAO/ICA/WRF/WFO Regional Dialogue in Europe and Central Asia Region was held in Brussels on 11-12 December. Also the European Commission organised an international conference on Family Farming in 29 November 2013. A short summary on the outcomes of the regional dialogues and on the event of the European Commission will be presented during the Global Forum and Expo on Family Farming in Budapest. All the regional dialogues and other worldwide events – including the Hungarian Global Forum and Expo – will contribute to the FAO Global International Year of Family Farming (2014) which will be held in Rome in October 2014.



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The goals and objectives of the Global Forum and Expo on Family Farming

The Hungarian Ministry of Rural Development has proposed to host the Global Forum and Expo on Family Farming in Budapest, Hungary from 4 to 6 March 2014 that aims to contribute to the International Year of Family Farming global dialogue and debates on policies and programmes that affect family farming at the national, regional and global levels.

The outcome of the Global Forum and Expo on Family Farming will play a key role in raising awareness on the potential contribution of family farming to eradicate hunger and poverty. The Global Forum will build a momentum and address the building blocks and policy options in achieving family farming as a global priority in the agricultural, environmental and social policies at all levels.

The Expo will provide family farmers from around the world with the opportunity to show their activities and make the potential and values of Family Farming evident for policy-makers and society at large.

Format of the Global Forum and Expo

Participants are welcome to arrive one day prior to the Global Forum. A welcome reception on the evening of 4 March 2014 will be hosted by the Minister of Rural Development of Hungary.

The Global Forum itself will be a two day event from 5 to 6 March, the Expo will be open from 4 to 6 March.

The first day (Wednesday, 5th March 2014) will include an Official Opening Ceremony in Plenary Session with a welcome speech by the Minister of Rural Development of Hungary, an opening address by the FAO Director General and the Appointment Ceremony of Special Ambassadors of the International Year of Family Farming. It will be followed by a Ministerial Roundtable and parallel panel discussions.

The second day (Thursday, 6th March 2014) Plenary Session will begin with a presentation of the results of the preceding day's Ministerial Round Table and panel discussions, and continue with a facilitated dialogue among diverse stakeholders. The Plenary Session will conclude with a summary of outcomes of the Global Forum and with the presentation of the Global Forum Conclusions.

The working language of the Global Forum will be English.

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Topics of the Global Forum

The theme of the Ministerial Roundtable will be the “*role of family farms in contributing to local and global food security; policy options and best practices*”.

The Global Forum will furthermore feature three parallel Panel Discussions in the following topics:

- 1) Family farming and the three dimensions of sustainability – harmonizing the social, environmental and economic aspects; academic approach;
- 2) Key challenges and opportunities for agricultural investments in family farming (Where are we globally and regionally?);
- 3) Role of women and young farmers in family farming

Participants

Ministers of Agriculture and/or government representatives, Heads and representatives of global and regional inter-governmental organizations and Heads and representatives of non-state global and regional organizations of family farmers (e.g. cooperatives and producer organizations, private sector, civil society, research institutions, universities) are invited to the event.