



MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EU AND FAO AFFAIRS

Dear Sir / Madam,

It is my great honour and pleasure to invite you to the “**Global Forum and Expo on Family Farming**”, to be held between 4 and 6 March 2014 in Budapest. Ministers responsible for agriculture of all Member States of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are invited to attend, along with representatives from non-state actors, including local and international associations, civil society organizations, producer organizations and cooperatives, private sector, as well as research institutions.

Family farming plays a central role in achieving global and local food security, as well as in ensuring sustainable use of natural resources. That is why the UN declared 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming. The Ministry of Rural Development of Hungary, in cooperation with FAO, organizes the “Global Forum and Expo on Family Farming” as an important event to the International Year.

The Forum will address four main subjects: (1) The role of family farms in contributing to local and global food security; (2) Family farming and the three dimensions of sustainability – harmonizing the social, environmental and economic aspects; (3) Key challenges and opportunities for agricultural investments in family farming; and (4) The role of women and young farmers in family farming.

The “Global Forum and Expo on Family Farming” aims to cover these issues in an integrated manner, combining policy, scientific, financial-economic, and governmental approaches. The main policy discussions of the Forum will be conducted through Ministerial Roundtable and Panel Discussions. Parallel to the Forum there will be an Expo, where family farmers can present their activities. The Expo also provides opportunity for cooperatives and farmers’ organisations to present themselves with handicrafts, photos, posters, brochures etc.

The Concept Note and Draft Programme of the event are herewith attached. Additional information, including registration, is available at the web site of the event: (<http://familyfarming.kormany.hu>); email contact: (family-farming.budapest@vm.gov.hu and agnes.dus@vm.gov.hu). Please note that the official language of the event is only **English**. There will be simultaneous interpretation in Plenary Sessions (English, French, Spanish, Russian, Hungarian), but there will be no interpretation provided for Panel Sessions.

We look forward to welcoming you to the event in Budapest.

Yours Sincerely,

Zoltán Kálmán
Head of Department