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## THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF FAMILY FARMING (UNdff): CONTINUITY AND CHANGES IN THE AGENDA

April 2022

SDGs:



Countries:

Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica and Panama

Project Code:

TCP/RLA/3719

FAO Contribution:

USD 275 000

Duration:

1 August 2019–30 November 2021

Contact Info:

Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean  
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## Implementing Partner

Ministries of Agriculture.

## Beneficiaries

Family farmers, smallholders, women, Indigenous Peoples and rural youth, civil society, academia, United Nations system agencies and cooperation organizations.

## Country Programming Framework (CPF) Outputs

### Strategic objective (SO)

SO2: Make agriculture, forestry and fishing more productive.

SO3: Reduce rural poverty.

### Regional initiative (RI)

RI2: Family farming (family farming) and inclusive food systems for sustainable rural development.

### Priority areas (PAs)

Barbados – Government priority 2: Food production and productivity.

Belize – Government priority 2: Food and nutritional security.

Colombia – PA4: family farming and inclusive markets.

Costa Rica – PA3: Management of rural territories and family farming.

Dominican Republic – PA2: Promotion of inclusive and sustainable development in rural territories.

Ecuador – PA2: Agriculture and rural development.

El Salvador – PA2: family farming, rural development and poverty relief.

Guatemala – PA2: Rural development and family farming.

Guyana – Government priority 3: Agriculture, forests, inland fisheries and rural development.

Honduras – PA2: Sustainable territorial development (with a social, economic and environmental approach) and family farming.

Jamaica – Government priority 3: Building resilience and sustainable livelihoods.

Panama – PA2: family farming and territorial development in rural areas.

### Outcomes

The countries of the region are implementing national action plans to implement the United Nations General Assembly of the Decade of Family Farming (UNDF), applying public policy tools and institutional enhancements designed by the project.



## BACKGROUND

The last 15 years in Latin America have been marked by the emergence and consolidation of family farming and the need to develop differentiated public policies. Many countries have experimented with new institutional architectures and public policies, which have been designed and, in some cases, implemented; yet much remains to be done to consolidate this sector. In addition, the economic and political landscape in the region is necessitating a revision of the policies that have been developed and their applicability, while raising the need for innovations that will make it possible to boost family farming and consolidate it as a key sector for eradicating hunger, rural poverty and achieving the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The recent approval by the UNDF offers an exceptional opportunity to significantly contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an inclusive, collaborative and coherent manner. The aims of the UNDF are to recognize the importance of family farmers and empower them as key agents of change in the transformation of food systems, by making them more efficient and sustainable. In addition, the UNDF aims to link their importance with environmental, health and nutrition, their role in the fight against poverty and inequality, the strengthening of the social fabric in rural territories and the revitalization of the respective economies.

## IMPACT

The project is expected to raise the income of small-scale food producer by 30 percent (SDG Indicator 2.3.2) in the countries of the Latin America and Caribbean region.

## ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

The family farming political agenda was revitalized through its contribution to the development of laws, strategies and plans for the sector, at both national and subregional levels. This political support produced favorable results, despite having been predominantly implemented during the global COVID-19 pandemic. These results were made possible through the provision of technical backstopping for the creation and implementation of laws and programmes associated with family farming. Family Farming was positioned as a key agent for the fulfilment of indicators, mainly for SDGs 1 and 2. The project bolstered an agenda that was already underway, providing evidence of the sector's importance and the need to create new support instruments. This was achieved through the collaboration with parliamentarians, ministries, as well as FAO Country Offices, headquarters and the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC) team.

El proyecto vino a apoyar la agenda que ya se encontraba en marcha, entregando evidencia sobre la importancia del sector y la necesidad de generar nuevos instrumentos de apoyo. Esto se logró con el trabajo mancomunado con parlamentarios, ministerios, oficinas nacionales de la FAO, la sede y el equipo regional.

### IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

All planned activities were completed, albeit in different modalities and on different scales. The delay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic led to some activities being redesigned, which took longer than initially envisioned. Nonetheless, additional time for project implementation made it possible to retarget actions towards satisfying new demands for support from the countries.

Additional resources were obtained to implement the Regional Technical Platform for Family Farming at the request of the FAO Director-General.

The project risks were reduced on account of the fact that political support for the family farming agenda was instrumental in minimizing potential problems.

### FOLLOW-UP FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

There is currently a draft publication that seeks to address this issue, based on national studies that emphasize existing instruments to enhance the UNDF in the countries. Time constraints and the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in changed priorities and, in turn, delayed the publication, which is now anticipated to be made available by late 2022.

Each country has both a national and FAO-supported family farming work plan. These activities were delayed in their initial programming as a result of the pandemic, and will need to be resumed.

The Regional Family Farming Technical Platform, led by RLC and involving family farming work in all countries of the world, has proven itself as a virtual meeting and information exchange mechanism, not only for the UNDF, but also for the many successful family farming experiences worldwide.

There is a relative consensus that the action strategy for the sustainable development of family farming will need to be renewed in a more systemic and less sector-specific manner.



## SUSTAINABILITY

### 1. Capacity development

Discussions in the subregional and national dialogue forums were strengthened by incorporating representatives from the cooperative sector and family farmer organizations, among others.

In addition, four training modules have been implemented in collaboration with other agencies, including the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Rural Forum (WRF).

Meetings were held for dialogue and to exchange experiences among Andean countries (Colombia, Ecuador and Peru).

In terms of strengthening subregional forums, the Subregional Plan for the UNDF in Central America was recently approved. This process was supported by FAO at both the subregional and regional levels, in coordination with FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy and the relevant subregional organizations.

Moreover, in late 2021, the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) Specialized Meeting on Family Farming (REAF [*Reunión Especializada de Agricultura Familiar*]) approved work on the construction of the MERCOSUR UNDF Plan, which is already underway.

### 2. Gender equality

A collaborative effort was carried out on issues, such as rural women's campaigns or incorporation into political dialogue, among others.

Despite working hand-in-hand with the gender teams on various occasions, it has not been possible to forge a regional agenda by drawing on the activities carried out.

### 3. Environmental sustainability

This component is not applicable to the project. Nonetheless, in the range of political dialogue mechanisms that were implemented, and also in the technical reviews of various legal and policy articles, recommendations were made to protect the environment and promote sustainable practices.

### 4. Technological sustainability

National agendas in this area were created, strengthened and promoted to build on the work already defined..

### 5. Economic sustainability

Funding of USD 400 000 was obtained to develop and implement the Regional Technical Platform.

## DOCUMENTS AND OUTREACH PRODUCTS

- ❑ FAO. August 2021. *Summary of Family Farming initiatives in Argentina*. 6 pp.
- ❑ FAO. August 2021. *Summary of family farming initiatives in Brazil*. 11 pp.
- ❑ FAO. August 2021. *Summary of family farming initiatives in Chile*. 4 pp.
- ❑ FAO. August 2021. *Summary of family farming initiatives in Colombia*. 7 pp.
- ❑ FAO. August 2021. *Summary of family farming initiatives in Costa Rica*. 5 pp.
- ❑ FAO. August 2021. *Summary of family farming initiatives in the Dominican Republic*. 4 pp.
- ❑ FAO. August 2021. *Summary of family farming initiatives in Ecuador*. 4 pp.
- ❑ FAO. August 2021. *Summary of family farming initiatives in El Salvador*. 3 pp.
- ❑ FAO. August 2021. *Summary of family farming initiatives in Guatemala*. 4 pp.
- ❑ FAO. August 2021. *Summary of family farming initiatives in Honduras*. 4 pp.
- ❑ FAO. August 2021. *Summary of family farming initiatives in Mexico*. 5 pp.
- ❑ FAO. August 2021. *Summary of family farming initiatives in Nicaragua*. 4 pp.
- ❑ FAO. August 2021. *Summary of family farming initiatives in Panama*. 3 pp.
- ❑ FAO. August 2021. *Summary of family farming initiatives in Peru*. 5 pp.
- ❑ FAO. August 2021. *Summary of family farming initiatives in the Plurinational State of Bolivia*. 4 pp.
- ❑ FAO. August 2021. *Summary of family farming initiatives in Uruguay*. 4 pp.
- ❑ FAO. August 2021. *Summary of family farming initiatives in Venezuela [Bolivarian Republic of]*. 5 pp.
- ❑ FAO. August 2021. *Working paper: summary of figures for family farming in Latin America and the Caribbean*.
- ❑ FAO. September 2021. *Results of the characterization of family farming based on the national agricultural census of Colombia 2014*.
- ❑ FAO. September 2021. *Results of the characterization of family farming based on the national agricultural census of Nicaragua 2011*.
- ❑ FAO. September 2021. *Results of the characterization of family farming based on the national agricultural census of Peru 2012*.
- ❑ FAO. October 2021. *Working paper: data on family farming and its share of production in Latin America and the Caribbean*.
- ❑ FAO. November 2021. *Results of the characterization of family farming based on the national agricultural census of Brazil 2016*.



- ❑ FAO. November 2021. *Results of the characterization of family farming based on the national agricultural pre-census of the Dominican Republic 2015*.
- ❑ FAO. November 2021. *Results of the characterization of family farming based on the national agricultural census of Ecuador 2000*.
- ❑ FAO. December 2021. *Results of the characterization of family farming based on the national agricultural census of the Plurinational State of Bolivia 2013*.
- ❑ FAO. December 2021. *Results of the characterization of family farming based on the national agricultural census of the Republic of Paraguay 2008*.
- ❑ FAO. December 2021. *Results of the characterization of family farming based on the national agricultural census of the Republic of Uruguay 2011*.
- ❑ FAO. January 2022. *Compilation of initial findings from an analysis of family farming based on national agricultural censuses - gender*.
- ❑ FAO. January 2022. *Compilation of initial findings from an analysis of family farming based on national agricultural censuses - general characteristics*.
- ❑ FAO. January 2022. *Compilation of initial findings from an analysis of family farming based on national agricultural censuses - organizations*.
- ❑ FAO. January 2022. *Compilation of initial findings from an analysis of family farming based on national agricultural censuses - production*.
- ❑ FAO. January 2022. *Compilation of initial findings from an analysis of family farming based on national agricultural censuses - work and labour*.
- ❑ FAO. Twitter account (@FAOAmericas).
- ❑ FAO. FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean Decade of Family Farming. Website. <https://www.fao.org/americas/daf/en/>
- ❑ FAO. Regional Technical Platform for Family Farming. Website. <https://www.fao.org/americas/daf/plataforma/es/>

## CONSECUCCIÓN DE LOS RESULTADOS - MATRIZ DE MARCO LÓGICO

<b>Expected Impact</b>	Raise incomes among small-scale food producers in Latin American and Caribbean countries by 30 percent (SDG indicator 2.3.2).		
<b>Outcome</b>	The countries of the region deployed national action plans to implement the UNDF, applying public policy tools and institutional enhancements designed by the project.		
	<b>Indicator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of countries with government-approved UNDF action plans and associated budgets.</li> <li>Declaration signed by participating institutions, published and disseminated in the region.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Baseline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0/12</li> <li>0</li> </ul>	
	<b>End Target</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9/12</li> <li>90 percent of institutions in the region are committed.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Comments and follow-up action to be taken</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thus far, five of the region's countries have National Family Farming Plan (NFFP) (Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Panama and Peru). In addition, Ecuador has set up a national technical roundtable to develop its UNDF plan.</li> <li>Bávaro Declaration - Launch of the UNDF in Latin America and the Caribbean. The declaration was endorsed by governments, parliamentarians, representatives of family farming organizations and social organizations from the private sector and academic institutions, FAO, IFAD, published on the Latin America and the Caribbean UNDF website and widely disseminated in various media.</li> </ul>	
<b>Output 1</b>	Event organized to launch the Decade of FF in Latin America, and preparation of the 2019 Declaration.		
	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
	Number of institutions participating in the regional UNDF launch event.	54	Yes
<b>Baseline</b>	0/60		
<b>Comments</b>	Between 25 and 27 August 2019, the event to launch the UNDF in Latin America and the Caribbean 2019-2028 was held in the Dominican Republic.		
<b>Activity 1.1</b>	Design the methodology and hold the event to launch the UNDF in Latin America and the Caribbean, and establish a committee to promote the Decade politically across the region.		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Yes	
<b>Activity 1.2</b>	Collaborate with authorities to produce a joint declaration in which governments and key representatives of the private sector, academia and civil society commit to working towards achieving the family farming-oriented SDG targets in the global action plan.		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Yes	
<b>Activity 1.3</b>	Publicize the event nationally and regionally, in both print and digital media, positioning FAO as a reference organization in the UNDF.		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Yes	
<b>Output 2</b>	Multisectoral and participatory dialogue mechanisms institutionalized nationally to define and enhance UNDF oriented public policies and programmes.		
	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
	Number of countries with nationally institutionalized multisectoral and participatory dialogue mechanisms for the definition and enhancement of public policies and programmes promoting the UNDF.	9/12	Partially
<b>Baseline</b>	0/12		
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Although the initial goal was not achieved, a series of activities were formally promoted with family farming organizations, albeit not formally as UNDF mechanisms, such as the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecuador technical roundtable for preparation of the NFFP.</li> <li>Colombia support was provided to a technical roundtable to address the problems of the Colombian peasantry.</li> <li>Costa Rica the Decade of Family Farming committee prepared and analyzed investment projects based on the pillars proposed by the UNDF.</li> <li>Paraguay creation of the Vice-Ministry of Family Farming.</li> </ul>		

<b>Output 3</b>	National action plans designed and agreed upon to implement the Decade of Family Farming with a budget, defined responsibilities, and monitoring and accountability tools.		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of countries with national action plans developed, validated and disseminated.	9/12	Partially
<b>Baseline</b>	0/12		
<b>Comments</b>	<p>The Dominican Republic's National Family Farming Plan (<i>Planes Nacionales de Agricultura Familiar</i> [PNAF]) presented in August 2019, is the outcome of an extensive dialogue process between the government, family farmer organizations and various civil society actors. The ten-year plan recognizes and values the strategic role of family farming in achieving the country's development goals. It aims to empower family farmers by creating an enabling environment for improving living conditions, promoting territorial governance, and reducing environmental vulnerability.</p> <p>Peru's PNAF was officially adopted in November 2019 in the legally binding form of a Presidential Decree. This was the outcome of a participatory and multisectoral process involving 12 ministries that agreed to work together on nine strategic lines of action. The plan identifies typologies of family farmers for effective roll out, and establishes goals, indicators, governance and coordination mechanisms to guide implementation and monitoring, within the framework of a well-defined timetable and budget allocation for the first biennium.</p> <p>In Panama, the national support programme was approved through a law in March 2020, with the aim of recognizing the importance of family farming for food security, agrobiodiversity, environmental protection, stimulation of local economies and rural employment. The plan aims to improve the livelihoods of family farmers and reduce rural poverty through a multisectoral and intergovernmental approach led by the Ministry of Agriculture. It will include the development of policies and measures to improve access to productive, technical and financial resources. The family farming register was created to make it possible to identify the nation's family farmers.</p> <p>In Brazil, the Ministry of Agriculture published its 2020/2021 Crop plan (Plan Safra 2020/2021) in June 2020, which contains a coherent set of policies to support family farming. The plan's objective is to foster sustainable production and backstop smallholder family farmers with an emphasis on expanding access to rural credit. It is implemented under the overall coordination of the Secretariat of Family Farming and Cooperatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply.</p> <p>In Costa Rica, the national action plan for family farming was launched officially in October 2020, to implement comprehensive and inclusive policies for family farming development. The plan provides a consensus-based definition of family farming for customized and effective support, based on clear objectives, expected outcomes and strategic pillars of action. It is based on a solid contextual analysis and an extensive review of the relevant legal and policy frameworks in the country. A governance structure was established that identifies the implementing entities, coordination mechanisms, key partners and their roles, and monitoring and evaluation arrangements.</p>		
<b>Activity 3.1</b>	Design UNDF national action plans		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	<p>In Costa Rica, support was provided for the discussion of the investment plans proposed in the national plan for the UNDF. The FAO Subregional Office for Mesoamerica, together with the Rural Regional Dialogue Programme (PDRR), prepared a subregional plan for the UNDF. In South America, support was provided for the definition of the work plan for the future MERCOSUR family farming plan, which is currently being designed. In Peru, support was provided to the work of the multisectoral roundtable created for family farming. In Panama, support was provided for the regulation of the family farming law adopted a few years ago.</p>	
<b>Activity 3.2</b>	Validating and socializing the national action plan		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	<p>Although the five countries that have national action plans have disseminated them, the project used various sources media in their dissemination efforts, including websites, radio programmes (in collaboration with the International Center for Higher-level Studies in Communication for Latin America through its rural broadcast), calls for meetings and workshops (virtual and face-to-face pre-pandemic) and social networks. Furthermore, in late 2021, the regional technical platform for family farming was created, led by RLC, and involved family farming work in all countries of the world. The platform has established itself as a virtual mechanism for meeting and exchanging information, not only in the UNDF, but also on the different family farming experiences that have proven successful around the world.</p>	

<b>Output 4</b>	Studies developed with recommendations on instruments to strengthen family farming in the context of contemporary socioeconomic dynamics.		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of studies carried out with up-to-date information on instruments targeted on one of the seven pillars established in the UNDF Action Plan, allowing recommendations for family farming strengthening to be made.	0/5	Partially
<b>Baseline</b>	0		
<b>Comments</b>	A study was conducted on post-pandemic rural tourism and the potential role of family farming in the economic revival of the sector, with case studies in some countries of the region. Four modular family farming courses were developed on food systems, trade, sustainable production and new innovative technologies for family farming.		
<b>Activity 4.1</b>	Develop national studies on existing national instruments associated with any of the seven UNDF pillars.		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	FAO published fact sheets containing systemized data on policy, legal and regulatory initiatives related to the family farming sector in 17 countries (Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), posted on the UNDF regional platform. In addition, census microdata from nine countries were reviewed, with analyses being made of the various items in the sector, with special emphasis on smallholders (surface area).	
<b>Activity 4.2</b>	Develop a publication based on national studies that highlights existing instruments used to strengthen the UNDF in Latin American and Caribbean countries.		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	There is currently a draft document that seeks to address this issue. Owing to time constraints, the pandemic and the ensuing shift in priorities, the publication has been delayed, but will be available by the end of 2022. A number of chapters have already been written, but require editing and final revisions.	
<b>Output 5</b>	Events to exchange experiences on public policy instruments for family farming strengthening that can help stimulate the UNDF, based on successful development solutions, have been held and documented.		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of documented exchanges of experiences on instruments in one of the seven pillars specified in the UNDF action plan, enabling recommendations for family farming strengthening to be made.	0/5	Yes
<b>Baseline</b>	0		
<b>Comments</b>	<p>During the project implementation period, several workshops, seminars and political dialogues were held, covering topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- cooperativism;</li> <li>- trade and markets;</li> <li>- situation of family farming in the pandemic;</li> <li>- financial services;</li> <li>- digital innovation for family farming;</li> <li>- technical assistance and rural outreach for family farming;</li> </ul> <p>In addition, work was also carried out in the following subregional areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Central America and the PDRR UNDF subregional plan;</li> <li>- exchange of family farming public policy experiences Colombia, Ecuador and Peru;</li> <li>- global launch of the regional family farming technical platform.</li> </ul>		
<b>Activity 5.1</b>	Design internships and exchanges prioritizing relevant and strategic experiences of the countries and the instruments contained in the studies (Output 4).		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	The exchange between Brazil and Colombia was promoted and implemented in family farming-related areas. As a result, four modular family farming courses were created.	
<b>Activity 5.2</b>	Document the process as a contribution to a national management and governance model.		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	Each country has its own PNAF, which has a work plan that has been supported by FAO. Although these activities have had their initial scheduling delayed by the pandemic, they are currently resuming their activities.	

**Asociaciones y promoción**

Para obtener más información, póngase en contacto con [Reporting@fao.org](mailto:Reporting@fao.org)

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