

# Progress of the UNDF in the Asia & Pacific Region

## FAMILY FARMING INITIATIVES IN THE ASIA & PACIFIC REGION

On the 20th December 2017, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 72/239, declared the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDF 2019-28), recognizing the relevance of Family Farming in improving nutrition, ensuring global food security, reducing poverty, conserving biodiversity and achieving environmental sustainability and to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The UNDF Global Action Plan (GAP), foresees promoting 100 National Action Plans (NAP) on Family Farming. The UNDF GAP also envisages a target of 5 Regional Action Plans and 7 Sub-Regional Action Plans on Family Farming to be developed in consultation with family farmers' organizations. Regional, sub-regional and national dialogues are contributing to promote to bring forward the UNDF agenda in several countries.

As of March 2022, in the Asia & Pacific Region three countries have approved their Family Farming NAP as part of the UNDF: Indonesia, Nepal and The Philippines. Furthermore, starting from 2021, Bangladesh has also been taken significant steps towards the development of the NAP, whereas in India, Laos, Cambodia and Japan progress is being made in mobilising actors to implement the UNDF at the national level. From a regional standpoint, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has taken significant steps forward towards the publishing of a Regional Action Plan to implement the UNDF and achieve the SDGs.

## THE WAY FORWARD

The UNDF began in 2019 in the Asia & Pacific Region with a very solid basis laid for its implementation at the country level and significant progress at the regional level too.

Based on the accumulated experience, efforts should be enhanced and oriented towards: i) Bringing the UNDF to more countries and support them to develop their Nation Action Plans, to implement family farming supportive policies, and to develop capacities of the different stakeholders (from farmers' organizations to policy makers). This should go along with the provision of adequate budgets and instruments necessary for the operationalization of these plans and policies ; and ii) Strengthening the active participation of family farmers' organizations in the preparation and implementation of the action plans. A key dimension to achieve the above will be facilitating access to adequate communication services and to knowledge sharing to allow family farmers to harness the full potential of the UNDF.

Find further information on UNDF and family farming in the Asia & Pacific Region at <http://comdevasia.org/>



## UNDF in Action

### Indonesia

In Indonesia, the NAP was approved in November 2019 in order to offer a multi-sectoral framework to provinces and municipalities accordingly with the agricultural potential and characteristics of each region. The main objective of the NAP is increasing availability, accessibility and utilization of food produced by family farmers to favor food security and nutritionally balanced diets and increasing family farmers' income and livelihoods. The impact is expected to be in accordance with the target SDGs 1 "Poverty alleviation" and SDGs 2 "End hunger".

### Nepal

The National Action Plan in Nepal was approved in 2020. The policies set for strengthening family farming in the Nepalese context aim at:

- Enhancing political and financial commitment and public awareness to support diverse contributions of family farming;
- Increasing rural employment and reducing rural to urban migration of youths;
- Improving capacity of young farmers on innovative practices by developing new technical skills;
- Progressive recognition of rural women' role and their increased access to resources;
- Enhanced capacity of family farmers and their organizations in technical aspects, advocacy and leadership, and promotion of their participation in policy-making processes;
- Supporting sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices that contribute to the preservation of the ecosystem.

### The Philippines

The Philippine Action Plan for Family Farming (PAP4FF) was approved in 2020. The PAP4FF has three strategic action areas, namely: Policy and Program, People, and Partnerships, which are aimed at addressing the main concerns and challenges of Filipino family farmers. The PAP4FF overarching goal can be summarized by Abundant Harvests, High Incomes, and Dignified Life of Family Farmers. It aims at resilient family farmers with zero hunger and poverty, a sustainable agriculture-fishery-forestry sector by 2028, characterized by improved productivity and competitiveness, secured land/resource tenure, increased productivity of soil and water resources, food self-sufficiency, and well-being for all at all ages.

### Bangladesh

Bangladesh is one of the signatories of the UNDF and is significantly progressing in mobilizing actors to draft a national action plan. Public policies recognize that the complexity of the challenges faced by family farms is the key to end hunger and achieve inclusive food systems. The Government of Bangladesh formulated a National Agriculture Policy in 2018 which emphasizes women empowerment, participation of youth in agriculture and integrated farming for food and nutrition security, increased income and improvement of the livelihood. The 8th Five Year Plan (2021-2025) mainly focuses on: (1) economic growth and poverty reduction; (2) inclusiveness; and (3) sustainable development resilient to climate change and natural disasters. Bangladesh government is currently implementing result-oriented specific programs for sustainable agricultural management.

### India

India is currently initiating stakeholder mobilization in order to prepare the elaboration of a National Action Plan. In India, the National Action Plan includes right to land ownership for women and tenant farming households and credit access under enabling policy environment to strengthen family farming. This will result in integrated development of family farms and contribute significantly to improving rural livelihoods.

