**Modular Training Program on Public Policy Cycles for Family Farming**
**United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028)**

**The UNDFF and the Modular Training Program**

The *Modular Training Program on Public Policy Cycles for Family Farming (MTP)* is the first global product that IFAD and FAO are jointly developing in the framework of the UNDFF. The MTP will provide a capacity development tool to assist the design, development, implementation, and review of context-specific public policies and investments to support family farming. The MTP will primarily contribute to Pillar 1 of the *UNDFF Global Action Plan (GAP),* which aims to '*Develop an enabling policy environment to strengthen family farming*'. This enabling environment is needed to provide the foundation for specific strategies and interventions (under other pillars of the GAP) targeting family farming during the Decade and beyond.

The MTP will apply a holistic perspective to build the knowledge and capacities of state and non-state actors on how to develop effective and coherent policies and programs at local, national, regional, and global levels – to simultaneously address the economic, environmental, and social concerns of family farmers and their communities and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (see in particular UNDFF GAP Outcomes, Outputs and Indicative Actions under 1.4).

The training program is being developed through a participatory process, building on the experience of researchers, governments, family farmers' organizations, and FAO and IFAD staff. From the initial development of the outline, methodology and content, actors are invited to provide inputs to make the MTP more responsive to the diverse realities of family farmers. The MTP is primarily designed to facilitate in-person trainings. However, FAO and IFAD will also work to make the MTP available as a virtual meeting tool. It will be piloted in at least 3 different regions.

**Walking through the public policy cycle – grounded in a specific context**

The MTP is being designed as an adaptable technical-methodological capacity development tool that walks participants through the stages of the public policy cycle. The policy cycle model is an analytical framework developed by researchers and practitioners to visualise and analyse public policymaking through a series of common steps. It has been used in different policy fields to understand policy trajectories, in learning processes, and to provide policy recommendations for future improvements. The MTP is adopting a five-phase model (1. Agenda setting, 2. Policy Formulation, 3. Policy adoption, 4. Policy implementation, 5. Monitoring and Evaluation) to present and discuss the most important dimensions of the policy cycle (see Figure 1).

| 1 - Agenda-setting | 2 - Formulation | 3 - Policy Adoption | 4 - Policy Implementation | 5 - Monitoring and Evaluation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| How problems are framed as public and enter into the governmental agenda | How different alternatives are presented and discussed by actors | The adoption of one alternative and the process of enacting laws and regulations | How policy decisions are put into practice | The assessment of outputs, outcomes, and impacts |

**Figure 1. Five-phase model of the public policy cycle**

Given the great diversity of family farming around the world, and its multidimensional characteristics, the general framework of the public policy cycle will be grounded in country-specific family farming contexts (e.g. see modules 2, 3, 5, 8-11 of the draft curriculum outlined in Figure 2). In this way, the MTP aims to direct the policymaking process towards targeted interventions that match family farmers' locally available resources and specific needs.

### Learning stages of the MTP

The design of the MTP follows a sequence of learning stages. The draft design of the five learning stages and their possible modules are displayed in Figure 2. The first three stages (1. Context analysis; 2. Principles of public polices, 3. The policy cycle model) focus on understanding how public policies may need to be tailored to family farming, considering the institutional setting, the set of involved actors, the specific policy content, and the public policy phases (as described above). The fourth and fifth stages (4. Analytical reflection and 5. Contextualised planning) will structure a path to apply this theoretical and practical knowledge to concrete challenges in a given context – to improve policies and programs. Each module of the learning process will build on the previous one and feed into the next.

| LEARNING STAGE 1<br>Context analysis | LEARNING STAGE 2<br>Principles of public polices | LEARNING STAGE 3<br>The policy cycle model | LEARNING STAGE 4<br>Analytical reflection | LEARNING STAGE 5<br>Contextualised planning |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Actors and institutions in public policymaking - Roles and responsibilities<br><br>2. Family farming in the country context<br><br>3. Analysis of the policy environment | 4. General concepts of public policy<br><br>5. Public policies for family farming – tools, formats, different content, and pathways for inclusive rural development | 6. Explore the stages of the policy cycle and the factors that influence each stage<br><br>7. Policy phases:<br>   - *Agenda setting*<br>   - *Policy formulation*<br>   - *Adoption*<br>   - *Implementation*<br>   - *Monitoring and evaluation* | 8. National context analysis<br><br>9. Country case studies | 10. Applying the theory to the context/country<br><br>11. Exercising the development of context-specific policies |

**Figure 2. Draft learning stages and possible modules (1-11) of the MTP**

### Modular Training Program methodology – placing participants at the centre

The training program is being designed in a modular way, based on an experiential learning approach to facilitate a participatory learning process. The process starts from the learners' own experiences on family farming and the policy cycle model and gradually directs their attention towards key aspects of context-specific policymaking processes. Different collaborative group work exercises will actively involve the participants and engage them in critical thinking, exploring challenges, problems, and possible solutions in their context. In its implementation at national/regional levels, the training program should be enriched with an analysis of the national context. This analysis will guide participants to identify the main issues related to public policy and family farming in the country. The materials and suggestions provided in the training program are intended as a guide, to be adapted to the training context.

### Built on concrete evidence

Case studies will provide the evidence base to develop the MTP, linking and illustrating the policy cycle model with concrete policies and programs targeted towards family farming in different regions and countries. Trainers and trainees will benefit from having a wide spectrum of experiences to learn from and reflect on, when analysing the different stages of the policy cycle. Case study material will provide inputs to the sessions and demonstrate important aspects to be considered by the participants in their own policy-making processes. The case studies are not intended to be replicated in an identical manner as each experience reflects a specific context. Rather, the case studies will illustrate how policymakers and stakeholders designed and implemented policies to address a particular challenge affecting family farming. Through dialogue and reflection, the MTP aims to draw out general lessons and improve participants' policymaking skills. It is expected that new case studies will be introduced in the future.