

GLOBAL EXCHANGE MEETING WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS ON PUBLIC POLICIES AND LEGISLATIONS FOR FAMILY FARMING¹

Developing the Modular Training Program on Public Policy Cycles for Family Farming

IFAD-FAO Project in the framework of the UN Decade of Family Farming

When: 26-27 November 2020

Where: On-line (**Zoom**) – link to follow upon registration

1. Background - Public policies for family farming, the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028)

On 20 December 2017, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the *UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028* (UNDF) to serve as a framework for countries to develop public policies and investments to support family farming. By applying a holistic perspective, the UNDF presents an excellent opportunity to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UNDF devotes special attention to the development of an enabling policy environment to strengthen family farming (see *Global Action Plan* Pillar 1) – including through the design of effective and coherent public policies, and providing direct support to family farmers, tailored to their multidimensional, geographic and socio-economic specificities and to their communities. The enabling policy environment to strengthen family farming will underpin further actions delivered through Pillars 2 to 7 of the UNDF, to respond to the current social, economic, and environmental challenges.

In this context, it is critical to build the capacities of state and non-state actors to design, develop, implement, and review context-specific public policies and investments to support family farming (see *Global Action Plan*, Output 1.4.A). In particular, it is instrumental to strengthen and improve legal and institutional frameworks including through multilateral cooperation and parliamentary alliances to diagnose critical constraints faced by family farmers, to better tailor, prioritize and target interventions and investments for the support of family farming (see *Global Action Plan*, Indicated Action 1.4.2.). The *Modular Training Program on Public Policy Cycles for Family Farming (MTP)* will help to better understand these needs, provide appropriate tools, instruments and competencies to address the public policy cycle. The MTP is now under development through a participatory process, building on the experience of researchers, governments, family farmers' organizations, parliamentarians, representatives of municipalities and FAO and IFAD staff.

2. Rationale - The importance of Parliamentarians in the development of the Modular Training Program on the Public Policy Cycles for Family Farming

Experience shows that in the legislative scope, Parliamentarians are critical actors in the fight to eradicate poverty and malnutrition, given their legislative, budgetary and policy oversight roles also on innovative proposals in regulatory frameworks. They play a significant role in (establishing an enabling policy legislative environment to achieve the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG2.

Parliamentarians – today, more than ever considering the global pandemic of COVID-19 – are central to developing public policies for family farming for several reasons: (i) They represent citizens and make laws to address public problems and promote social and economic development; (ii) They play a key role in building, strengthening and updating legal and institutional frameworks; (iii) They promote and inform policy dialogue in a participatory way and feed into the drafting of national legislations; (iv) They are also involved in allocating financial resources for the implementation of national public policies. Finally, they play a fundamental role to oversee governments' actions on the implementation of the enacted laws.

¹ Given the limitation and restriction of mobility in the context of COVID-19, the Multi-actor Global Exchange Meeting will be delivered as online meetings.

The upcoming Exchange Meeting will build on these different roles and will aim to incorporate Parliamentarians' experiences and knowledge about policy making for family farming into the MTP. The Meeting will build on the outcomes of the *Roundtable discussion held during the Global Launch of the UNDFD dedicated to emphasize the role of parliamentarians in strengthening family farming*², and it will directly inform the formulation of the learning material, as part of the review and validation process.

3. Objectives of the Global Exchange Meeting with Parliamentarians

- Promote knowledge exchange and experiences between Parliamentarians from different regions on policy making processes and solutions for family farming, and identify needs and challenges in the legislative process to support inclusive laws and policies for family farming;
- Identify successful experiences of legislative processes with results that promote policies and laws and possibilities to expand the "role of the law" to strengthen inclusive policies for family farming;
- Collect inputs, contributions and feedback from Parliamentarians that can be used to further develop the content of the MTP;
- Raise awareness about the MTP and identify potential users of the capacity development tool.
- Develop an enabling environment for a global policy dialogue on Family Farming and its impacts on Food Security and Nutrition.

4. Expected outputs

- Collection of key success factors and critical constraints faced by parliamentarians to better tailor, prioritize and target programs, policies, interventions and investments for the support of family farming in their countries;
- Improved knowledge on how to build bridges with parliamentarians to promote legislative coordination between the law making and public policies adoption, and enhance legislative oversight on the implementation, both at regional or national level, thus creating an enabling policy environment for family farming;
- Collection of suggestions and potential inputs for the development of the MTP;
- List of countries/users that are potentially interested to apply the tool (e.g. for piloting).

5. Draft agenda

DAY 1 - OPENING Thursday 26 November 2020	DAY 2 - POLICY SESSIONS Friday 27 November 2020
<p>Opening of the GEM - The UNDFD and the role of Parliamentarian in developing an enabling policy environment for family farming</p> <p>Legislative and regulatory frameworks for family farming – a new study by FAO</p> <p>Regional Round Table - Challenges and opportunities of policy processes for family farming presented by Parliamentarians</p> <p>Discussion - What are challenges and solutions of public policy making for family farming from the perspective of Parliamentarians?</p>	<p>Public Policy Cycle 1– Agenda setting and policy formulation</p> <p>Public Policy Cycle 2 – Adoption and further relevant aspects of the policy cycle</p> <p>Discussion -The way forward and opportunities for implementation of the Modular Training Program</p> <p>Closing</p>

² Some key points emphasized: the role of Parliamentarians in transforming societies through legislation and create an enabling environment for family farming; the critical role that legislation plays in supporting family farmers; the importance of legislation facilitating access to financing, markets and technologies, ensuring generational succession in farming and promoting the production of safe and healthy food; and the vital importance of family farmers' registries to ensure that policies are well-targeted and monitored.