

Statement of the 2014 Farmers' Forum

On behalf of the small-scale producer organization delegates of the 5th Farmers' Forum I give you a summary of our views and proposals. Our **full statement** is available and we ask that it be appended to the report of this Governing Council.

This is the International Year of Family Farming. It has to bring concrete steps to improve the quality of life of hundreds of millions of smallholder family farmers, fisherfolk, livestock breeders and indigenous communities, being recognized as a pillar of local, sustainable development and a guarantee for food sovereignty and peace and stability in the world.

We call upon IFAD to work with us to:

1. Improve the image of small-scale family farming, pastoralism and artisanal fisheries as the source of 90% of the food consumed in the world and obtain formal recognition of small-scale producers' status and profession;

2. Strengthen the involvement of smallholder producers' organizations at country level and in operational activities

- IFAD should provide support for the implementation at national level of the Committee on World Food Security's decision calling on governments, small-scale producers and other actors to develop a national vision for the future of smallholder production.
- IFAD should more systematically inform and involve small producer organizations regarding its initiatives and include us in the design and implementation of the loan projects. We are willing to engage in IFAD Country Program Management Teams.
- IFAD should extend its fisheries programs and ensure inclusive space for small-scale fishers' organizations. It should support the implementation and adopt the International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries, and facilitate small-scale fisher organizations' dialogue with national governments.
- We recommend to have a special session on livestock issues and pastoralism at next Farmers Forum,

- IFAD should establish a global grant program for direct support to small holder organizations to increase their capacity in policy and economic areas and to strengthen their initiatives, with special attention to women and youth.

3. Strengthen the interaction between the Farmers' Forum and IFAD governance

- A more continuous and autonomous functioning of the Farmers Forum and its Steering Committee should be ensured in order to enable a more effective contribution to IFAD programs.

- The Steering Committee should be enabled to provide the Executive Board with information and views that can enrich its discussions, through a Steering Committee representative to sit as observer or establishing an advisory group.

4) IFAD and our organizations should strengthen coordination in international forums/institutions.

- IFAD should adopt CFS policy instruments, apply them to IFAD projects and programs.

We call upon the governments to:

- keep supporting IFAD as a key institution that channels resources to the smallholder food producing sector,
- implement at national level the decisions taken in the CFS and ICARRD,
- Involve producers' organizations in the design and implementation of all IFAD programs and projects and in the IFAD Country Program Management Teams.

Thank you very much for your attention!