

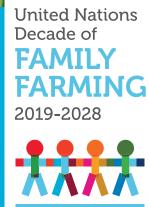








UNDFF Regional
Action Plan for
strengthening
family farming in
South Asia 2021–2028



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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFA Asian Farmer Association for Sustainable Rural Development

AVCs Agri-food value chains

AP Asia and the Pacific

ARD Agriculture and Rural Development

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FF Family farming

FFOs Family farmers' organizations

FFPOs Forest and farm producer organizations

FOs Farmers' organizations

FSF Future smart foods

GAP Global Action Plan

GHG Greenhouse gas

GI Geographical indication

GOs Government organizations

ICA-AP International Cooperative Alliance – Asia Pacific

ITPGRFA International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

IYFF United Nations' International Year of Family Farming

MSP Minimum support price

NAP National Action Plans

NCFF National Committees on Family Farming

NUS Neglected and underutilized species

RAI Responsible investment in agriculture

R&D Research and development

SAARC South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

SAC South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Agriculture Centre

SDG Sustainable Development Goals

UNDFF United nations Decade of Family Farming

UNDROP United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People in

the Rural Areas

UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

VGGT Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land,

Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security

WFOs World farmers' organizations

Overview of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDFF) and Global Action Plan 2019–2028

Putting family farmers at the centre to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

There are over 2.1 billion poor people in the world of whom 767 million live in extreme poverty (World Bank, 2016). More than 820 million people are chronically hungry (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, 2019). Almost 80 percent of the world's poor and food insecure people live in rural areas, mostly depending on agriculture production for their subsistence. Most of the rural poor are small-scale family food producers who depend on agriculture and aquaculture for their food and income but face many difficulties accessing productive resources, opportunities and markets.¹

SDG 1 to End Poverty and SDG 2 to achieve Zero Hunger will have to be accomplished in the context of climate-change-related hazards that are putting pressure on food systems and are increasingly perceived as a driver of potentially vast migratory flows. By 2050, population growth and dietary changes will drive food needs up by 60 percent, and already jeopardized agricultural production and livelihoods will face the challenging goal of providing a growing population with sufficient and healthy food and preserving a depleted natural resource base. Agriculture produces at least one-quarter of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The effects of climate change are increasingly felt in agriculture itself, which is highly dependent on climate conditions and therefore progressively subject to change and variability, with obvious impacts on food security.

This scenario calls for a necessary transition toward a new paradigm informing food systems and rural development, which puts environmental, social and economic sustainability at the centre, to ensure food and nutrition security for all, preserve the environment and provide jobs and social development opportunities for rural dwellers. Family farmers lie at the heart of this transition.

In both developed and developing countries, family farming (FF) represents the predominant form of food and agricultural production. Family farmers include peasants, indigenous peoples, traditional communities, fisher folks, mountain farmers, pastoralists and many other groups representing every region and biome of the world (FAO and IFAD, 2019).

The Asia and the Pacific (AP) region holds around 60 percent of the world's population and is home to 74 percent of its family farmers, including small-scale farmers, fishers and livestock producers. Small-scale food producers produce almost 80 percent of the milk, and 80-90 percent of aquaculture farms are family based. Overall, family farmers produce 80 percent of the region's food and work 85 percent of the total farmed land.

Ferrand P. and Shrestha R.B. in United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019–2028: Regional Action Plan to Implement the UNDFF for Achieving the SDGs in South Asia (2021).

Given the enormous diversity of family farmers around the world, there is no single definition of family farming. It can be regarded as "a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production, which is managed and operated by a family, and predominantly reliant on family capital and labor, including both women and men. The family and the farm are linked, co-evolve and combine economic, environmental, social and cultural functions" (FAO, 2013). Family farming has been defined as a way of life.

Considering the multi-dimensional nature of family farmers, they play a key role in contributing to food security and nutrition, managing natural resources, ensuring the cohesion of rural communities and preserving cultural heritage. They produce the majority of the world's food, providing healthy, diversified and culturally appropriate diets. They are major investors in the agriculture sector and the foundation of business and economic structures in rural areas, generating on- and off-farm job opportunities, and significantly contributing to the endogenous growth of the rural economy.

However, family farmers face multiple challenges. In the AP region, family farming is very diverse, ranging from full-time family members' farming with the support of wage labour, to small-scale and subsistence farming. But the rural population is ageing, with young farmers and men migrating and threatening the generational sustainability of food systems. Many small-scale farmers, fishers, indigenous peoples and pastoralists are displaced due to the lack of legal recognition of their customary tenure rights. While the process of tenure reform has been slow in some countries, in others there has been a significant transfer of forestlands to family farmers and positive policy changes in their favour. Women have limited access to productive resources and opportunities, particularly in land, livestock, labour, education, extension and financial services, and technology. This limits their capacity to generate marketable surpluses and add value to their production, but also limits the income they receive from their work on the farm, which is barely 20 percent of the family's farming income while providing up to 85 percent of the work.

To play a key role in the establishment and management of sustainable food systems, family farming needs an enabling policy environment that turns its whole potential into reality while tackling current challenges. Enabling policies for family farmers must address the root causes of rural poverty, food insecurity, migration and environmental degradation. This requires a multidimensional and integrated approach: a coherent strategy to support family farming transcends agricultural policies, as helping small-scale food producers improve productivity is not enough. Enhancing capacities of governments, institutions, producer organizations and researchers to design and implement integrated family farming and rural development strategies is paramount. This implies looking at more complex sets of objectives, including securing access to land and other natural resources, achieving gender equality, enhancing market opportunities, reducing costs and inputs dependency, guaranteeing universal social protection coverage, promoting strong organizations, increasing resilience from natural and economic shocks, and adapting to climate change.

The United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDFF), 2019–2028

Family farming has been gaining global attention since 2014, which was designated the United Nations' International Year of Family Farming (IYFF). By dedicating an international year to family farming, the United Nations repositioned family farming at the centre of agricultural, environmental and social policies in national agendas and achieved a shift toward a more equal and balanced development. The IYFF fuelled a robust process of political dialogue among the 197 Member States of FAO, involving all relevant actors, which resulted in the formulation of national and regional policies, programmes, activities, and institutional arrangements in support of family farming. Multi-actor platforms, including around 50 National Committees on Family Farming (NCFF), have been created for policy dialogue, stimulating strong political commitment in favour of family farming (high-level political declarations and civil society mobilization at national and regional levels). In light of the achievements of the IYFF, and as a result of the ensuing IYFF+10 campaign launched on 20 December 2017, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2019–2028 as the UNDFF at its 72nd Session (UNGA Resolution A/RES/72/239).

The United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019–2028 was officially launched in Rome, Italy, on May 29 2019 by IFAD and FAO. It serves as a framework for countries to develop public policies and investments to support family farming from a holistic perspective, unleashing the transformative potential of family farmers to contribute to achieving the SDGs. The UNDFF mobilizes global commitment and actions towards economic, social and environmental dimensions, focusing on innovation, knowledge sharing, capacity building, tailored technology and access to markets as the basis to formulate impactful actions and strategies. By placing family farming at the centre of the international agenda for a period of ten years, the UNDFF provides an unprecedented possibility to achieve positive change throughout global food systems.

The Global Action Plan (GAP) seven pillars and National Action Plans (NAP)

To guide the implementation of the UNDFF, a Global Action Plan (GAP) was developed through a systematically organized six-month consultation process including all relevant stakeholders. It identifies seven pillars of action to design policies, programmes and regulations for the support of family farming and it provides a comprehensive framework to guide actions to be taken by the various actors at different levels in the next ten years.

The GAP provides an extensive list of activities through various modalities of action, including data collection pertaining to specific issues, advisory and extension services, and communication and advocacy activities tailored to target groups. Developing the capacities of family farmers and other stakeholders across a wide spectrum must be reinforced as a key component, along with strengthening inclusive governance mechanisms. These activities can provide a base for appropriate and adequately financed public policies that support family farming.

According to the pillars of work presented above, an enabling policy environment (Pillar 1) needs to be in place to achieve and sustain progress in food security and nutrition. This enabling environment can provide a framework for specific strategies

and interventions tailored to family farming groups facing distinctive economic, environmental and social realities, and equipped with various assets.

To guarantee the future of family farming while building on the essential contribution of women to agriculture, transformative actions must be taken to incentivize the active engagement, and the leadership and socio-economic inclusion of youth and women. Activities to ensure the generational renewal (Pillar 2–Transversal) and to promote gender equity and equality (Pillar 3–Transversal) in family farming will be mainstreamed in all the other work pillars.

Providing tailored support to organizations of family farmers (Pillar 4) is paramount. This includes all the various sectors of food producers, such as farmers, fishers, pastoralists, forest users and indigenous peoples. This is essential not only to enhance and amplify sustainable food production practices, or to strengthen their capacity to access and generate economic opportunities, but also to empower them to better access necessary resources, services and markets and to bolster their collective action to participate meaningfully in negotiations and policy processes.

Helping family farmers increase their productivity is not enough. Reflecting the diversity of family farmers and improving their livelihood and economic viability in a manner that enables them to escape poverty – a focus on the provision of the minimum requirements for the households of rural family farmers—is also required (Pillar 5). Specific steps are essential to promote sustainable food production, processing and distribution practices in agriculture, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, and forestry (Pillar 6), to support the multifunctional nature and performance of family farming, which provide services to food production, nourishing cultures and agro-biodiversity and providing diversified rural economic opportunities (Pillar 7).

While developing the intervention under the specific pillars, actions are to be adapted and contextualized according to concrete regional, national and local (territorial) geographical, agroecological, sociocultural and socio-economic conditions. Moreover, as a precondition for the successful implementation of the UNDFF, a bottom-up approach is recommended, in participative and inclusive processes, placing family farmers at the forefront. While encouraging multi-actor collaboration at all levels, the Global Action Plan also invites all actors to revise their specific roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis the support of family farming and increasing the sustainability of our food systems.²

² FAO and IFAD. (2019). United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 Global Action Plan.

A participatory and multi-stakeholder approach for developing the Regional Action Plan

At regional and country levels, action plans are contextualized frameworks of action for the support of family farming. These context specific action plans promote interinstitutional cooperation aimed at the integration of specific family farmers' issues into policies and strategies related to the wider food and agriculture sector. They encourage the integration of broader social and environmental sector considerations into dedicated policies for family farmers. Actions plans are developed, promoted and implemented through inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach including governments, FAO, IFAD, producers/ farmers organizations and other relevant actors.

The Regional Action Plan for strengthening family farming in South Asia has been elaborated through a participatory and multi-stakeholder approach. Consultations with farmers' organizations, cooperatives and other relevant stakeholders at country level first helped identifying and prioritizing key interventions for the region along the seven pillars of the Global Action Plan. These initial inputs then contributed to the overall drafting of the contextualized pillars led by recognized experts from the region.

The draft pillars were presented during a first regional virtual consultation on UN Decade of Family Farming: Formulating Strategies and Action Plan to Strengthen Smallholder Family Farmers in South Asia held on the 5–6 November 2020. It was organized by the SAARC Agriculture Centre, Bangladesh as part of its 2020 work plan approved by the 13th SAC Governing Board and 57th Programming Committee, in collaboration with Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), Philippines, and the International Cooperative Alliance Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP), India, and the technical assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP) Thailand.

This event gathered over 150 participants from SAARC countries (from government, family farmers' organizations, civil society, experts, professionals, research institutions and cooperatives). National Focal Point Experts of SAARC Member States, alongside with other government officials, presented the situation of family farming in their country, as well as on-going and planned efforts to make a national action plan for the UNDFF. This initial regional consultation meeting marked an important step in elaborating jointly the draft regional action plan for the UNDFF in South Asia. It contributed to defining the key priorities, strategies and actions to implement the UNDFF in South Asia.

A follow up regional consultation meeting on review and finalization of the Regional Action Plan for strengthening family farming in South Asia was then organized by FAO in collaboration with SAARC Agriculture Centre, the Asia Farmer Association for Sustainable Rural Development and the International Cooperative Alliance – Asia Pacific on 29 July 2021. The objective was to present, discuss and validate the draft Regional Action Plan for strengthening family farming in South Asia built upon past fruitful exchanges.

This Regional Action Plan aims at facilitating and accelerating the process of developing national action plans through inclusive multi-stakeholder processes, not only putting family farmers at the centre but recognizing them as critical partners. The consultation was attended by 75+ representatives from SAARC member states, farmers' organizations and cooperatives. The event was very successful. Five SAARC countries as well as the director of Agriculture and Rural Development and SAARC Development Fund (ARD and SDF) from the SAARC Secretariat issued supportive statements and committed to further support the implementation of the Regional Action Plan.





Develop an enabling policy environment to strengthen family farming in South Asia

PRIORITY POLICIES AREAS EXPECTED OUTCOME:	PRIORITY ACTIONS	INDICATORS	TIMEFRAME	LEADING INSTITUTIONS
1.1 Accessed reliable, tir	mely and locally relevant data to supporing, and evaluation for strengthening f		s, including:	policy formulation,
1.1.1 Institutionalization of inclusive data management systems for inclusive, reliable, valid, and regular data collection, processing, analysis and policy process.	 Provide capacity building of the SAARC Member States on data collection, processing, analysis, policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation to strengthen family farming. Guide and orient Member States to conduct multi-dimensional, multifaceted, need-based, inclusive, strategic and participatory research on family farming for formulating evidence-based policies. Strengthen the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) as an information and knowledge hub and develop a framework to guide and harmonize information management. Develop a platform for sharing knowledge and best practices/experiences among Member States to convert into policies. 	 Framework/ guidelines on inclusive and participatory data collection, processing and analysis. Publication of SAC on agriculture statistics in online and print versions. Number of trainings, workshops and meeting conducted. 	2021–2025	 SAARC Agriculture Centre FAO AFA Ministry of agriculture in Member States. National Committee on Family Farming
EXPECTED OUTCOME: 1.2 Enabled political and	financial environment towards family	farming for sustainable (development	
meaningful, coherent and effective political commitment and societal engagement to promote family farming. 1.2.2 Create an investment climate for national and foreign investments in promoting family farmers. 1.2.3 Promote accessible financial schemes, including to credits with affordable interest rate across the value chains.	 Coordination among government organizations (GOs), development partners, civil societies, cooperatives, private sector, community-based organizations, and commodity associations to bring political and societal commitment towards family farmers. Strengthen south-south and south-north, and multi-stakeholder collaboration. Facilitate Member States to formulate incentivized financial instruments including credit guidelines favourable to family farming. 	 Numbers of workshops/ dialogues conducted. Increase programme budget in public and private sectors in family farming. Guidelines on agricultural credit prepared in each Member States. 	2021–2028	 Political parties, civil society, cooperative federations, and commodity associations Intergovernmental organizations Development partners Central bank in Member State Ministry of finance in Member State

PRIORITY POLICIES AREAS	PRIORITY ACTIONS	INDICATORS	TIMEFRAME	LEADING INSTITUTIONS
	d effective governance system for design ncluding promoting farmers' rights.	gn, implementation, mon	itoring and e	valuation of
1.3.1 Improve the governance system supporting family farming through strategic programming. 1.3.2 Promote participatory development approach to ensure the contribution, ownership and empowerment of family farmers. 1.3.3 Promote farmers' rights to strengthen family farmers for sustainable, inclusive and resilient agriculture and food systems.	 Develop guidelines and operating procedures, establish policy think tanks, multi-stakeholder platforms on policy dialogue for inclusive and effective governance to promote family farming. Facilitate Member States on formulating farmers' rights act and regulations to strengthen family farming. 	 Prepared guidelines for inclusive and effective governance system on family farming. Number of workshops and meetings. Formulated farmers' rights act and regulations in each Member State. 	2021–2024	 SAC FAO Ministry of agriculture in Member State Ministry of law and justice in SAARC member states Cabinet and parliament in Member State
1.4 Enhanced coherence	EXPECTED OUTCOME: 1.4 Enhanced coherence and integration of inputs and outputs markets/trade among Member States and trading partners in support of family farming.			
 1.4.1 Access agricultural inputs (peasant and local varieties of seeds, natural fertilizers and bio-pesticides, equipment, etc.). 1.4.2 Access markets for products of family farming in the domestic markets. 1.4.3 Foster agriculture trade between Member States and trading partners in the South Asia region. 	 Conduct research on inter-country trade trends and potential areas for fostering trade. Bilateral and multilateral agreements among the Member States and trading actors for agricultural inputs and outputs. Facilitate Member States to formulate policies for inputs, production and post-harvest of the family farming. Trade harmonization among the Member States for inputs and outputs. 	 Report on agricultural trade. Number of agreements, and policies formulated. 	2024–2025	 SAC and SAFTA FAO Ministry of industry and commerce in Member State Ministry of agriculture, Ministry of foreign affairs in Member State
EXPECTED OUTCOME: 1.5 Enhanced economies	of scale in production and marketing o	of family farming.		
1.5.1 Strengthen family farmers' cooperatives across the value chain of the most potential commodities.1.5.2 Develop inclusive, sustainable and efficient regional value chains and supply chains.	 Conduct research on potential family farmers' products for regional value chain. Build strong linkages between production, processing and marketing. Capacity building of farmers' cooperatives and strengthen regional supply chains. 	 Research report. Number of training and workshops. Reduce marketing margin. 	2021–2028	 Ministry of agriculture in Member State Family Farmers' Cooperative ICA-AP and AFA SAC, FAO

Transversal. Support youth and ensure the generational sustainability of family farming in South Asia

PRIORITY POLICIES	PRIORITY ACTIONS	INDICATORS	TIMEFRAME	LEADING INSTITUTIONS
2.1 Increased, decent an economic migration of years.	d rewarding employment for youth in touth.	he rural-urban continuur	n and reduce	d rural to urban forced/
2.1.1 Youth acting as agents of sustainable development and being involved in rural development	 Organize multidimensional agriculture-based enterprises trainings for youth. 	 Number of youth trainings in agribusiness. 	2021–2028	 IFAD, FAO, Ministry of agriculture in Member State and concerned national institutions
through family farming campaign.	 Strengthen enabling environment for promoting youth through empowering private sector throughout the value chains in agriculture. 	Number of youth leaders in rural organizations.	2021–2028	• SAC, AFA, FAO, ICA-AP
2.1.2 Inclusive mechanisms to promote youth participation in decision making processes.	 Promote the participation and leadership role of youths in policy making processes. 	 Number of youths awarded on public policies and their involvement in policy making processes. 	2021–2026	• SAC, AFA, FAO, ICA-AP
	 Promote knowledge sharing on public policies supporting and promoting young farmers. 			
EXPECTED OUTCOME: 2.2 Improved capacity of with new solutions.	f young farmers on sustainable innovat	ive practices interconnec	ting tradition	al knowledge
2.2.1 Capacity development programmes on technical skills for young family farmers and their organizations provided.	 Promote ntergenerational knowledge exchanges. Organize entrepreneurship development trainings for farmers. Promote digitized and innovative agriculture and enterprise development. 	 Number of entrepreneurs developed by family farmers. 	2021–2028	 Ministry of agriculture in Member State, National Committee of family farmers
	 Organize capacity development activities on value adding activities at farm level for better access to market and maximize profit. 	 Training, workshops and seminars to share experiences and knowledge 		
	 Support for exposure (national and international) to learn different modern agriculture technologies and innovative agribusiness enterprises. 			

PRIORITY POLICIES	PRIORITY ACTIONS	INDICATORS	TIMEFRAME	LEADING INSTITUTIONS
EXPECTED OUTCOME: 2.3 Improved generation	al turnover in agriculture, fisheries and	l forestry.		
2.3.1. Public policies and locally adapted facilities for the support of farm succession, farm start-up, etc. in place and implemented.	 Provide supportive legal and financial measures to facilitate the intergenerational transfer of farming resources. 	 Number of countries where the legal framework developed incentivizing generational turnover in agriculture. 	2021–2028	 Ministry of agriculture in Member State, National Committee of FF
	 Promote inter-generational and intra-generational exchange of information, knowledge and practices on entrance into farming (farm succession, farm set-up, etc.). 			
EXPECTED OUTCOME: 2.4 Improved access of tinfrastructure, financial s	he next generation of family farmers to services and to markets.	natural resources, prod	uctive assets,	education, information,
 2.4.1 Public policies improving access and tenure security of young family farmers over natural resources in place and implemented. 2.4.2 Policy measures facilitating access to farming assets, financial services and markets for youth in place and 	 Provide incentives for young farmers to access tangible and intangible productive assets (also related to agroecology and solidarity economy), new, adaptable technologies and to remunerative markets. Promote public and private finance in youth agriculture across the value chains. Promote the development, 	 Number of legal framework (including customary law) improves youth rights and access to natural resources and productive assets, information, infrastructure, services and markets. 	2021–2028	• SAC, AFA, FAO, ICA-AP
implemented.	review and implementation of public policies and frameworks to support the access of youth to land and the recognition of their legitimate tenure rights by applying guidance provided in international instruments.			

Transversal. Promote gender equity in family farming and the leadership role of rural women in South Asia

PRIORITY POLICIES INDICATORS TIMEFRAME LEADING INSTITUTIONS **REGIONAL LEVEL ACTIONS** 3.1. Recognition of women farmers as equal players in family farming and in the agri-food supply chain. 2021-2028 Number of SAC, AFA, and other 3.1.1. Support the Multi-sectoral round table discussion enactment/amendment to identify legal framework and legislation and regional partners of national policies and implementation hurdles; and programmes enacted programmes that will to draft recommendations that and amended that result in: may include policy reforms/ would enhance full engagement of change, innovative programs, and the engagement of women in agri-food guidelines that address the needs women in agrisupply chains. and aspirations of rural women. food value chains, participation in the Support research studies/ their participation decision-making documentation capturing women's in decision-making process. voices, followed by awarenessprocesses, and their leadership roles raising on women's contribution access to social (beyond the and how gender equality helps rights. eliminate poverty, malnutrition and Number of numbers), ownership programmes that management. food insecurity. enhanced access - Women farmers' conditions, integrate the concept to social rights, needs, and demands of "family farming" - Gender-based constraints and engage men education, health, and social protection in its awarenessassessment - supply chain for women. - Legal provisions required to raising. reduce the gender gap Lobby and organize strategic capacity building activities for legislators, lawmakers, programme planners to enact needed policy and programme reforms such as: - Gender-responsive policy and programme - Gender-sensitive budgeting - Efficient services for the family farmers - Special provision and standards for gender equity/equality - Processes to ensure active and qualitative "participation" of Capacity building activities related to nutrition improvement such as food and nutrition education. Implement monitoring and evaluation plan in a participatory

EXPECTED OUTCOME

3.2 Improved women farmers' agency and their increased access to natural resources, (re-) productive assets, information, infrastructure, financial services, and markets.

manner for policies and programmes to see how they affect women

PRIORITY POLICIES	REGIONAL LEVEL ACTIONS	INDICATORS	TIMEFRAME	LEADING INSTITUTIONS
a.2.1 Amend and ensure implementation of gender responsive policies such as land use, land reform and Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) that will improve access, control, and tenure security of women over natural resources are amended and well implemented. 3.2.2 Ensure policy measures placed and implemented which facilitate access to productive assets, financial services, and markets for women in family farming in place and implemented. EXPECTED OUTCOME:	 Promote legal and institutional framework where women and girls have equal access, control, and tenure rights to land and natural resources independent of their civil and marital status; and access to agriculture information and education, women-friendly capacity building programme (responsive to their needs and burdens), financial services, infrastructure, women-friendly and laboursaving technologies, and services that decreaese women's multiple burdens. Initiate/organize a regional network of women farmers/family farmers to strengthen their market access Organize regional exchange programme for women farmer leaders. 	 Number of amended policies that are gender responsive. Number of policy measures in place that facilitates access to productive assets, financial services, and markets. Number of regional network of women farmers strengthened. 	2021–2026	SAC, AFA and other regional organizations
	 Advocate farmers' cooperatives and agri-based enterprises development as a strategy to address rural poverty with specific emphasis on multiple gains if women can access resources through their organizations. Advocate and develop capacity building programme such as standardized training courses, manuals and modules that can be disseminated at the national level, building on existing materials. Production, processing, marketing, and use of ICT Enterprise development and management – financial, business planning and business management, sustaining enterprises Essential leadership and organizing skills – on leadership and advocacy skills to achieve meaningful participation in policymaking, implementation, and monitoring processes 	 Number of legislations, programmes that promote the strengthening of women enterprises and cooperatives. Number of programmes that aim to build the capacity of women to govern and manage enterprises. Number of regional leadership conference for women farmers. Number of standardized training courses disseminated at the national level. 	2022–2026	 SAC, AFA and other regional partners

PRIORITY POLICIES	REGIONAL LEVEL ACTIONS	INDICATORS	TIMEFRAME	LEADING INSTITUTIONS
	Advocate for gender-sensitive rural advisory and extension services to improve women's inclusion in activities along the supply chain. As part of extension service mechanisms: promote the development of a coordinating committee within governments focused on family farming with women as key participants.			
EXPECTED OUTCOME: 3.4. Eliminate all kinds of	of violence against women and girls in f	family farming and rural	areas.	
3.4.1 Policies, programs, and institutions to prevent, denounce, protect and assist the elimination of violence against women implemented.	 Produce information, statistical data, and studies on violence against rural women, produce and share information on what women can do when they are in danger (i.e hotlines, shelters, institutions that can support them), and how to identify violence. Awareness-raising campaigns on the effects of gender violence on the life of rural women in place; and information, education and communication materials that informs them of support institutions when in danger. Regional consultation to understand and unravel violence against women along the agri-food value chain. This will be targeted to institutions assisting rural women. Support the conduct of campaigns concerning the effects of gender violence on the life of rural women. 	 Number of publications. Number of events related to achieving outcomes. 	2022–2024	SAC, AFA, and other regional partners

Strengthen family farmers' organizations and capacities to generate knowledge, represent farmers and provide inclusive services in the urban-rural continuum in South Asia

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PRIORITY POLICIES (EXPECTED OUTPUTS)	PRIORITY ACTIONS (REGIONAL LEVEL)	INDICATORS	TIMEFRAME	LEADING INSTITUTIONS
EXPECTED OUTCOME:				
	nd organizational capacities of family f	armers' organizations to	better serve	their members
and communities.				
4.1.1 Build and strengthen the capacities of concerned government agencies and leaders of family farmers organizations in establishing and strengthening family farmers' organizations/ associations/ cooperatives. 4.1.2 Declare a day as a SAARC family farmers' cooperative day. 4.1.3 Formulate a roadmap to promote agricultural cooperatives, harmonize the region's principles, guidelines, framework on agricultural cooperatives. 4.1.4 Recognize the role of family farmers' cooperatives in the proposed SAARC Plan of Action for Cooperation on the Matters Relating to Cooperatives and involve them in its implementation.	Creation of multi-stakeholder working group on agri cooperatives within SAC which will manage: Yearly national and regional Agri Cooperative Business Forum for sharing experiences and policy dialogues. Learning exchanges, study visits, training programs, dissemination of successful cooperatives through print, video and mass/social media, exchanges with other Asian sub regions such as with ASEAN. Establishment of a sub-regional data portal on cooperatives. Promote coop-to-coop partnerships and businesses at country and regional levels, establishing a multi-stakeholder regional network of agriculture cooperatives for sharing and exchange and link to international markets. Knowledge exchange and best practices on strengthening farmers' organizations (FOs), including a South-South exchange on policies in recognizing family farmer's organizations (FFOs) and cooperatives. Awards for outstanding FOs and cooperatives, including development of characteristics of outstanding FFOs and cooperatives.	 Number of countries with strengthened organizations of family farmers. Number of commodity fora established. SAARC cooperative business forum held regularly (2 per year) across all sub sectors. Number of countries with active partnerships of FOs at country level. 	From 2021 onwards	• SAARC, with partners FAO, IFAD, AFA, ICA-AP
	6 10 1			

Seed Board.

PRIORITY POLICIES (EXPECTED OUTPUTS)	PRIORITY ACTIONS (REGIONAL LEVEL)	INDICATORS	TIMEFRAME	LEADING INSTITUTIONS
4.1.5 Recognize the role of farmers' organizations and cooperatives and women leaders in accessing support for their endeavours on inclusive value chain and sustainable food systems.	Development and use of training modules on organizational development, cooperative management, and community seed banks.			
EXPECTED OUTCOME: 4.2 FFOs can access and	provide farm and non-farm services to	their members.		
4.2.1 National in scope.	National in scope.			
EXPECTED OUTCOME: 4.3 FFPOs conduct colle	ctive action			
 4.3.1 SAARC supports FFPO collective actions in pursuit of their own agenda, and in alignment with the global instruments, including United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People in the Rural Areas (UNDROP) VGGT Responsible agricultural investments Sustainable food systems in Asia, among others 	 Seminars on Global Policy Instruments Conducted (UNDROP, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC], International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture [ITPGRFA]) Seminars, Mapping of land investments via VGGT, responsible investment in agriculture (RAI) compliance Consultation on sustainable food systems Capacity sharing on climate change adaptation and mitigation Creation of a farmers' empowerment fund, farmers' resiliency fund and farmers' investment funds 	 At least one sharing session every two years Number of FFOs doing collective action to promote these global policies Number of policies developed that are aligned with these global policy instruments 	2021 onwards	 SAC with FAO, AFA, ICA-AP With IFAD: initial exploration of farmers' empowerment fund
EXPECTED OUTCOME: 4.4 Voices of family farm	ners are heard, and information and con	nmunication technolgy c	apacities imp	roved
 4.4.1 Conduct regular policy with involvement of FFPOs in its design and implementation 4.4.2 Strengthen capacities of GOs in including FOs in policy making and in recognizing their voices 	 Multi-stakeholder technical committee on UNDFF, agri cooperatives and community-based seed systems and representatives of farmers in SAARC Seed Board, selected by the FFOs themselves. FFO representation in the SAARC Seed Board. Inclusion of FO representatives in policy making processes of government. Recognize traditional local knowledge of farmers. 	 Number of national action plans developed, with multi-stakeholder approach, and with meaningful involvement of FFOs in design, implementation and monitoring. Number of representatives of FOs in governance structures of working groups/committees, including SAARC Seed Board and proposed multi stakeholder WG. 	2021 onwards	• SAC with FAO, AFA

PRIORITY POLICIES (EXPECTED OUTPUTS)	PRIORITY ACTIONS (REGIONAL LEVEL)	INDICATORS	TIMEFRAME	LEADING INSTITUTIONS
4.4.3 Enact/review/ revise communications policies to support community radio, broadcasts and podcasts.	 Training on participatory communications planning and subsequent capacity building to effectively implement the participatory communications plan. Development of multi-stakeholder platform on communications development. 	 Number of countries and number of FFOs and number of NCFFs with communications strategies, services, platforms 	2021–2022 2022 onwards	SAC with FAO, AFA, ComDev Asia

Improve socio-economic inclusion, resilience and wellbeing of family farmers, rural households and communities in South Asia

PRIORITY POLICIES	PRIORITY ACTIONS (REGIONAL)	INDICATORS	TIMEFRAME	LEADING INSTITUTIONS		
EXPECTED OUTCOME: 5.1 Living standard and welfare of family farmers and communities enhanced by reducing risks and vulnerability to natural disasters, climate change, pandemics, and market variability.						
5.1.1 Policy on future smart foods (FSF) value chains (e.g. Neglected and underutilized species (NUS) crops, trees, livestock, fishery). 5.1.2 Policy on social protection schemes (e.g. agricultural and health insurance) to reduce risks and vulnerability.	 Participatory value chain development and promotion for future smart foods. Social protection schemes, mainly agricultural and health insurance programmes to reduce risks and vulnerability of vulnerable communities and family farmers. 	 Family farmers and vulnerable communities reached/covered with the value chains of FSF/NUS. Coverage of agricultural and health insurance programmes for family farmers and vulnerable communities. 	2020–2025	 Ministry of agriculture, R&D institutions, the private sector, financing institutions. 		
EXPECTED OUTCOME: 5.2 Farmers' access to and control over natural resources (land, water, forests), financial resources and productive assets (land, livestock, equipment etc.) strengthened.						
5.2.1 Forestry, water and land policies, and laws to promote access and entitlement to natural resources.5.2.2 Financial and resource policy and laws to enhance access and ownership of productive assets.	 Implement land use plans and mapping schemes that support access to land, water and forests for poor, women and vulnerable communities. Promote community forestry, communal ponds, and community land management programmes. 	 Enhance % share of poor, women and vulnerable communities' access to land, water and forest resources. Increase the access to resources for poor, women and vulnerable communities. 	2020–2025	 Ministry of land, agriculture and environment; Ministry of water resources, Ministry of fisheries, community-based institutions 		

PRIORITY POLICIES	PRIORITY ACTIONS (REGIONAL)	INDICATORS	TIMEFRAME	LEADING INSTITUTIONS	
EXPECTED OUTCOME: 5.3 The resilience and economic viability of family farms enhanced through sustainable and diversified farming and food systems.					
5.3.1 Policy on sustainable agricultural practices to build resilience and economic viability.5.3.2 Policies on minimum support price (MSP) and public procurement enforced.	 Promote sustainable practices (e.g. climate-smart agriculture and agroecological approaches). Program for minimum support Prices and public procurement for FSF/NUS products. 	 Increased community coverage of sustainable agricultural practices/ number of family farmers accessing sustainable practices. Volume/quantity of FSF/ NUS products procured. 	2020–2025	 Ministry of agriculture, local government, academia and Research institutions, cooperatives, family farmers' organizations 	
EXPECTED OUTCOME: 5.4 Farmers access to loc	cal and international markets and dive	rsified income generating	options imp	roved.	
5.4.1 Policy and guidelines on organic/ecological farming.5.4.2 Geographical indication (GI) policy for promoting native unique biodiverse products.	 Organic and GI programmes for native and biodiverse products. Build capacity of small farmers to enhance diversified access to regional and global markets. 	 Technologies and standards available for organic and GI products. Reformed/ harmonized trade and market policies and laws. 	2020–2025	 Ministry of agriculture; Ministry of commerce and industry. Private sector (chamber of commerce), FFOs, institutions (CGIAR) 	

PILLAR 6 Promote sustainability of family farming for climate-resilient food systems in South Asia

PRIORITY POLICIES	PRIORITY ACTIONS (REGIONAL LEVEL)	INDICATORS	TIMEFRAME	LEADING INSTITUTIONS		
EXPECTED OUTCOME: 6.1 Sustainable and responsible management of natural resources with increased access to productive assets and services to the family farmers.						
 6.1.1 Incentivize family farmers' access to natural resources and promote sustainable and locally adaptable technologies. 6.1.2 Technology development for sustainable management of natural resources. 	 Formulate policies to improve family farmers' rights to use, manage and control natural resources of family farmers. Promote locally adaptable and innovative technologies. Capacity building and awareness creation on proper utilization and management of natural resources. 	 Number of policies. Number of innovative and improved technologies. 	2021–2023	 Ministry of agriculture, ministry of Finance, FAO 		
EXPECTED OUTCOME: 6.2 Sustainable practice	s for climate-resilient agri-food system	s.				
 6.2.1 Promote conservation agriculture (and other sustainable agriculture practices) and renewal of natural resources. 6.2.2 Strengthen family farmers' capacities on climate change adaptation and mitigation. 	 Conduct research on innovative climate resilient agricultural technologies. Optimize the diversity of species and genetic resources. Promote climate-smart agriculture for adaptation and mitigation measures in agriculture. Capacity development of farmers and actors in the value chains for sustainable and resilient agricultural development. 	Number of policies on natural resource conservation.	2022–2026	 Ministry of agriculture, ministry of environment, forestry and climate change, UN organizations 		
EXPECTED OUTCOME: 6.3 Inclusive market env	ironment for family farmers.					
6.3.1 Increase investment supporting infrastructure for sustainable market linkage of family farmers. 6.3.2 Develop short, diversified and nutritious food supply chain. 6.3.3 Increase family farmers' capacities (knowledge and practices) on valueadding activities and marketing strategies.	 Develop policy frameworks, institutional arrangements and infrastructure supporting the development of markets for family farmers. Capacity development and collaboration between family farmers and their organizations on processing and other value-adding activities. Technological and financial support for agricultural entrepreneurs and agro-processing and agribusiness development. 	 Policies framework. Number of trainings. Number of profitable value and markets infrastructures. 	2021–2024	 Ministry of agriculture, ministry of finance, SAC 		

PRIORITY POLICIES	PRIORITY ACTIONS (REGIONAL LEVEL)	INDICATORS	TIMEFRAME	LEADING INSTITUTIONS		
EXPECTED OUTCOME: 6.4 Encouraging involvement of women, youth and their organization in inclusive, sustainable and efficient value chain development.						
6.4.1 Develop policies and regulatory framework for increased engagement of youth and women across the value chains.	 Providing timely and locally relevant information, fair, remunerative and transparent prices for family farmers' work and investments. Develop policies on responsible contract farming and inclusive business models. 	 Contract farming regulatory framework. 	2022–2028	 Ministry of agriculture, ministry of women and children's affairs, AFA 		
EXPECTED OUTCOME: 6.5 Improving resilience	capacity of family farmers to climate-re	elated shocks in the food	system			
6.5.1 Strengthening R&D in climate resilience agricultural technologies and agroecology. 6.5.2 Increase family farmers' capacities to adapt to climate-related shocks.	 Develop integrated, multispectral policies, strategies and programmes that address the economic, environmental and social constraints family farmers. Promote e-agriculture information services to the family farmers in production and marketing. Promote farmers group, cooperatives and their organization to build their social capital. 	 Number of countries developed integrated policies to face climate-related shocks. 	2022–2028	 Ministry of agriculture, environment, forestry and climate change, ministry of disaster management, ICA, AFA 		

PILLAR 7

systems.

Strengthen the multi-dimensionality of family farming to promote social innovations contributing to territorial development and food systems that safeguard biodiversity, environment and culture in South Asia

PRIORITY POLICIES	PRIORITY ACTIONS (REGIONAL LEVEL)	INDICATORS	TIMEFRAME	LEADING INSTITUTIONS		
EXPECTED OUTCOME: 7.1 Improved synergies between production systems (crops, livestock, fisheries, and forestry), increased use of good agricultural practices, improved provision of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and conservation of cultural heritage by family farms.						
7.1.1 Public policies and legal regulations that incentive the use of sustainable production systems that safeguard and promote the dynamic management of genetic and natural resources. 7.1.2 Public policies and legal regulations that incentivize family farms to conserve and transfer indigenous knowledge, technologies, and cultural heritage. 7.1.3 Public policies and legal regulations that minimize the use of chemicals in AVCs. 7.1.4 Strengthen family farmers' capacities to plan and manage sustainable production	 Provide public policies and programmes including development and transfer of sustainable production systems and good agricultural practices (GAP), which conserve biodiversity and increase synergies between crops, livestock and trees resulting in greater resource use efficiency and productivity. Provide public policies and legal regulations to support family farmers to conserve, sustainably use, exchange, and dynamically manage genetic resources for the provision of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Support family farms and their organizations to build capacities to conserve biodiversity and to sustainably manage agroecosystems. Support family farms to conserve and transfer indigenous knowledge, technology and cultural heritage. 	 Number of policies and strategies aiming at increasing synergies between crop, livestock, fisheries, and forestry to increase biodiversity and ecosystem services by family farmers. Extend of adoption of sustainable production system. Extent of adoption of GAP and increase in crop diversification. Changes in the use of chemicals in AVCs/reduce chemicals for production. Number of incentives received by farmers to adopt sustainable technologies, GAP and cultural heritage. 	2022–2028	Government, regional organizations, and development partners (donor, intergovernmental organizations, research institutions FOs and CSOs)		

PRIORITY POLICIES	PRIORITY ACTIONS (REGIONAL LEVEL)	INDICATORS	TIMEFRAME	LEADING INSTITUTIONS
EXPECTED OUTCOME:				
7.2 Strengthened multi-	functions of family farming that lead to	improved food security,	nutrition and	d rural livelihoods.
 7.2.1 Public policies and programmes that facilitate the transfer of smallholder-friendly, nutrition-sensitive, climate-smart / climate resilient technologies and agro-ecological practices. 7.2.2 Public policies that incentivize farmers to adopt new technologies. 7.2.3 Increase regional, international, and south-south collaborations in agricultural R&D 	 Policies and institutional framework that promote the development, transfer, and use of context specific smallholder-friendly, nutrition-sensitive, climate-smart/ climate resilient technologies and agroecological practices. Support family farms organization to adopt GAPs. Increase partnership with national and international organizations for agricultural R&D and for sharing of Knowledge and technologies. 	 Number of new agricultural policies developed Adoption of smallholder-friendly agricultural technologies Amounts spent on agricultural R&D. Agricultural support received by farmers. Number of new regional and international partnerships developed. 	2022– 2028	 Government, regional organizations, and development partners, private sectors
EXPECTED OUTCOME:				
7.3 Rural and territorial value chains (AVCs), and	development through social innovation I rural-urban linkages	ı, new employment oppo ,	rtunities, incl	usive agri-food
7.3.1 Public policies and institutional framework that promote social innovations such as groups and cooperatives in AVCs. 7.3.2 Public policies that support the development of inclusive AVCs with a focus on disadvantaged groups such as women. 7.3.3 Public policies and programmes that promote vertical and horizontal integration of value chains 7.3.4 Policies and programmes to empower women and youth in agriculture 7.3.5 Public policies promoting territorial development with increased rural-urban linkages.	 Promote incentives and institutional framework for family farms that foster social innovations in territorial development. Provide policies that incentivize farmer producer organizations (FPOs) and women farmer organizations (WFOs) to participate in inclusive AVCs and to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem services. Promote policies to preserve culture and incentivize inclusive rural services (group farming, integration of marginalized groups into society, education on health diets). Build capacities of FPOs and WFOs Promote inclusive territorial development polices with increased investment in rural infrastructure to enhance rural-urban linkages so that family farms play vital roles in local economies (agro-tourism, recreation, cultural events, local foods). 	 Number of new agricultural policies developed Increase in efficiency of AVCs. Number of women headed households participating in AVCs Number of of FPOs and WFOs incentivized to take part to biodiversity friendly projects No. of countries with improved access of family farmers to technologies, services, knowledge, finance, rural infrastructure, and markets. No. of countries with increased employment opportunities and rural-urban linkages. 	2021–2028	Government, regional organizations, and development partners. private sectors

PRIORITY POLICIES	PRIORITY ACTIONS (REGIONAL LEVEL)	INDICATORS	TIMEFRAME	LEADING INSTITUTIONS		
EXPECTED OUTCOME: 7.4 Strengthened economic opportunities and market solutions promoting good and services of the multi-functional family farms.						
7.4.1 Public policies, programmes and institutional framework to develop opportunities and markets for goods and services emerging from multidimensionality of family farms. 7.4.2 Public policies and framework to improve family farms' access to technologies, services, credit, and market 7.4.3 Policies and strategies to preserve traditional products and practices and to improve market access for these products.	 Public policies, institutional framework, and infrastructure that increases economic opportunities and markets for new products, goods, and services of family farms. Public policies and institutional framework for value addition in local products and to increase economic opportunities in both farm and non-farm sectors. Develop market system and improve farmers' access to markets especially to women. Build capacity of family farms to quality production, branding, and labelling as well as benefitting from the emerging economic opportunities and markets. 	 Level of access to markets and infrastructure Level of access to resources, technology and services to FPOs and WFOs Number of countries with improved access of family farmers to technologies, services, knowledge, finance infrastructure, and markets. Number of countries with increased value addition to products of family farms. 	2021–2028	 Government, regional organizations, and development partners, private sectors 		

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