



2014 *International Year of Family Farming* (IYFF)

What is family farming?

Family farming includes all family-based agricultural activities, and it is linked to several areas of rural development. Family farming is a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family labour, including both women's and men's.



Photo credit: Ndhiwa Maarifa Centre

The 2014 International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) aims to raise the profile of family farming and smallholder farming by focusing world attention on its significant role in eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development, in particular in rural areas.

The goal of the 2014 IYFF is to reposition family farming at the centre of agricultural, environmental and social policies in the national agendas by identifying gaps and opportunities to promote a shift towards a more equal and balanced development.

Objectives of IYFF

Support the development of policies conducive to sustainable family farming by encouraging governments to establish the enabling environment (conducive policies, adequate legislation, participatory planning for a policy dialogue, investments) for the sustainable development of family farming.

Increase knowledge, communication and public awareness on issues like the contributions of family farmers to food security, improved nutrition, poverty alleviation, economic growth, employment generation and livelihood improvement; The diversity and the complexity of production and consumption systems in family farming, smallholder farming and fisheries; The current trends in policies and investments; and increasing opportunities for dialogue, participation and access to information for smallholders.

Attain better understanding of family farming needs, potential and constraints and ensure technical support by identifying, capitalizing and promoting technical support for capacity development actions including policies; Reaching out to non-agricultural actors; Encouraging actions at global, regional, national and community levels; and monitoring how family farms and policies related to family and smallholder farming evolve.

Create synergies for sustainability by promoting the inclusion of the IYFF vision along international processes and committees; ensuring that longer-term actions related to FF are reflected in the international agenda and building synergies with other International Years in particular Cooperatives.

About ESAFF Uganda

The formation of ESAFF in 2002 was a direct response to the need to create a forum where Small Scale Farmers (SSFs) are able to deliberate on and voice their concerns. The forum was established to bring together small scale farmers into a social movement to build common aspirations, learning and linkages. It brings together small scale crop

farmers, pastoralists and traditional fisher folks. ESAFF Uganda is a small scale farmer-led movement formed to facilitate processes through which smallholder farmers' development concerns can be solicited, articulated and ultimately addressed through local and national policies and programmes.

ESAFF Uganda works to enhance the SSFs ability to make informed decisions and participate meaningfully in development processes through capacity building, advocacy, research and institutional development. Our vision is empowered self reliant small scale farmers with a mission to nurture the participation of small scale farmers in sustainable development processes, for self reliance through advocacy, capacity building and institutional development.

ESAFF Uganda has membership in 30 districts including Soroti, Serere, Amuria, Ngora, Bukedea, Kumi, Kabale, Kisoro, Masaka, Mubende, Mityana, Mukono, Nebbi, Zombo, Kamuli, Jinja, Mbale, Mayuge, Bugiri, Gulu, Amuru, Nwoya, Pader, Adjumani, Manafwa, Iganga, Arua, Apac, Kasese and Kanugu

References

<http://ndhiwamaarifcentre.blogspot.com/2014/02/visualizing-potential-and-contributions.html>
<http://www.fao.org/family-farming-2014/>
<http://www.esaffuganda.org>

For any questions about the IYFF

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