



Featured Story

Philippine Action Plan for Family Farming

Around 80% of the world's food is produced by family farms. They also own 70-80% of farmlands globally and more than 90% of farms rely on family labor as the main source of income.

In the Philippines alone, there were more than 8.5 million households engaged in agricultural activity in 2012, which represented 43% of the total household population in the country. Based on the latest data from the Philippine Statistics Authority, around 87% owned their farm holdings while 6% of households were cultivating land owned by others. Today, family farmers in the Philippines and elsewhere suffer dramatically as they face overlapping concerns related to pests and diseases, climate change, and the current pandemic.

Farmers urgently need more concerted efforts to stay out of poverty and ensure sustainability and food security.

Drafting the Philippine Action Plan on Family Farming

In 2018, the Philippines joined the International Steering Committee of the UN Decade for Family Farming (UNDIFF). To contribute to the UNDIFF, the Department of Agriculture (DA) through the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) crafted the Philippines' Action Plan for Family Farming (PAP4FF) that will guide all stakeholders in responding to problems faced by family farmers in the country.

The DA-ATI tapped the PPSA Secretariat to develop the consultation methodologies and facilitate a series of consultation and planning workshops for the PAP4FF. Participants at these sessions included government agencies, civil society organizations, academic and research institutions, farmer and fisher groups, and youth volunteers.

Through this engagement, PPSA's support was critical in identifying the main issues and challenges related to family farming and the corresponding solutions. Following the sessions, key informant interviews, and review of various reference materials, PPSA Secretariat made the first draft of the PAP4FF, which highlighted the strategic areas of Policy and Programs, People, and Partnerships, and covered seven strategic pillars. The draft was presented before the legislative houses of Congress and policymakers for their inputs and recommendations.

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Pillars of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028

Pillar 01

Develop an enabling policy environment to strengthen family farming.

Pillar 02

Support youth and ensure the generational sustainability of family farming.

Pillars 03

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

Pillar 04

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

Pillar 05

Improve socioeconomic inclusion, resilience, and well-being of family farmers, rural households, and communities.

Pillar 06

Promote sustainability of family farming for climate-resilient food systems.

Pillar 07

Strengthen the multidimensionality of family farming to promote social innovations contributing to territorial development and food systems that safeguard biodiversity, environment, and culture.

Helping Farmers through a Multi-stakeholder and Inclusive Approach

Once the PAP4FF is approved, a National Committee for Family Farming (NCF) will be established to manage the development and implementation of a plan of action. The NCF will highlight the power of multi-stakeholder partnerships in leveraging expertise and resources to support family farmers.

PPSA also suggested establishing sub-committees that will support the NCF in resource mobilization, communications and advocacy, research, partnerships, and program management. Complementing the efforts of the NCF and the sub-committees, task forces have also been planned to respond to specific needs of women, youth, and indigenous people.

In further support of the movement, PPSA will align with the findings of the consultation sessions and the PAP4FF in planning its strategies and activities, to ensure that PPSA's interventions contribute to the bigger goals of the Philippine agriculture sector.

|| In the recent commitment of the DA-ATI to the UNDF, the PPSA has been one of our active partners. With our shared values, and with PPSA's strategic facilitation on the series of multilevel consultation meetings and workshops, the 10-year PAP4FF has been authored in an inclusive, collaborative, and coherent manner. The organization's commitment to improve the lives of our smallholder farmers has been evident in the entire duration of our partnership project – from multi sectoral dialogue, literature reviews, and key informant interviews, up to developing an overall farm family conceptual framework.

I am tremendously grateful for the efforts of PPSA as our partner in agricultural development. May you continue to unlock and build more collaborative environments that steer agri-fishery growth in the country. ||

Dr Rosana P. Mula,
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