FEEDING THE WORLD, CARING FOR THE EARTH

ASIA CONTINENTAL MEETING

23-25 MARCH 2010

NEW DELHI

2010-2012 CAMPAIGN
International Year
of Family Farming

WORLD RURAL FORUM
FORO RURAL MUNDIAL
FORUM RURAL MONDIAL
MUNDUKO LANDAGUNEA

AsiaDHRRA

AFA
The Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA) is a regional alliance of peasant federations and organizations in eleven Asian countries. Established in May 2002, its formation was a fruit of a three-year, Five Farmers' Exchange Visits held in South Korea, Philippines, Indonesia, Japan and Malaysia. AFA endeavors to build a strong and dynamic regional lobby for genuine agrarian reform and sustainable rural development, while facilitating the sxchange of creativelocal grassroots initiatives that attempt to address the roots of rural poverty. It aims to promote and advocate for the rights of Asian farmers, promote cooperation and solidarity among Asian farmers and support capacity building among them. Currently, its regular members include Aliansi Petani Indonesia, Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA) in the Philippines, Sor Kor Por in Thailand, Korean Advanced Farmers' Federation (KAFF) in South Korea and Taiwan Wax Apple Development Association. Its associate members include the Vietnam Farmers' Union and Jeonkuk Sae-Nongminhoe (Best Farmers' Association) in South Korea.

AsiaDHRRA
The Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia (AsiaDHRRA) is a regional partnership of eleven social development networks and organizations in ten Asian nations that envisions Asian rural communities that are just, free, prosperous, living in peace and working in solidarity towards self-reliance. Its mission is to be an effective promoter and catalyst of partnership relations, facilitator of human resource development processes in the rural areas and mobilizer of expertise and opportunities for the strengthening of solidarity and kinship among Asian rural communities. AsiaDHRRA's regional policy advocacy work has always been anchored on its commitment to bring forward the voices of its partner peasant organizations to the frontline of the advocacy arena. AsiaDHRRA organized the five Farmers' Exchange Visits which eventually led to the formation of the Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA).

CIFA
Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations (CIFA), is a national farmers apex body representing independent farmers associations from all parts of the India. CIFA envisages farmers empowerment through resource management, participating in Agriculture Planning, Implementation, monitoring and establishing own professional organization at Apex Level. CIFA is making efforts to reduce disparities between urban and rural, organized and unorganized sectors. It acts as a catalyst for unifying the farming community by developing consensus on issues and programs. It endeavours to protect the interests of the farmers, women, farmer labours and socially under –privileged from the neglect of Governments and exploitations of the organized sectors.

WRF
The Development Association World Rural Forum (WRF) is an international partnership founded in 1.999 with the aim of promoting and defending rural development and, more particularly Family Farming, in an increasingly globalized and interdependent world. The WRF is a non-lucrative Association whose activities are carried out in a world context. It defines itself as a network of networks which covers nowadays four continents and is formed by associations and individuals, committed to the achievement of sustainable and equitable rural development. The WRF has an Executive Secretariat that acts as a bridge between network members, responding to their demands. The WRF performs information dissemination, lobbying, technical assistance, training exchanges, development cooperation projects, etc. At present, the main WRF tool in favour of the millions of women and men farmers is the campaign for the declaration by the UN of an International Year of Family Farming-IYFF.

contents

INTRODUCTION

The International Year of Family Farming-IYFF Campaign, as a worldwide activity, demands a great coordinating effort. In order to give to the IYFF Campaign a growing relevance, it is planned to hold regional and international seminars to work together on some strategic issues related to the IYFF Campaign: how to involve more and more governments and civil society, how to reach a common understanding of the main issues and challenges of Family Farming, in what could the UN international organizations' support to the Campaign consist, etc. We will also share knowledge and the problems that small farmers have to face in their rural life and make some general statements or agreements about these issues, in order to make the IYFF more crucial and meaningful.

During the 2010 year, 4 regional IYFF strategy meetings will be held in Africa, America, Asia and Europe. The first of them has been held in India. The Asian meeting provided important lessons to be applied to the 3 following meetings.

The host organization in Asia has been the Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations-CIFA-, as they were at the origin of the proposal of an Asian IYFF event.

The organizations more involved in the implementation of this important event have been:

CIFA: as the host organization and the representative of the Indian Family Farming.

AFA: Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development-: as a regional alliance of 9 farmer federations in 8 Asian countries, representing 10 million of small men and women farmers.

AsiaDHRRA: Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia -a regional partnership of 11 social development networks and organizations in 10 Asian nations that envisions Asian rural communities that are just, free, prosperous, living in peace and working in solidarity towards self-reliance- as the Regional representative of WRF's Asian Network in the Board of directors.

WRF Secretariat: as the responsible of the worldwide IYFF Campaign Coordination.

The first IYFF Asia continental Meeting took place, as expected, in New Delhi, 23rd-25th March 2010. There were participants, reports and contributions from India, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan and South Korea.

Two senior members of the Indian Central Administration participated in the Meeting, Mr. Sadamate, Adviser of Agriculture, Planning Commission, and Mr. Metha, Deputy Director of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-ICAR. Both of them had a very positive approach to Family Farming and contributed in their own way to the success of the Meeting. Mr. David Kahan, from FAO Asia Regional office, and Ms. Judith de Souza, IFAD India office, gave also their valuable time and skills to the venue.

Ms. Mary Jo Kakinda, from PELUM Network, Zambia, shared with the participants the rich experience of the IYFF Campaign in Africa. Europe was represented by ILEIA, through the very active presence of Mr. Prasad. Unfortunately, the representative of the IYFF Campaign in Latin America, Mr. Rigoberto Turra, COPROFAM, from Chile, had to cancel his participation in the Asian gathering due to the very serious earthquake that hurt his country last February. All the participants in the IYFF Asia continental Meeting expressed their deep solidarity with the peoples of Haiti and Chile.

Apart from getting many valuable insights about the situation of Family Farming in Asia through the different national and regional reports, the participants identified the main tasks to be accomplished at national level in order to push ahead our IYFF Campaign and they made commitments to implement them. Two main areas were underlined: to get government support at every national level, and to further mobilize civil societies into the Campaign.

The participants elected Ms. Marlene Ramirez, Executive Secretary of the Asian Network for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia-AsiaDHRRA, and Mr. Chengal Reddy, Secretary General of the Consortium of Indian Farmers´ Associations-CIFA, as the two Asian members of the future IYFF World Consultative Committee (one woman,-one man, one rural NGO-one Farmers´ association.)

After the first preparatory meeting of the IYFF Africa Continental Meeting, held in Dakar, Senegal, on January 28th -29th, we are planning a last preparatory meeting in Lilongwe, Malawi, in the first week of May. The IYFF Africa continental Meeting will take place in Malawi, probably in July 2010. Malawi has been selected due to the support given by its President, Mr. Bingu wa Mutharika, to agricultural development. The country is allocating more than 10% of its budget to rural development. Mr. Mutharika has been elected recently President of the African Union.

RATIONALE OF THE IYFF

In the words of Jacques Diouf, the General Director of (FAO), "the time has come to re-launch farming, and the international Community should not squander the opportunity".

For our organizations, coordinated by WRF, the celebration of an International Year dedicated to family farming would create a unique opportunity to develop means, which would assure in the medium and long term, a prosperous and sustainable family agriculture development and, as a result, in the rural areas on all the continents, especially, in the developing countries.

The FAO has recently emphasized that the "confrontation because of the lack of food and the consequent rise in international prices require strategies such as the strengthening of family agriculture".

This proposal by the WRF in favor of the declaration by the UN of an International Year of Family Farming is intended to give a decisive boost to its potential and development which, at this moment, face, among others, the following challenges:

- The difficulty of access, at fair prices, to resources and production inputs (land, water, pastures, local quality seeds, equipment, etc.).
- In the crucial issue of access to land –often exposed to a very serious legal insecurity and pending real agrarian reforms, many small agricultural families, indigenous communities and shepherds are deprived of their assets through the forced "acquisition" of their land to establish vast domains of export oriented industrial crops, nourishing a growing spiral of precarious day-laborers, rural exodus and new forms of rural marginalization and urban poverty.
- Aging of the rural population and the migration to cities because of lack of rural employment, pushing many rural women to remain in charge of agricultural activities.
- Scarce incorporation of young people in agriculture.
- Effective recognition of the role of women in agriculture, as an essential part of the adequate legal regulation of the concept of family farm household.
- Lack of or insufficient participation of small farmers in the making of decisions and policies that affect them, and, particularly, in the area of fixing agricultural prices along the distribution chain, starting from the local markets.
- Volatility of prices, subject often to speculation.

- Inclemency of the weather, and impact of the negative effects of the climatic change, including the serious alteration of landscape, plants and fauna, provoked by the industrial plantations on national eco-tourism assets and on the natural equilibrium.
- Lack of access to services of marketing, extension, information and farming capacity and of credit and finance, unfair competition due to subsidized imports, etc.
- Interference of middle men with big commercial margins, detrimental to food producers and to consumers as well.
- Absence of fair access to all levels of education and to health services.
- Lack, often total, of equipment, infrastructures and basic services.

In the measure in which family farming, on a world level, has greater access to resources and productive inputs at fair prices, improved policies and support services, it will be able to raise the living conditions of rural women and men, as well as those belonging to indigenous communities, etc., addressing also in a more adequate and efficient manner the consumer necessities, contributing in this way to prevent food crises.

In this context, apart from other factors, the strengthening of the whole rural and farmers´ organizational tissue –trade unions, cooperatives, technical extension offices, etc-, represents a key factor in the way towards a prosperous and solid sector based on a local or regional agro industrial transformation of their produce, increasing the added value of the crops, the employment and the quality of life.

No way do we wish that family farming should be synonymous with abandonment and marginal production. For this reason we opt for the creation of cooperatives and supervising offices which allow access to markets, preferably local or regional, sustainable technical improvements, formation and advice.

For its part, the International Evaluation of Knowledge, Science and Technology in Agricultural Development (IAASTD), points out that "in agriculture, the current dominant focus, industrial on a grand scale, is not sustainable for it depends on cheap petroleum, produces negative effects on the ecosystem and worsens the growing lack of water".

Far too often, the effect of family farming on the world food supply and on rural development, as a whole, is underestimated and often ignored. The decisions about the policies that affect it are very often taken far from its reality and its voice, on many occasions, is ignored. The International Year of Family Farming will provide the opportunity to promote agreement among the authorities -whose job it is to formulate farming policies-, countrymen and countrywomen, their rural associations as legitimate representatives, and other entities.

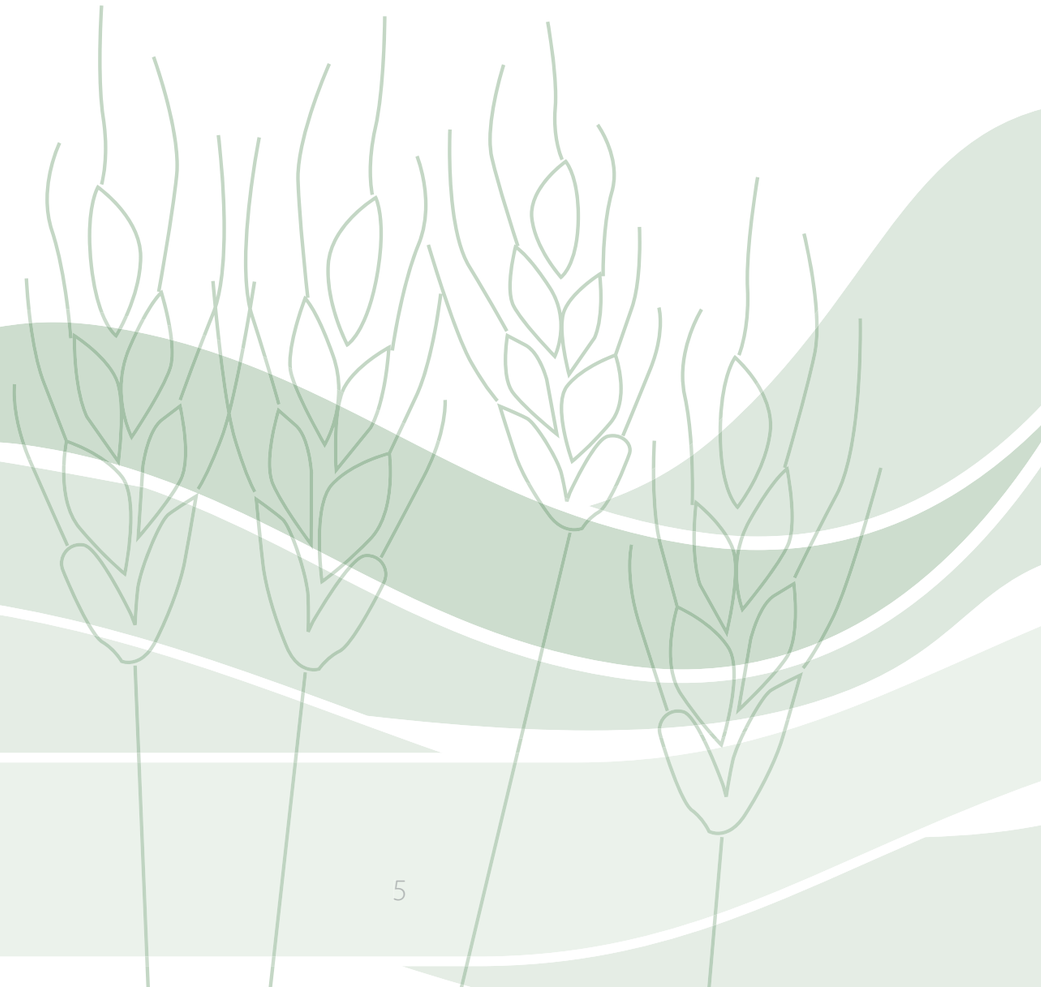
The focal point of the International Year of Family Farming which we are proposing is based on a positive and dynamic approach, demonstrating to civil society and its numerous institutions, not only the challenges and difficulties of family farming, but also its great contribution, real and potential, to the world's food, to the fight against poverty and to the fulfilling of the Millennium Development Goals.

Family farming, along with being the greatest source of employment in developing countries, represents the social base on which the Right to Food should be made a reality as recognized in the Charter of Human Rights, 1948.

To sum up, the International Year will be the driving force behind a number of initiatives and stakeholders cooperation in favor of family agriculture. This impulse should be maintained after its celebration to optimize the results achieved and to critically follow-up its public policies, its programs and the development of its agreed projects.

Essentially, we are promoting family farming as an authentic model for real farming development, directed to the service of Humanity through the commitment of millions of men and women producing harvests sufficient to feed the world.

At the same time, we are decidedly promoting the role of country peoples' organizations –trade unions, farmers federations, unions of cooperatives, etc-, as the true leaders in rural development, whose advice and social criteria should be kept in mind while formulating agrarian policies or any other norm which affects their way of life and their fundamental rights.



PROGRAMME FLOW

Day 0: Monday, 22 March 2010

Attendants arrival

Day 1: Tuesday, 23 March 2010

09:00 – 09:30 **Registration**

09:30 – 09:45 **Opening Ceremonies**
(Rituals to welcome guests and delegates and Lighting of the Lamp)

09:45 – 10.30 **Welcome Remarks**
Opening Remarks
Host Organization, CIFA
Government of India. Dr.V.V.Sadamate. Advisor - Indian - Council of Agricultural Research-ICAR. M.H.Mehta. Assistan Director General. India. Agriculture). Planning Commission
WRF Asia Desk Coordinator, Ms Miren Larrea

10:30 – 11:00 **Keynote Message**
IYFF Campaign Coordinator. WRF, Mr José Osaba

11:00 – 11:30 **Break and Photo Session**

11:30 – 11:45 **Introduction of Conference Delegates**

11:45 – 12:25 **Solidarity Messages**
- Africa, Europe Continental Partners:
- PELUM Regional Secretary General. Ms. Mary Jo Kakinda. Kenia
- ILEIA-LEISA. The Netherlands. Mr Prasad, LEISA Managing Editor.

12.25 – 12.30 **Announcements from Organizers**

12:30 – 01:30 **Lunch Break**

01:30 – 03:10 **Plenary Panel Session 1: Significance of Family Farming in the Asian Region**
Facilitated By: Ms Wen Chi Huang

South Asia Perspective
Lead Discussant: AFPRO. Mr Anish Chatterjee. India (15 min)
Country Presentations:
CIFA, Hon Chairman P Chengal Reddy. India (20 minutes)

Southeast Asia Perspective
Country Presentations:
SorKorPor. Secretary General. Mr Pote Chumsri. Thailand (20 minutes)
WAMTI-Indonesian Farmers Society Organization. Executive Secretary. Ms Lany Eugenia. Indonesia (20 minutes)

North Asia Perspective
Country presentations:
TaiwanDHRRA Chairperson. Dr. Wen Chi. Taiwan (20 minutes)

Open Forum (20 minutes)

03:10 – 03:30 **Break and Announcements from Organizers**

03:30 – 04:20 **Plenary Panel Session 2: Impacts of Working with Small Farmers/Producers: Sharing of Good Practices**

Case presentation: South Asia, Southeast, Northeast
Binadesa. Secretary General. Ms Dwi Astuti. Indonesia (25 minutes)
TaiwanDHRRA Chairperson. Dr Wen Chi. Taiwan (25 minutes)

04:30 – 05:30 **Perspectives on Family Farming from Policy Makers and other stakeholders**
Food and Agri Agencies:
FAO. Dr David Kahan. Senior Officer for Agribusiness and Enterprise Development. Thailand (25 minutes)
IFAD. Ms Judith D'Souza. IFAD India Country Office. India (25 minutes)

Open Forum (10 minutes)

05:30 – 05:45 **Synthesis for the Day**
Mr Prasad

05:45 **End of Day 1 (announcements)**

Day 2: Wednesday, 24 March 2010

Facilitated by Ms Dwi Astuti and Mr Prasad

09:00 – 12:15 **Workshop 1: Defining the Road Map of IYFF 2009-2015**
How do we achieve the declaration of the IYFF?
What would we like to work on during the year?

Workshop (1 and 40 minutes)
Plenary Reporting (60 minutes)
Open Forum (30 minutes)
Synthesis of Workshop Results (30 minutes)

12:15 – 02:00 **Press Conference and Lunch Break**

02:00 – 04:00 **Workshop 2: Country/Sub-regional Workshops – Planning for IYFF Campaign**

Workshop (1 and half hours)
Plenary Reporting (30 minutes)
Synthesis (30 minutes)

04:00 – 04:40 **Other Continental IYFF Campaigns**
Africa: PELUM Regional Secretary General. Ms. Mary Jo Kakinda. Kenia

Closing Session:
Reflections and closing Messages
Host Organization, CIFA and IYFF Campaign Coordinator, Mr José Osaba.

Day 3: Thursday, 25 March 2010

Field visit to Taj Mahal

Day 4: Friday, 26 March 2010

Departures

OPENING SPEECHES

By Mr. P. Chengal Reddy
Secretary General, CIFA

Respected Mr. Jose Osaba, IYFF Campaign Coordinator, Ms. Miren Larrea, WRF Asia Desk Coordinator, Dr. David Kahan, FAO Representative from Thailand, Mr. Christian Gouet from Agriterra, Dr. A.K. Mehta, Additional Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ms. Judith D'souza from IFAD and Delegates from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Zambia, Taiwan, Cambodia, Vietnam, Nepal and India I extend you all a hearty welcome.

CIFA greatly appreciates the opportunity to organize the event in India and thanks World Rural Forum (WRF) for providing this opportunity.

The campaigning the Family Farming Feeding The World and caring for the people is extremely important in the global situation of food crisis. The growing population, reduction in land availability in agriculture has put great responsibility on the Family Farming.

The family farms in developing nations and in poor countries are now facing crisis. They are not getting adequate inputs such as quality seeds, fertilizers, water and electricity to produce. They don't have access to modern technologies and marketing avenues.

In many countries including India industrial and service sector have achieved 8% - 10% growth. But in agriculture sector not even 2% growth is achieved.

The Family Farming requires to be given more importance by the policy reforms, providing resources, access to technologies and liking with markets. In India CIFA is making efforts towards this direction to develop globe competitiveness of family farms.

I fondly hope that the deliberations in the next two days will bring forth important concepts to achieve our goal. On behalf of CIFA we assure WRF that we will make sincere efforts to mobilize support from our Governments to take forward the campaign.

On behalf of Indian Farmers I once again welcome you to the great nation.

Thanking You!

On the occasion of International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) Campaign
Organized in India on 23rd & 24th March, 2010 at New Delhi.

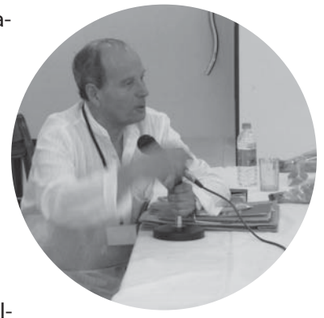
By Mr. José Osaba
IYFF Campaign Coordinator

Honorable Mr. Sadamate, Advisor of the Planning Commission of India, Dr. Mehta, Assistant Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-ICAR,

Respected representatives of FAO, Mr. Kahan and of IFAD, Ms. Judith D'Souza,

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

First of all,



I would like to express to all of you my gratitude for your participation in this Asian gathering and to convey the best wishes for the outcome of the deliberations of this First Asia Continental Meeting about the Campaign in favour of the declaration by the UN of an International Year of Family Farming –IYFF-.

As worldwide coordinator of the campaign, I have been invited to place this gathering in its global context and significance.

In the world today there are around 3.000 million people who live in the countryside. The greater part of these women and men, some 2.500 million, are farmers. More than 1.500 million work 404 million plots which are less than five acres in size, the majority are less than two and a half acres. The rural population involved in industrial agriculture is less than 20 million people.

Of the more that 1.020 million people who suffer hunger in the world, a great number are peasant families, with little land, few resources and no public support. Neither do they have infrastructures, nor technical assistance, nor access to credit, nor markets close at hand, nor educational or sanitary installations

For many years we have been attending a substantial number of meetings, seminars, conferences, etc. about the smallholder farmers' issues. We normally gather for two-three days, we identify the issues, we make some recommendations, and we go home quite frustrated.

Certainly we acknowledge the existence of many initiatives from several governments, from FAO, IFAD, UNDP, from Farmers´Organizations, Rural NGOs, etc in favour of smallholder farmers. But we believe that something can be added to all these meaningful projects and programs, in order to give them more attention, more means.

In this respect, 2 years ago, we launched in Rome, after the 2nd IFAD Farmers´Forum, the campaign in favour of the declaration by the UN of an IYFF.

Why did we take this initiative? We wanted to put the billions of small farmers, women and men, at the top of the un international agenda, as a profound sign of respect, admiration and solidarity with them.

We would like the international community, the urban people, to give special attention

during one full year to their problems and, overall, to the most urgent solutions to poverty, to rural underdevelopment.

We need new policies in favour of family farming, we need more resources, more infrastructures. More gender equality, more access to markets, more opportunities to reach food security and food sovereignty.

After two years of work, the campaign in favour of the IYFF has made great progress: more than 260 farmers and rural organisations of 58 countries. From the different continents have given their official support to the WRF campaign in favour of the IYFF.

The 3rd IFAD Farmers´ Forum, held in Rome last 15th-16th February gave its formal support to our common campaign.

Our great priority at this moment is the achieving of more government support which would lead to the introduction in the agenda of the general assembly of the UN the proposal of the declaration of an international year of family farming. at this moment we can count on the support of 5 ministries and divisions of agriculture of Belize, Pakistan, Peru, El Salvador and Switzerland. We confidently await the support of the governments of India, Brazil, Malawi, Belgium, Luxemburg, Spain, Uruguay and many others.

Our continental meetings could try to push ahead this great need of more governments support to the IYFF campaign. This support from governments is a clear requirement from IFAD and FAO, as a pre-condition to be able to expect more support to the IYFF campaign from their side.

As you know, we are organizing four continental meetings, Asia, Africa, America and Europe. At the end of the four Continental meetings, we will establish an IYFF World Consultative Committee, with 2 representatives from each continent.

I would be very grateful is you could consider my suggestion of appointing CIFA and AsiaDHRRA as the Asian members of the World Consultative Committee.

We have a very strong challenge to share at world level: There are many countries in various continents with no industry, with little services, in such a context, were do the women and men farmers would go, if they have to leave their villages, theirs farms? To urban slums? To illegal migration? To new forms of urban poverty?

Last reflexion from an Indian perspective: The human being has three levels, mind, heart, stomach. Only the heart can understand the whole reality.

We shall act from the heart perspective, with great love towards the billions of women and men farmers of the world.

IYFF Asia Continental Meeting
New Delhi, 23th March 2010.

SOLIDARITY MESSAGE FROM AFRICA

Ms Mary Jo Kakinda
Pelum Regional Secretary General

Africa And Family Farming

In Africa, 45% of the population live in absolute poverty (less than US $1 a day) and have poor access to food, water supply, primary health care and education. 70% of the poor men and women in Africa live in rural areas and depend on farming for their livelihoods. For the African rural people, agriculture development is therefore the key engine to improving household food and income security and their livelihoods therefore.

There are challenges in family farming that need to be addressed. These include:

1. Low investment in agriculture by African governments (only 5 countries in Africa are allocating 10% of the annual budget) to agriculture
2. Lack of extension services
3. Inaccessibility to appropriate technology eg irrigation equipment, ox-ploughs etc
4. Heavy dependence on rain-fed agriculture, a problem being exacerbated by severe and prolonged droughts resulting from climate change
5. High illiteracy levels especially among women
6. Lack of financial intermediaries in rural areas and therefore lack of access to credit
7. Complex land tenure systems
8. Gender disparity
9. High post harvest losses
10. Poor linkages in commodity chains/lack of access to markets
11. Health hazards: malaria, HIV and AIDS which affect availability and quality of labour
12. Land grabbing

The Way Forward:

There is need to change the status quo. There is need to get African and Asian Governments and the governments of other continents to focus more on agriculture and therefore increase the budget allocation to the agriculture sector. This will result in improved support to women and men farmers. There is need to make sure that women and men farmers have access to information, markets, skills training, credit, appropriate technologies and to have both men and women farmers in the various countries participate in decision making at all levels (house-

hold, community, national, continental and international levels). The needs are the same in all continents.

The IYFF Campaign, being a worldwide initiative, is bringing together farmers of Asia, Africa, and the other continents and therefore gives us an opportunity to work together. Ladies and gentlemen, there are many challenges in Family Farming which calls for a concerted effort on the part of everyone. We therefore need to coordinate more and more our initiatives to overcome the huge challenges in Family Farming, common to our continents. The IYFF is a great asset, a great opportunity to go ahead in this direction. We will succeed. We only need to work together to do so.

Sometime last year, the UN declared an International Mandela Day and declared this year (2010) the International Year of Biodiversity. If we work together as we have started doing and remain focused, 2012 will be the International Year of Family Farming.

Thank you very much for listening.

PLENARY PANEL SESSION 1:

SIGNIFICANCE OF FAMILY FARMING IN THE ASIAN REGION

South Asia Perspective

Lead Discussant: AFPRO, Mr Anish Chatterjee. India

Country Presentations:
CIFA, Hon Chairman P Chengal Reddy. India
RDR Director General, Mr M. Asim- Pakistan

SIGNIFICANCE OF FAMILY FARMING IN THE ASIAN REGION: WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE INDIAN CONTEXT

By Mr Anish Chatterjee, Action for Food Production (AFPRO), India

South Asian regional setting: Characteristics of the region

South Asia comprises eight countries namely India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan Bangladesh, Srilanka and Maldives. Agriculture employs about 60% of the labor force and contributes 22% of the regional GDP. During the past 30-40 years, as a consequence of the Green Revolution, agriculture has grown to a large extent. Nevertheless, the region has a greater number of undernourished and poor than any other developing region, and more than two-thirds of these reside in rural areas.

The South Asia region contains a population of 1344 million people, more than one quarter of the population of the developing world. Of these, 970 million (72 percent) live in rural areas. Approximately 150 million households, with 751 million people, can be classed as agricultural. The combination of high population and limited land area (514 million ha), means that the rural population density in South Asia -at 1.89 persons per ha -is higher than in any other developing region. Moreover, the large proportion of inhospitable terrain has led to the concentration of most of the population on less than half of this land area, resulting in severe pressure on natural resources in many places.

The long history of human settlement has resulted in the utilisation of a wide diversity of natural resources for agriculture. In agro-ecological terms, 20 percent of the region's land consists of steeply sloping hills and mountains containing only five percent of the total population. Nineteen percent is densely populated, humid or moist subhumid lowland containing the bulk (43 percent) of the region's people; while 29 percent is dry subhumid and still heavily populated, as it contains 33 percent of the population. The remaining 32 percent is semiarid and arid lowland supporting only 19 percent of the region's inhabitants. Hill and mountain areas are found in all the countries, but predominate along the southern slopes of the Himalayan range across India, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan. These hill areas have suffered from particularly extensive deforestation and soil erosion.

Throughout the region, there are about 74 million ha of forest (14 percent of total land area), 49 million ha of grazing land and about 213 million ha of cultivated land and permanent crops -equivalent to less than 0.16 ha of agricultural land per capita. Freshwater resources are relatively scarce.

Major farming systems in South Asia

For the purposes of this analysis, eleven broad farming systems have been identified. The main characteristics of the major farming systems, including the land area and agricultural population as a proportion of the regional total, principal livelihoods and prevalence of poverty, are shown in Table 1. A brief description of each farming system appears in the following paragraphs.

Rice Farming System

This farming system is dominated by intensive wetland rice cultivation by farmers and share-croppers in fragmented fields with or without irrigation. Of the total system area of 36 million ha, an estimated 22 million ha -or more than 60 percent -is under cultivation.

Coastal Artisanal Fishing Farming System

In a narrow band along the major part of the coast of Bangladesh and India, and around the Maldives, households supplement artisanal (inshore) fishing with food production often rice and such cash enterprises as coconuts, livestock and vegetables. The main livelihood is threatened by over-exploitation of the common resource, both locally and by larger well-equipped fishing boats. Total land area is estimated at five million ha with nearly half under cultivation. Coastal land resources are also under pressure from the high population density along the coastline.

Rice-Wheat Farming System

Characterised by a summer paddy crop followed by an irrigated winter wheat crop (and sometimes also a short spring vegetable crop), the Rice-Wheat Farming System forms a broad swathe across Northern Pakistan and India, from the Indus irrigation area in Sindh and Punjab, across the Indo-Gangetic plain to the northeast of Bangladesh. Total system area is 97 million ha with an estimated 62 million ha -more than 60 percent of the land of the system -under cultivation. The Rice and Rice-Wheat Farming Systems together contain 40 percent of the cultivated land in the region and produce the bulk of the marketed foodgrains that feed the cities and urban areas of South Asia.

Highland Mixed Farming System

This farming system, generally intermediate between the rice-wheat plains of the lowlands and the sparsely populated high mountain areas above, extends across the entire length of the Himalayan range, from Afghanistan to the extreme northeast of India, as well as in isolated areas of Kerala and Central Sri Lanka. Major products include cereals, legumes, tubers, vegetables, fodder, fodder trees, orchards and livestock. Total system area is 65 million ha with an estimated 19 million ha -about 29 percent -under cultivation.

Rainfed Mixed Farming System

This predominantly rainfed cropping and livestock farming system occupies the largest area within the sub-continent and, with the exception of a small area in Northern Sri Lanka, is confined entirely to India. Total system area is 147 million ha with an estimated 87 million ha (59 percent) under cultivation. Rice and some wheat are grown, as well as pearl millet and sorghum, a wide variety of pulses and oilseeds, sugarcane, and vegetables and fruit.

Dry Rainfed Farming System

Located in a `rain shadow' surrounded by the Rainfed Mixed Farming System in the Western Deccan, this farming system has a higher proportion of irrigation than the moister surrounding areas, allowing it to support a similar range of irrigated and rainfed crops despite the drier climate. Total system area is 18 million ha with an estimated 10 million ha -about 53 percent -under cultivation.

Pastoral Farming System

Across the semiarid and arid zones, from Rajasthan in India through Pakistan and Afghanistan, transhumant pastoralists keep mixed herds of livestock. The system includes scattered pockets of irrigation which mitigate the extreme seasonal vulnerability of pastoralists. Total

Table 1 Major Farming Systems in South Asia

Farmin Systems	Land Area (% of region)	Agric. Popn.(% of region)	Principal Livelihoods	Prevalence of Poverty
Rice	7	17	Wetland rice (both seasons), vegetables, legumes, off-farm activities	Extensive
Coastal Artisanal Fishing	1	2	Fishing, coconuts, rice, legumes, livestock	Moderate -extensive
Rice-Wheat	19	33	Irrigated Rice, wheat, vegetables, livestock including dairy, off-farm activities	Moderate -extensive
Highland Mixed	12	7	Cereals, livestock, horticulture, seasonal migration	Moderate -extensive
Rainfed Mixed	29	30	Cereals, legumes, fodder crops, livestock, off-farm activities	Extensive (severity varies seasonally)
Dry Rainfed	4	4	Coarse cereals, irrigated cereals, legumes, off-farm activities	Moderate
Pastoral	11	3	Livestock, irrigated cropping, migration	Moderate -extensive (expecially) Drought induced)
Sparse (Arid)	11	1	Livestock where seasonal moisture permits	Moderate -extensive (especially) drought induced)
Sparse (Mountain)	7	0.4	Summer grazing of livestock	Moderate (especially in remote areas)
Tree Crop	Dispersed	1	Export or agro-industrialcrops, cereals, wage labour	Moderate (mainly of agricultural workers)
Urban Based	<1	1	Horticulture, dairying, poultry, other activities	Moderate

Source: FAO data and expert knowledge. Note: Prevalence of poverty refers to number in poverty, not depth of poverty, and is a relative assessment for this region.

system area covers 55 million ha, and it supports an estimated 12 million cattle and 30 million small ruminants, as well as a significant number of camels.

Sparse (Arid) Farming System

The land area of the system is estimated at 57 million ha, supporting an estimated 16 million bovines and 29 million small ruminants. About 1.7 million ha is cultivated, practically all under irrigation.

Sparse (Mountain) Farming System

This system lies at altitudes above 3000 metres along the mid level and upper slopes of the Himalayan Range and occupies an estimated area of 34 million ha with a population of 3 million people, of whom 2.8 million are classified as agricultural. A number of small settlements depend on potatoes and buckwheat, plus cattle and yak herds. Cultivated area is 1.9 million ha, or only five percent of total area.

Tree Crop Farming System

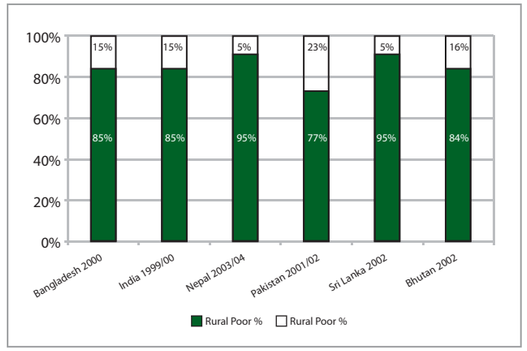
This scattered farming system comprises plantation companies and smallholders producing substantial areas of tea, rubber, coconuts and other tree crops. It is estimated that the system covers three million ha of land, with some 1.2 million ha of annual and permanent cropland. Concentrations of this system are found in the lowlands of Sri Lanka (especially coconuts), Kerala in India (including spices), and the upland areas of India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka (tea estates). The estimated agricultural population is seven million.

Urban Based Farming System

In most large towns and cities in the region the intensive production of perishable high-value commodities -such as milk and fresh vegetables -has expanded. These are generally commercial systems with high levels of external inputs and with effective links to the surrounding rural areas for stock feed and fodder. The system has an agricultural population of 11 million, and contains around 12 million head of bovines (cattle and buffaloes). 16

Region-wide trends in South Asia

Population, hunger and poverty



The region's 1999 population of about 1344 million is expected to increase by approximately 1.4 percent per annum to 1650 million in 2015. Thereafter, population growth is expected to slow to about 1 percent per annum to reach 1920 million by 2030. The proportion of the total population living in cities (presently 28 percent) has increased markedly over the last four decades and is expected to continue to expand, reaching 53 percent in 2030. As greater numbers of adult males migrate seasonally and semi-permanently in search of alternative livelihoods, it is anticipated that women farmers will assume greater responsibilities for the management and operation of farms.

Average food intake was estimated at 2424 Kcal per person per day in 1995-1997 and is expected to increase to 2790 Kcal by 2015 and to reach 3040 Kcal by 2030. The quality of the diet is also expected to improve, with consumption per head of both meat and dairy products forecast to double over the period from 1995-1997 to 2030. 13,18.

Key aspects of Agriculture in South Asia:

The rapid increase in food grain productivity in the 1970s and 1980s made possible by the "Green Revolution" improved food security and increased rural wages. As a consequence, the rural poverty rate declined significantly. In India, for example, it fell from about 53% in 1977/78 to 26% in 1999/00.18

Despite these achievements, poverty in South Asia is still largely rural. About 70% of the population, and about 75% of the poor, live in rural areas. Most of the rural poor depend on rainfed agriculture, livestock, fragile forests, and/or casual often migratory employment.

In the past years, agriculture sector has shown:

- The successful foodgrain self-sufficiency strategy of the 1970s to the 1990s is no longer sufficient for sustaining agricultural growth in the longer term.
- Agricultural growth is less than 3%, which is far below the growth rates of other economic sectors.
- Demand for lower value traditional crops like wheat and rice is slowing. However, the demand for higher value products, spurred by a rapidly growing upper and middle class, and export opportunities, offers new avenues to revitalize the agriculture sector through diversification and value-addition. These higher value products include fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy and fish.

Country Perspective: India

India has a large agrarian economy with most of its rural population subsisting on farming. Over the decades since independence, Government has made concerted efforts to improve the lot of the farmers. A comprehensive socio-economic study of the Indian farmers covering educational level, level of living, farming practices, possession of productive assets, awareness and access to modern technology, resource availability, indebtedness and a host of other relevant issues were taken up by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) under Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers during 2003 in the rural areas as part of the NSS 59th round. There are several other studies by renowned agriculture scientists and universities in India which provide a detailed account of the main challenges of Indian Agriculture and farming families.

The key issues and challenges are discussed in detail in the following paragraphs providing a general overview of status of Indian family farmers.

Land Holdings:
There were 101.3 million holdings operated during the kharif season of 2002-03 and 95.7 million holdings operated during the rabi season of the same agricultural year. Average area operated per holding in 2002-03 was 1.06 hectares. Marginal holdings (of size 1 hectare or less) in 2002-03 constituted 70% of all operational holdings, small holdings (size 1 to 2 hectares) constituted 16%, semi medium holdings (2 to 4 hectares), 9%, medium holdings (4 to 10 hectares), 4%, and large holdings (over 10 hectares), less than 1%. Tenant holdings, that is, holdings with partly or wholly leased-in land, formed about 10% of operational holdings. Irrigated land formed 42% of net sown area during the kharif season and 67% during the rabi season. About 64% of net sown area was under cereal cultivation in both the seasons of the Agricultural year.7

Principal source of income:
The principal source of income of the household is the source which yielded maximum income among various sources from which the household received any income during the 365 days prior to the date of survey. The different sources are

- Cultivation,
- Farming other than cultivation,
- Other agricultural activity,
- Wage/salaried employment,

- Non-agricultural enterprises,
- Pension,
- Remittances,
- Interest and dividends

Income Expenditure and Productive assets:

- There was only one tractor per 100 ST or SC farmer households, while there were three per 100 OBC farmer households.
- For small farmers with land in the range of 0.4 –1.0 hectare, there was only one tractor per 100 households.
- Tribal farmer households possessed larger number of cattle heads compared to farmer households of other categories.
- Farmer households in the lowest monthly expenditure class or the poorest category had 31 buffaloes per 100 households, whereas the highest monthly expenditure class had 113 buffaloes per 100 households.
- The break-up of the total annual cultivation expenses showed that 23 percent of the expenditure went for fertilizers and manure, 22 percent towards labour charges, 16 percent for seeds and 12 percent for irrigation.11

Challenges to Family farming:

- Nearly 5% of farmer households had a member who belonged to a self-help group. Only 2% had a member who belonged to a registered farmers' organisation. About 29% of farmer households included a member of a cooperative society. Only 19% had availed themselves of services from a cooperative. Most of these households availed themselves of either credit facilities, or services related to seeds or fertilisers. This shows that they are mostly unorganised.
- About 18% of farmer households knew what bio-fertilisers were and 29% understood what minimum support price meant, depicts that technology mostly does not reach them.
- Only 4% of farmer households had ever insured their crops and 57% did not know that crops could be insured shows that farmers mostly do not have access to information, facilities and the insurance industry is still at a nascent stage in the agriculture sector in India.
- However, improved seeds were used by 46% farmer households during the kharif and 34% during the rabi season. Pesticides were used by 46% farmer households during kharif and 31% during rabi. Veterinary services were used by 30% during kharif and 22% during rabi. Only 1.5-2% of farmer households said facilities for testing of fertilisers or pesticides were available to them. This clearly emphasises the need of more investment in infrastructure for better scientific farming. 10

Indebtedness of Farmer Households

- At all-India level, estimated number of rural households was 147.90 million, of whom 60.4% were farmer households. Households with 1 hectare or less land accounted for 66% of all farmer households. About 45% of them were indebted.
- The most important source of loan in terms of percentage of outstanding loan amount was banks (36%), followed by moneylenders (26%), clearly depicts that still

moneylenders play a vital role and banking services are yet to make a substantial dent in the lives of farmers.1

Access to Modern Technology for Farming, 2003

- The most popular sources of accessing information by farmers were 'other progressive farmers' (16.7%), followed by input dealer (13.1%) and radio (13.0%).
- The two most popular sources, namely 'other progressive farmers' and 'input dealer' were contacted by the farmer households mainly on 'need basis' or 'seasonally'.
- Among the farmer households accessing information for cultivation from 'other progressive farmers', 40% received information on 'improved seed variety', 31% on 'fertiliser application', 15% on 'plant protection' and 14% on 'others'.12
- This clearly shows that most of the Government machinery be it state or central government like Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs, centres set up by the State Agricultural Universities, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and Agricultural Research Institutes of the State Governments), Extension workers (an employee of the government in the Department of Agriculture/Horticulture/ Animal Husbandry/Forestry/Soil conservation or Agricultural Universities or ICAR Institutes who is to provide necessary information and guidance to the farmers). Government demonstration (refers to demonstrations/exhibitions on farming by any government agency, e.g. State Government, ICAR or Government of India.) are of little use to the farmers. The extension sector needs a total revamp for efficiently performing the duties and responsibilities they are trusted with.

There is not much indulgence of the private sector also in providing access to modern technology to the farmers. For example Village fair (includes the fairs sponsored by government or private agencies as well as the normal religious and cultural fairs in an area. Exhibitions on a variety of agricultural items are included in this category. This source also includes Kisan Mela or a Stall set up by government/private agency in a religious/cultural fair visited by farmers regularly), Farmers' study tour (The farmers' study tour includes all types of educational tours arranged by either a government or a private agency), are also lacking and have very insignificant influence.

Farmers Attitude: Do farmers like farming?

- At the all-India level, 40% farmer households were of the opinion that, given a choice, they would take up some other career.
- Among the reasons for disliking farming, 27% did not find it profitable and 8% who thought it was too risky. Only 2% of all farmers disliked farming because of its lack of social status.10 This indicates that the main reason for shifting from agriculture base is unprofitable agriculture.

Initiatives to address the problems:

This section discusses briefly the policy initiatives by the Government of India, initiatives by the major Multilaterals working in the field of Agriculture in India and reflects how we at AFPRO are trying to make an excellent blend of traditional and new technology and actually linking science to practice.

State	percentage of farmer households				State	percentage of farmer households			
	liking farming	not liking farming because				liking farming	not liking farming because		
		not profit-able	risky	of other reasons			not profit-able	risky	of other reasons
Andhra Pradesh	76	17	5	2	Kerala	67	28	2	3
Assam	59	21	13	7	Madhya Pradesh	60	22	11	7
Bihar	49	36	11	4	Maharashtra	61	29	7	3
Chhattisgarh	54	24	17	5	Orissa	53	34	9	4
Gujarat	67	26	5	2	Punjab	62	28	2	8
Haryana	61	30	5	4	Rajasthan	61	22	8	9
J & K	62	21	9	8	Tamil Nadu	69	25	4	2
Jharkhand	53	30	9	8	Uttar Pradesh	59	24	10	7
Karnataka	57	28	11	4	West Bengal	54	36	5	5
					All-India	**60**	**27**	**8**	**5**

Source: page no.11, NSS Report No. 496(59/33/3) -Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers – Some Aspects of Farming – NSS 59th Round (January – December 2003)

Government of India Initiatives:

India is home to a wide range of social safety net programs that together attempt to address the needs of poor households at various stages of the life cycle. For households with young children, the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) provides take-home food rations linked to acquiring nutrition guidance and crucial health care. To promote higher educational attainment, the Mid-Day Meals Program provides meals to children attending school. The Public Distribution System (PDS) provides subsidized food rations to poor households through a vast network of fair-price shops. The recent National Rural Employment Gurantee scheme (NREGS or NREGA), turned into an act, ensures a 100 days of wage employment for rural poor. The National Old-Age Pension program and the Annapurna program provide cash to destitute elderly households without alternative family support. Bangladesh's Food for Education (FFE) scheme and India's own ICDS show that targeted programs have been highly successful and are worth investigating. Under the FFE scheme, the poor family of the school-aged child gets a quantity of subsidized food as long as the child attends school. This program ensures higher attendance in village schools, especially of girls, and provides food security to the poor. The Indian Govt, has started Mid Day Meal system in govt schools, which provides lunch to all school children. 5,6

National Farmers Policy 2007

The Ministry of Agriculture has brought out a comprehensive National Policy for Farmers in 2007. The policy emphasizes the fact that credit facilities need to be made available to the farmers. Financial services would be galvanised for timely, adequate and easy reach to the farmers at reasonable interest rates. The policy also admits that the present National Agriculture Insurance Scheme is not farmer-friendly and states: "Since agriculture is a high-risk economic activity, farmers need user-friendly insurance instruments covering production, right from sowing to postharvest operations. The insurance should also cover the market risks for all crops, in order to insulate the farmers from financial distress/indebtedness and in the process make agriculture financially viable. This came out after The National Agriculture Policy, of 2002, which seeks to achieve growth in a sustainable manner and with equity. The main features of the Policy can be grouped under the following heads:

- Sustainable agriculture
- Food and nutrition security

- Generation and transfer of technology
- Inputs management
- Incentive for agriculture
- Investment in agriculture
- Institutional structure
- Risk management

The Government of India, is also currently formulating a Food Security Act, which would ensure availability of a minimum amount of foodgrains (25Kgs) to all families.

The Initiatives by other Multilateral and bilateral agencies focus on the innovation and technology aspect of providing a profitable agriculture to family farmers.

- Water Resources Management/irrigation. The World Bank is pursuing opportunities to combine infrastructure modernization and institutional reforms, particularly in Pakistan and India; and where champions for reform have emerged at the state or provincial level. The Bank's focus is on decentralized, participatory and financially sustainable water users associations and on increasing irrigation output. (AFPRO is educating the farmers on judicious water management methods, water budgeting exercises and also building water harvesting structures).
- Technology and Innovation: The Bank supports the governments to increase poverty reduction impact of agricultural research and innovation programs and well-defined national extension strategies. We will aim at developing public/private partnerships, and intermediation schemes that facilitate small farmers' integration into the marketing chain. The Bank is currently supporting the Government of India in this through National Agriculture Innovation Project (NAIP – AFPRO is actively involved in this program).
- Agricultural Diversification and Market Development: New opportunities are emerging for the private sector to participate in agribusiness, agro-processing, value addition and in linking farmers to the markets. (AFPRO is associated in the innovative model of PPP for making agriculture more profitable for the poor).

Reflections:

Technological revolution for water use efficiency: More Crop and income per drop of water

Most of the rainfall during the South West Monsoon period occurs within 100 hours. According to the father of Indian Green Revolution Prof M. S. Swaminathan, Indian agriculture needs to focus on rain water harvesting.4 Storage, both in the aquifer and in tanks and reservoirs becomes very important (AFPRO has considerable experience in this sector). Simultaneously we should promote increased water use efficiency. In 2007, the Ministry of Water Resources of the Government of India initiated a Farmer Participatory Action research Programme in over 2000 villages all over the country to assess the impact of water saving technologies, like the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in rice (AFPRO has been working on providing technical support to farmers for SRI adoption). The results of AFPRO's intervention in its villages have shown that yield and income can be increased by almost 50 percent in most crops by using water saving technologies. Better management practices generate substantial surplus income for small and marginal farming families.

Small Farm Management Revolution

Over 80 per cent of our farms are below 1 hectare in size. An immediate need is the introduction of management techniques which can confer on farmers with small holdings the power and economy of scale. Cooperatives have enabled us to climb to the first position in the world in the area of milk production. Decentralized production needs to be supported by key centralized services for enhancing small farm productivity and profitability. We need to promote a Small Farmers' Self-Help Group Movement. Incentives like group credit and group insurance should be introduced to stimulate the growth of Small Farmers' SHGs.4 AFPRO has introduced Smart Farmers' Clubs in its villages.

Storage facility for grain and seed.

The Government of India has a grain reserve of over 50 million tones of wheat and rice. In the current era, grain reserves will prove to be our most precious asset. Just as grain reserves are important for food security, seed reserves are important for crop security. There is a need to promote grain bank and seed bank, if possible at a village or Panchayat level. AFPRO has prompted grain and seed banks in many of its interventions.

Nutritional Security:

Of the 1.2 billion people worldwide living in dollar poverty, over 43 percent are found in South Asia. Despite improvements in India's national food security over the last three decades, benefits have not yet reached the entire population of the region and FAO estimates that 254 million people are still undernourished. Indicators of other dimensions of poverty, such as female illiteracy (59 percent), child mortality (89 per 1000 in children under five years), and child malnutrition (51 percent), also point to extensive poverty. The rural poor are particularly vulnerable to droughts, floods and other natural disasters. According to IFAD estimates, about 66 percent of the vulnerable population in India are small farmers and 2 percent are artisanal fishing families. Women are particularly disadvantaged; female-headed farm households have far lower average incomes than equivalent male-headed farm households 2,16.

We at AFPRO are actively promoting homestead gardening and kitchen gardening, which not only provides diversification in the food intake of the families but also increase their nutritional value. Not only this, it saves a lot of money as compared to buying vegetables from the market. Moreover, the organic method of cultivation as against the chemical one has allowed family farmers to save the extra expenditure needed for annual medical expenses. A farmer could ensure health, food and nutritional security for his/her family through homestead and kitchen gardening.

Our diversified work in 9 states of India, is our humble effort of enhancing the food and livelihood security of marginalized and vulnerable farming families, through increasing practical opportunities for enhancing and diversifying income generating opportunity and efficient resource utilisation.

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SIGNIFICANCE OF FAMILY FARMS IN INDIA

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Introduction

India is a land of hills, rivers, plateaus, plains, beaches, deltas and deserts. It has much to offer to travelers and tourists. India's northern states are situated in the Himalayan Mountain Range.

The central and eastern India consists of the fertile Indo-Gangetic plains. In the west is the Thar Desert. The southern Indian Peninsula is almost entirely composed of the Deccan plateau, which has two hilly coastal ranges, the Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP OF INDIA

Location:	Southern Asia, bordering the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, between Burma and Pakistan.
Geographic Coordinates:	20 00 N, 77 00 E
Area:	Total : 3,287,263 sq km, Country comparison to the World : 7 Land : 2,973,193 sq km, Water : 314,070 sq km

Area-Comparative:	Slightly more than one-third the size of the US.
Land Boundaries:	Total: 14,103 km Border countries: Bangladesh 4,053 km, Bhutan 605 km, Burma 1,463 km, China 3,380 km, Nepal 1,690 km, Pakistan 2,912 km.
Coastline:	7,000 km
Natural Resources:	Coal (fourth-largest reserves in the world), iron ore, manganese, mica, bauxite, titanium ore, chromite, natural gas, diamonds, petroleum, limestone, arable land.
Land Use:	Aarable land: 48.83%, Permanent crops: 2.8%, Other: 48.37% (2005).
Irrigated Land:	558,080 sq km (2003)

BASIC ECONOMIC FEATURES

1. 70% people directly or indirectly depend on Agriculture.
2. Gross Domestic Product by Economic Activity at Current Prices for the year 2006-07.
3. Poverty Situation (2004-05)

S.No.	Sector	Gross Domestic Product (Rupees in Millions)
1	Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	7545610
2	Mining & Quarrying	1107570
3	Manufacturing	7087480
4	Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	765050
5	Construction	3651400
6	Trade, Hotel & Restaurants (includes Transport and Communication)	10843150
7	Financing, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services	6117550
8	Community, Social & Personal Services	5712590

4. Food Security Situation

- Despite, India being a large producer of a range of food products, the percapita availability is one of the lowest because of large size of population; 1025 million and growing at about 1.8 percent a year.
- The percapita net availability of food grains is now lower than it was fifteen years ago.
- Food grains output growth has failed to keep pace with the demand growth driven by rising incomes.
- The production growth rate of food grains is decelerated to 1.2 percent during 1990-2007, lower than even annual growth of population averaging 1.8.

5. Nutrition Situation

Malnutrition in India continues to be at a high level with 42.5% children being underweight and almost 70% being anaemic. 22% children are born with low birth weight. Child malnutrition is both the result of economic conditions and poor nutritional awareness. Nutrition education and extension has been recognized as one of the long-term sustainable interventions essential to tackle the problem of malnutrition and to generate awareness and to promote the nutrition status of the country.

6. GHG Emission Situation

The total amount of GHGs emitted in India has been estimated at 1228 million tonnes, which accounted for only 3 per cent of the total global emissions, and of which 63 per cent was emitted as CO2, 33 per cent as CH4, and the rest 4 per cent as N2O. The GHG emissions in the years 1990, 1994 and 2000 increased from 988 to 1228 to 1484 million tonnes respectively and the compounded annual growth rate of these emissions between 1990 and 2000 has been 4.2 per cent. Emissions from the industrial sector registered the highest rate of growth per annum within this period. A comparison of the Indian emissions with some of the largest global emitters, indicates that the absolute value of Indian emissions is 24% of the US emissions, 31% of China and 80% of the USSR in 2000. The Indian per capita emissions are only 7% of the US, 13% of Germany, 14% of UK, 15% of Japan, 45% of China and 38% of global average in 2000.

Basic Features of the Agricultural Sector

a) Total Farming population over total population.

S.No.	Population			Population depending on Farming		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1.	530	495	1025	318	297	615

b) Number of Family Farmers and Big Farmers

S.No.	Small Farmers	Big Farmers	Total
1.	498	117	615

c) Land ownership and size of lands tilled by Small Scale Farmers.

S.No.	Lands tilled by Small Scale Farmers		
	Male	Female	Total
1.	249	249	498

d) Kinds of lands being Farmed: Both low land and up land

e) Major Crops produced: Cereals, Pulses, Grams, Oil Seeds, Commercial Crops, Horticulture Crops.

Significance Of Family Farming To The Nation

S.No.	Average size of Holding
1.	1.33 hects.

Average holding size of Family Farmers is 1.33 hects. The Family Farms grow traditional crops under Organic Farming through the manure obtained from their own cattle. Thus the traditional flavour of Commodities and Environment are protected.

Contribution To Economy Of The Nation

Family Farms Constitute 81% of total agricultural holdings in the Country. 60% of the production comes from these family farms. These Farms not only provide Food Security to the Nation but also contribute to the economy of the Nation directly and indirectly in the form of taxes, cess and foreign currency through exports. Agriculture exports constitute 12.2% in the total National exports.

Contributions To Environment

Traditional culture practices are adopted in Family Farms by following Organic and natural forming practices. These culture practices results maintenance of soil fertility, environment and reduction in the Green House Gases (GHG) and effects of Climate change.

Problems / Threats To Family Farmers And Their Organizations

a. Income

Incomes of Family Farm Farmers are not in tune with increase in the prices of agricultural inputs. Not even 1/3rd of the price paid by consumer is not reaching the farmer. Inadequate access to natural and basis resources for production, markets, value addition and processing are responsible for uneconomic conditions of Family Farm Farmers.

b. Political

Farmers in India are divided National and Regional Political party wise. Empowerment of farmers is the immediate need of the our. Apolitical and independent organizations like Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations (CIFA) are working for organizing farmers groups. CIFA also implementing Advocacy and lobbying programme to involve farmers in the organizations concerned with agriculture allied activities at all levels. With a view to articulate problems before decision making bodies and protect their human rights.

c. Cultural

As per National sample survey report, 40% of farmers including young are of the view for switching over to other livelihoods if an opportunity comes, since farming is not remunerative to them. Inspite of the fact that rural communities wish to protect their traditions, culture and customs, they are reluctant to continue in agriculture.

d. Initiatives to address these problems and threats

CIFA has already initiated Farm Development Programmes particularly farmers welfare programmes for empowering them by organizing Farmers Groups (FGs), Commodity Interest Groups (CIGs) creating awareness on the deficiencies in Agriculture Extension Services, Rural Infrastructure, Training Programmes on Soil Health, Crop Management, Integrated Pest Management, Pre and Post harvest technologies, Processing, Value Addition and Marketing. Farmers groups are also created awareness on the innovative and modern technologies viz., Space Technology for development of agriculture and Food Security etc. CIFA also sensitizes Parliamentarians, Legislators and Policy Makers on the problems confronted by Farm Sector particularly small and weaker section farmers to enable articulating the issues in the Legislative Forums and secure farmers friendly policies.

e. Conclusion

Family Farming plays crucial role in Farm Sector development. The subject revolves around Food Security and economy of the Country. Therefore there is need for strengthening agriculture infrastructure at grass root level in the direction of encouraging Family Farming Farmers by taking up programmes intended for soil health improvement, for rectifying and retaining soil health, so that productivity can be increased. Specific action plans should be evolved for 100% seed replacement and timely supply of quality fertilizers, especially for small holders. Public investment in Agriculture sector, particularly on research should be increased along with encouragement for organic farming. Strengthening Agriculture infrastructure under Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to tap private sector ability to work across value chains so that food stocks position can be improved. To introduce innovative instruments for risk management and crop insurance, especially for small farmers, when crops are affected by natural calamities, which facilitate continuous production of food crops. Long term export policies should be evolved to ensure continuous supply of food grains. Technology Missions constituted by Government for evolving strategies for increasing productivity of food crops could not produce anticipated results and lagging behind when compared with yields of other major food producing countries. The NGOs, like CIFA, are already supplementing the efforts of Government for increasing productivity of food crops. More support and technology transfer are needed by Indian NGOs from Foreign Donors to accelerate productivity increase programmes and meet the challenges under WTO.

SIGNIFICANCE OF FAMILY FARMING IN THE ASIAN REGION – PERSPECTIVE OF SMALL FARMERS IN PAKISTAN

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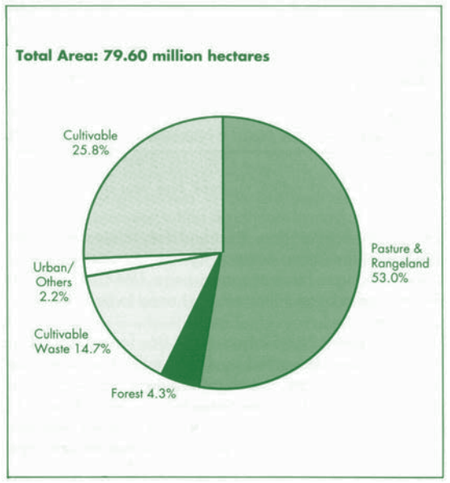
Introduction of Pakistan

Pakistan has 88.2 million hectors of land within its borders comprising of high mountains on the North, vast planes of Punjab and Sindh, extensive range lands of Balochistan and Potohar region with desert on the South. 61.8 million hectares of land have been surveyed out of which approximately 25.8 percent is cultivable, cultivable waste is 14.7 percent, pasture and range land is 53.0 percent with forests of 4.3 percent. Approximately 20 million hectares are used for agriculture out of which 16 million hectors are irrigated and just over 4 million is Barani agriculture. Leaving aside Mount Everest the highest mountain of the world, four other high mountains ranging from 25447 ft. to 28250 ft. are located in Pakistan. Out of a total land area of 79.6 million hectares in use, only 16 million hectares are suitable for irrigated farming in Pakistan due to which majority of the people depend on arid and semi-arid areas to support their livelihoods through agro pastoral activities.

Current Land Use



Source: National Commission on Agriculture Report
Note: For four provinces only

Pakistan with a population of 160.9 million in mid 2008 is the sixth most populous country in the world. The country's population is estimated to double in the year 2047 if it continues to grow at the rate of 1.8 percent. The population density has increased to 203 percent per square kilometer today from 42.5 percent per square kilometer in 1951. Movement of population to urban areas attributed to well known "pull" and "push" factors continues and as a result the urban population has increased from 6 million in 1951 to today's 57 million.

Pakistan's Economy

The Pakistan's economy posted a robust growth of 4.1 percent in 2007-2008 when viewed for over a period of 5 years the real GDP is growing at an average rate of 7 percent per annum over the last 5 years (2004-2009) which was lowest of 2.0 percent in 2008-09

Sectoral Contribution to the GDP growth (% Points)

Sector	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Agriculture	1.5	1.4	0.9	0.24	1.00
Industry	3.1	1.1	2.3	0.45	-0.92
Manufacturing	2.7	1.6	1.6	0.91	-0.64
Services	4.4	3.3	3.6	3.41	1.92
Real GDP	9.0	5.8	6.8	4.10	2.00

Contribution to the Real GDP Growth

Notwithstanding its declining share in GDP, agriculture is still the single largest sector of the economy, attributing 21 percent to GDP and employing 44 percent of the work force. More than 2/3rd of Pakistan's population lives in rural areas and their livelihood continues to revolve around agriculture and allied activities. Like any other developing countries, poverty in Pakistan is largely a rural phenomenon, therefore development of agriculture will be a principal vehicle in alleviating rural poverty. The recent global food crises, while creating difficulties in net-food importing country, is equally providing opportunity for developing countries like Pakistan to get their acts together and benefit from the current situation by giving serious attention to agriculture.

Pakistan being an agrobased country playing an important role to the country's economy as Pakistan's main agricultural exports are highly concentrated in a few items namely cotton, leather, rice, synthetic textiles and sports goods. These five categories of export account for 72.4 percent of total exports during the first 9 months of 2007-08 with cotton manufacturers alone contributing 54.7 percent followed by rice 7.1 percent, leather 6.1 percent, synthetic textiles 2.9 percent and sports goods 1.6 percent.

Per capita income defined as Gross National Product at market price in dollar term divided by the country's population, has grown at an average rate of above 13 percent per annum during the last 5 years rising from 586 dollars to 1085 dollars in 2007-2008.

The income consumption model of the Pakistan's social and living standard (PSLM) survey provides basic information for the incidence of poverty and distribution of income. Poverty was estimated 23.9 percent in 2004-05 as compared with 34.5 percent in 2001 with an improvement of 10.6 percent in four years. Based on Planning Commission estimated head count ratio the percentage of population below poverty line has fallen marginally from 23.94 percent in 2004-05 to 22.32 in 2005-06. Poverty in rural areas declined from 28.13 percent to 27.0 percent showing an improvement of 1.13 percentage point between 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Similarly poverty in urban areas is also on decline from 14.4 percent to 13.1 percent during 2004-05 and 2005-06. Poverty estimates at the national level declined slightly between 2004-05 and 2005-06 but the reduction was not statistically significant.

Pakistan has a tensile land, with four times as many people per hectare as the globe as a whole, and faces rapid population increase. Yet with a gross national product per capita i.e. 1/9th the world average, the pressure of those numbers on global estimate is surprisingly light. The average Pakistani e.g. consumes less than 17 as much energy as is used globally. Thus on average for every person in the world responsible for releasing 1.7 tons of carbon per annum (CO_2), average Pakistani contributes only a 10th of a ton. Similarly per capita carbon

mono-oxide emission in Pakistan is 1/3rd of he global average, and Pakistan contribution to emission of sulphur dioxide (SO_2) is only 0.4 percent of the global total.

Agriculture in Pakistan

Water Resources

Pakistan has a vast watershed resource base which consists of Himalayan and Hindukush Mountains of about 155,000 mile2 (401554 km2) with numerous glaciers feeding the Indus river System. In order to harness this resource, 3 major reservoirs, 19 barrages, 12 link canals, about 38000 mile (61152 km) long irrigation canals, more than a million mile (1.61 million km) long watercourses and 10,000 mile (16093 km) long surface drains have been constructed. In addition, there are over 290,000 public and private tube wells to tap the sub-surface water available in the basin.

The above source of water is used for irrigating 16 million hectares of land. Pakistan's agriculture output is closely linked with the supply of irrigation water the availability of which was 103.5 million acre feet (MAF) at the canal head which decreased by 5.9 percent in (2003-04) to 20.6 percent (2004-05) which further remains less by 2.5 percent in 2005-06. Availability of water from the canal heads is on the decrease affecting major crops both in the Rabi and Khareef season. The production of major crops is given in the table below:-

Production of Major Crops (000 tons)

Year	Cotton (000 bales)	Sugarcane	Rice	Maize	Wheat
2003-04	10048 (-1.6)	53419 (2.6)	4848 (8.3)	1897 (9.2)	19500 (1.6)
2004-05	14265 (42.0)	47244 (-11.6)	5025 (3.6)	2797 (47.4)	21612 (10.8)
2005-06	13019 (-8.7)	444666 (-5.5)	5547 (10.4)	3110 (11.2)	21277 (-1.6)
2006-07	12856 (-1.2)	54742 (22.6)	5348 (-2.0)	3088 (-0.7)	23295 (9.5)
2007-08	11655 (-9.3)	63920 (16.8)	5563 (2.3)	3605 (16.7)	20959 (-10.0)
2008-09	11819 (1.4)	50045 (-21.7)	6952 (24.9)	4036 (11.9)	23421 (11.7)

Pattern of Land Distribution

In the present system of ownership at the top of social ladder is the big landlord owning in its individual capacity and entire estate or lord's landed property. Generally he gets his land cultivated by tenants who pay rent in cash or in kind or both.

Next in order the peasant proprietor who owns a very small area which he cultivates himself with the help of his family or through hard labor.

Tenant or the non owner cultivator who has no permanent interest in the land, at the lowest level is the casual agricultural worker who is employed on daily wage basis.

According to the latest economic survey 2006-07 published by the finance division of the Pakistan following is the land utilization table.

No. And Area of Private Farms with its Distribution to Small Farmers

Farms			Farm Area		Cultivated Area	
Size of Farms (Hectares)	Number	Percent	Total Hectare (Million)	Percent	Total Hectare (Million)	Percent
Under 0.5	0.68	13	0.19	1	0.18	1
0.5 to Under 1.0	0.69	14	0.51	3	0.47	3
1.0 to Under 2.0	1.04	20	1.45	8	1.33	8
2.0 to Under 3.0	0.84	17	1.97	10	1.81	12
3.0 to Under 5.0	0.86	17	3.31	17	2.97	19
5 to Under 10.0	0.62	12	4.13	21	3.55	23
10.0 to Under 20.0	0.24	5	3.03	16	2.42	15
20.0 to Under 60.0	0.09	2	2.61	14	1.84	12
60.0 Hectares and above	0.02	0	1.94	10	1.04	7
Total	5.08	100	19.14	100	15.61	100

According to the above table no. of farms falling in the category of 0.5 -5.0 hectares is 4.11 out of total no. of 5.08 million that is 81%, whereas farm area is 7.43 million hectares out of total 19.14 million that is 39%. All these farms are nonsubsistance-holding farms, as subsistence holding level is five hectares. Those holdings 5-60 hectares and above control 61% of total farm area ,where as no. of farms is only 19% and most of these are absentee landlords.

Problems of Family Farmers

The Table above indicate that there are large percentage of small uneconomic holdings leading to food insufficiency at household level and contributing poverty in rural areas. According to house hold surveys under the two hundred village project, at least 36% of the house holds are food insecure. It is further evident that out of the total population of farmers living in the rural areas, approximately 54 percent of these are small family farmers living below the subsistence level. The problems encountered by these small farmers are lack of credit facilities which whenever available are at an interest rate of 17% to 20%, small land holding, lack of infrastructure, non-availability of agricultural inputs like agricultural machinery, fertilizers, adulterated pesticides and certified seeds at the pre-harvest season. The post harvest problem are again the non-availability of harvester, thresher etc., lack of local storage facility and difficult access to the market. All these factors result into higher cost of inputs and reduce income. The agricultural machinery is available mostly with the bigger landlords who make this equipment available on rent after the equipment is free from their personal lands and at higher rate.

Moreover due to the poor economic conditions of the small farmers, they are socially at the lower ladder of the society lacking adequate housing facilities which in majority of cases are mud houses, lack of sanitation, pure drinking water, health facilities and education to the children.

Political Participation of Farmers in the Country:

Pakistan has four provinces, each province is divided into a number of districts. Union Council is the smallest political organization at the lowest level representing a population of about ten thousand people spread over 5-6 villages. In local bodies administration system farmers and labourers are represented both at the level of Union Council and District Council through electoral system. The representation of farmers and the composition of these councils is given as under:-

Composition of Union Council is as under:

Nazim (Administrator)	1
Naib Nazir (Assistant Administrator)	1
General seats for Muslim Male	4
General seats for Muslim Female	2
Farmers (Male)	2
Farmers (Female)	2
Minority seats	1
Total	**13**

Composition of District Council:

Nazim	1
Members	99
Reserve Seat female	33
Farmers and Workers (M)	5
Minorities (M)	5
Total:	**143**

Improvement Programmes for Small Farmers

Government of Pakistan introduced a number of programmes from time to time for the improvement of small farming.

In 1967, Dr. M. Sadiq Malik while working with the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Pakisan, conceived, planned and implemented the concept of IRDP. The central point of this concept was that all aspects of rural life are interrelated and no lasting results can be achieved if individual aspects are dealt with in isolation. In order to bring economic and social change in the rural community, joint efforts by the governments, farmers and private institutions are simultaneously required.

The efficacy of the concept was practically demonstrated through "Shadab Pilot Project". Shadab was an integration and combination of several services in a united programme to provide all the necessary assistance to the villagers as a package deal through a focal point called "MARKAZ" (Growth Centre).

Shadab Project was formally evaluated after two years and 10 % increase in productivity was witnessed. The government of Pakistan launched this programme throughout the country with full force and political commitment in 1972 and planned to establish 625 MARAKIZ. Each Markaz was designed to serve 50-60 villages in 10 Union Councils stretching over an area of about 100,000 acres. A Development Assistant (DA) was appointed in each Union Council (3-4 villages) and a Manager was located at the Markaz. DA prepared development plans of the villages under his control which were forwarded to the Manager at Markaz who worked out the inputs required for the entire projects and forwarded it to the headquarters. The Markaz not only had the pre and post harvest facilities for farmers (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, machinery, tools, storage, marketing, agro-based industries etc) but also catered to their needs of health, education, and training, all available at a single point. Thus IRDP had created an atmosphere wherein all the departmental rivalries have been sunk, duplication of efforts avoided and wastage of resources minimized. The programme was fully supported by international agencies and The World Bank. This concept was debated and discussed threadbare in a series of seminars and discussions and was greatly acclaimed both by national and international experts.

The programme remained on ground for about 7 years and was discontinued in 1977 due to political reasons without any evaluation.

Dr. M. Sadiq Malik after retirement established Rural Development Foundation (RDF) in 1978, based on the concept of IRDP and with an objective to implement this concept in Pakistan through RDF.

RDF-NGO Working Model for IRDP

RDF-NGO Network has been established in all the four provinces of Pakistan and through this network the network NGOs in the field are working in the Integrated Rural Development Programme for the benefit of small farmers. Under the umbrella of these NGOs Small Farmers Unions have been established in different districts. A model of Small Farmers Union (SFU) working under Yasir Development Foundation a member of RDF NGO network in District Khanewal is given as under.

There are 660 villages of District Khanewal. One volunteer member has been nominated from each village as a member of the Union of Small Farmers under the Chairmanship of President Yasir Development Foundation. Particulars of Distt. Khanewal are given as under:-

Small Farmers in Model District

Number of Villages	660.
Total agriculture area in acre	2071,676
Farmers with land holding	
1-3 Acres	18940
4-6 Acres	21656
7-10 Acres	17885
11-12 Acres	31094
12.5 to 25 Acres	5,034
More than 25 Acres	1,910
Total Number of Orcherds	1,343

The data above will show that the total number of farmers in the District are 970311 out of which 89575 i.e. (92%) are the small farmers and 7736 (8%) are the big farmers.

The following facilities have been established which through the Small Farmers Union are supplied to the Small Farmers.

Agricultural Machinery

At District Headquarter Khanewal there are 12 Tractors, 4 Thrashers, 9 Rotavators, 2 Reepers, 5 Scrapers, 2 Laser Land Leveler, 12 Levelling Blade, 6 Rager. This equipment is made available to the small farmers at a slightly subsidized rate but can meet the requirement of only a few thousand people.

Distribution of Fertilizer
The Farmers Union issued two bags of DAP and two bags of urea per acre for cotton and three bags of DAP and three bags of urea per acre in wheat season. In the last season of 2009-2010 the following quantity of fertilizers was issued:

DAP 288000 bags Urea 290000 bags	Wheat Seasons
DAP 242000 bags Urea 285000 bags N.P. 78000	Cotton Season

The fertilizer facility was arranged by the Chairman Small Farmers Union (SFU) by arranging bank loan through which the fertilizer was procured from the factory at controlled rate. The total number of beneficiaries in USF in the District were 12000.

Pesticides and Certified Seed
At present total area cultivated by the members of Union of Small Farmers (USF) is about 80 thousand acres for which the pesticides and seeds are either already procured by the members or through the USF from the suppliers companies.

Financial Management
All members of USF are issued cards showing their particulars and entitlement of different articles such as, fertilizer, seed, chemical etc., based on the size of their land holding. A stock register is also maintained to record the issue of stocks to the members. At the beginning of each sowing season all the agricultural inputs are supplied to the members and the amount is recovered at the time of harvest. However a post-dated cheque is obtained from each member at the time of issue of agricultural inputs. 90% recovery is made after harvest of each crop and 10% who fail to pay at that time are deferred for six months. This programme is being run by USF on a loan of Rs. 9200000/- obtained by the Chairman of USF from a Bank at interest rate of 17% to which 3% service charges are added so that all the agricultural inputs received by a USF member for one crop are paid back after harvest of the crop with 10% mark up on ½ yearly basis.

Initiatives Supporting Small Farmers

Small farmers are the backbone of agriculture in the country and if the socio-economic conditions of the small farmers are improved these will result into improvement of the economy of the country. Realizing the role of small farmers in the community and its importance for the economy to the country, the Government has introduced a number of programmes from time to time for the redressal of these problems which are briefly mentioned below:

Fertilizer:
Almost the entire available soil in the country is nutrient deficient. Domestic Production of fertilizer in the country in 2007-08 was 2.08 million tons which was less by 2.2 percent. The deficiency was made good by import of fertilizer.

Improved Seed:
During 2007-08 about 231.67 thousand tones of improved seed of various varieties was distributed. There are four public sector organizations, 600 National seed Companies, 4 multinational companies dealing with improved seed varieties, hybrids of maiz, sunflower, eamalli, fodders and forages and vegetables. Government is managing the seed quality control services through 30 seed testing laboratories.

Agricultural Credit:
Agricultural credit provides financial resources to the farming community particularly for purchase of primary inputs like fertilizer, seed, pesticides, machinery, equipments etc. Government has allocated 200 billion for agricultural credit disbursement for the year 2007-08 and 250 billion for the year 2008-2009 which is higher than by 25 percent over the preceeding year. The credit was disbursed through Zarai Taraqiati Bank Ltd., (ZTBL), Commercial Banks, Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank as Production and Development Loans, Small Farmers One Window Operation, Revolving Finance Schemes for raising Livestock, Crop Maximization and New initiatives.

Challenges and recommendations

The following measures will help in meeting successfully the challenges to the Small Farmers:

1. Organizing Small Farmers Union at grass root level and to impart awareness for better socio-political position in the community.
2. Ensure easy and timely supply of improved agricultural inputs at pre-harvest time.
3. Provide easy access to credit facilities at low interest rate.
4. Supply of improved varieties of seeds to Small Farmers.
5. Introduce agricultural technology for increased productivity.
6. Facilitate maximization of crops
7. Promote use of marginal lands
8. Empowerment of farming Women through micro credit introducing microenterprize, sheep, goat, cattle raising for increased income generation.
9. Increased availability of storage facilities at village level.
10. Introduction of water conservation and best practices of irrigation.
11. Improved practices of marketing and provision of infrastructure.

North Asia Perspective

Country Presentations:
TaiwanDHRRA Chairperson. Dr Wen Chi. Taiwan
KAFF. Korea

Significance of Family Farming in the Asian Region: General Situation of Family Farming in Taiwan

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Introduction of Taiwan (Republic of China)

Basic topographical features

The Republic of China (ROC) is popularly known as "Taiwan" because the land over which the ROC government exercises sovereignty most importantly encompasses the large island of Taiwan, situated in the West Pacific between Japan and the Philippines. The territory of the nation comprises a number of smaller islands; most notably ones are the Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu island groups. Together, Taiwan and its associated islands have a combined area of approximately 36,200 sq km. Measuring about 400 km from north to south and around 145 km from east to west at its widest, the island of Taiwan constitutes 99 percent of the area under the nation's jurisdiction. Taiwan Island can be divided into five major physiographical regions: mountain ranges, volcanic mountains, foothills, tablelands, and coastal plains and basins. The island lies along a West Pacific "rim of fire," and the earthquakes accompanied the tectonic movement has created some of its most prominent geological characteristics. There are more than two hundred peaks rising higher than 3,000 meters above sea level. Steep mountains over 1,000 meters high constitute about 31 percent of the island's total land area (GIO, 2009).

Basic economic features

The total Gross Domestic Product for Taiwan in 2008 is US$402.6 billion, and the per capita GDP is US$17,507 (PPP of US$30,912 based on IMF estimates). At the end of 2009, the population of Taiwan is 23,119,772. The labor participation rate for male is 66.40% and female is 49.62% in 2009. The economic downturn in 2009 has created a record level of unemployment rate at 5.74% in the end of 2009, which is a sharp increase compared with the figure in 2008 (4.14%) and 2007 (3.91%). The income disparity computed by the dividing the household income of highest 20% to the lowest 20% has raised slightly from 5.98 times in 2007 to 6.05 times in 2008 (DGBAS, 2010).

Basic features of the agricultural sector

Agriculture accounted for more than 30% of GDP in the 1950s but has fallen to 1.69% in 2008. The total agricultural production valued at US$ 13 billion (NT$417,501,076,000). The contribution was 11% if the related primary, secondary and tertiary industries are included. This shows that agriculture remains an important sector in the Taiwan's economy as a whole (COA, 2009).

Significance of family farming in Taiwan

The agricultural sector is characterized by small holders/family farming; where family farming is the norm. Family farming is regarded as a way of life and it has not been abandoned from the value system of policy makers, since there are still 10% of the household is farm household. There were still more than 3 million people reside on the farm household at the end of 2008. The most important asset/input for the farm household is the farm land. According to the most recent census conducted at the end of 2005, the average arable farm land per farm household has decreased from 0.79 to 0.72 ha from 2000 to 2005. The farm household has a very small arable land area, where 78.33% of the farm households had arable land area which was below 1 ha. On the other hand, there were 771,579 farm households which jointly hold almost 93% of the arable land in 2005 (Table 1).

Table 1. Land Ownership Pattern by Farm Household in 2005

Ownership Type	Household (No)	%	Arable Land by Ownership and Type*	%
Total	771,579	100.00	Ownership Total	100.00
Own Land	767,554	99.48	Prod. on own land	84.94
100%	675,581	87.56	Prod. not on own land	15.26
Partial	52,806	6.84	Rent in/occupy	12.85
≧ 50%	26,485	3.43	Entrusted by others	2.41
< 50%	26,316	3.41	Total (597,438 ha)	100.00
0 % Own land	39,172	5.08	Farm Household	92.72
No arable land	4,025	0.52	Registered Farms	7.28

Note : * Include the 775 registered commercial farms, the total area is 597,438 ha.
Source: DGBAS 2007, Agricultural Census, http://www.stat.gov.tw/public/Attachment/7121210265271.pdf

An ordinary farm household is described as a couple working together on the farm, but just as the English term "farmer" refers to the male member working on the farm while the "farm woman" refers to someone who marries into the farm household who helps out on the farm. The invisibility of the farm women from the perspective of policy makers but whose real contribution on the farm is appreciated in the farm household in need in deed (Huang 2008). At the end of 2008, there were 1,498,506 persons in the farm household working on their own farm either full time or part time (Table 2). It is apparent that there is a higher percentage of male working on own farm than female, but those who work only on the farm, the percentage from male and female are much closer (34% for male and 30% for female). The figure is consistent with the description of a typical workforce composition of the farm household. For female family members who engaged in own farm activities, they are less likely to work part-time. For those who work full-time on the farm, they fall into a higher age group than those working part-time on the farm.

As younger members of the family tend to find jobs in non-agricultural sectors, farm operating/ manager's age is averaged at 62 (Council of Agriculture, 2008). Considering that the life expectancy at birth for the Taiwanese is 78.97 years (female: 82.46; male: 75.88), the figure is still alarmingly high.

Table 2. Age, Gender Structure, and On-farm Working Status for Farm Household in 2008

Farming Status			Age (Year)					
	% of Total		15-19	20-29	30-44	45-64	65+	Total
Total	100.0	100.0	1.0	5.8	19.4	39.6	34.2	100.0
Full-time	64.5	64.5	1.4	3.8	9.6	35.5	49.7	100.0
Part-time	35.5	35.5	0.1	9.4	37.4	47.1	6.1	100.0
Male (Sub-total)	60.9	100.0	0.9	6.4	21.6	38.6	32.4	100.0
Full-time	34.2	56.2	1.5	4.3	8.7	32.7	52.8	100.0
Part-time	26.7	43.8	0.1	9.1	38.2	46.2	6.4	100.0
Female (Sub-total)	39.1	100.0	1.1	4.8	16.0	41.2	37.0	100.0
Full-time	30.3	77.6	1.4	3.2	10.6	38.7	46.2	100.0
Part-time	8.8	22.4	0.0	10.3	34.7	49.8	5.3	100.0

Note: There were 1,498,506 persons above 15 years old working on family farms at the end of 2008.
Source: COA, 2009. Statistical Yearbook 2008

Problems of/threats to family farmers and their organizations

The farm household has to rely on non-agricultural income to sustain the household consumption level. The dependent rate of agricultural income for farm household was only 20.6% in 2007, and the agricultural income sufficiency ratio as percentage of consumption expenditure was only 32.5% of farm household income . However, it is not "news" at all. Ever since 1976, the sufficiency ratio has been dropping, but the agricultural income also increases steadily, the Engle's coefficient dropped from 49% to 26%. Therefore, from the perspective of food and beverage as percentage of the consumption expenditure, agricultural income is more than enough to support the farm family.

People, the natural environment and the communities are the main supporting tiers for development of the rural areas. When we discuss about the development of the rural communities, it is hard to separate the issues involved with one of the tiers without being affected the others. However, what should be central to the issues rests on how to entice young generation to be the first liners to take up the challenge for achieving a new generation of agrarian reform. Hence, human resource development, especially for the young practitioners in agribusiness or agro-industry career remains major concerns for the future agricultural development in Taiwan (Huang and Chen, 2009).

In the earlier economic development process, the farming sector had been the supplier of the major inputs for industrial sectors. Relatively low returns in the farming sector shifted the allocation of capital, land and labor into the more productive sectors in the urban area. The intentionally shifting people away from farming practices to work in the factory and other sector in the early stages made the status of agriculture as an undesirable sector to economic development. And further misconception was presented that that farming as being a heavily compensated business (Huang and Chen, 2009).

Despite the civil law to protect the gender equitable inheritance in the household, the paternal society of the rural villages in Taiwan still follow the traditional social norm of the male string to inherit the farm land and farm household. And traditional agricultural practices pass from father-to-son that engagement of the daughters in farming practices would be more on the help-out status. The most likely case for women to take care of the daily operation of the farm would be for them to marry into the farm household. In either case, the farming practices were learnt through learning-by-doing, and by attending training sessions, workshop or meetings. The ability of the women in rural villages might not be limited to those directly linked with farming practices, but might a good addition to add in a much broader career opportunities as they were brought into the rural village (Huang, 2008).

Initiative to address theses problems and threats

Being the sector that oversees the vast natural and productive resources in especially the rural and peri-urban area and people, the agricultural policy agenda for the new administration that took office ever since May of 2008 has been set to "Establish a Healthy, Efficient and Sustainable Agriculture for All the Citizens" (Council of Agriculture, 2008). From the perspective of food supply and sustainability of the environment, the grand agenda is to promote chemical residue free (non-poisonous) agriculture. To enlarge the scale of operation has been on the agenda for the past three decades, a typical example is to encourage the farmers to form into groups (the so called production and marketing teams). A recent initiative is to encourage youngsters or people who were employed in other sectors to move to the agricultural sector by land leasing program. The intention is to convert the set aside farmland owned by the aging farmers to be converted into a larger unit by leasing arrangement. It is called the "big lessee small landlord project." The project is still on-going.

For rural women: to improve the economic situation in the rural area and to enhance the rural development, to create income opportunities for women or in the rural area is very important. Establishment of rural women's enterprises is regarded as a way to make use of the talent and capability of the farm women as a "sideline" job to generate supplemental income for the household.

Conclusion: opportunities and challenges

The experience of "unhappy" "unpleasant" "failure" in the farming business pushed away the youngster out of rural farming household to the cities and other types of business. There are a lot more "attractive" opportunities outside of farming sector are the common impression. In order to making agriculture related businesses to be attractive, the negative image of agriculture sector should be improved. The concern includes that: agriculture is a low pay job; farming is a risky business; it requires hard work; it tends to be a hot working environment especially in the tropics and it is hard to keep clean; and that since the business depends heavily on the weather, one has to adapt to the highly flexible working routine (Huang and Chen, 2009). Hence, even though farming seems to be a career with very low entry barrier, but to prosper in the industry is not ease.

Even with the aging population in the agricultural sector, good infrastructure for accessing the market at all levels: such as paved road, cold storage, packaging facilities after harvesting; face to face communication and training for market requirement. Daily operated local markets are conveniently located in each township; efficient wholesale markets in major metropolitan area; information communication technology is well understood and adapted by majority of the population.

Agriculture has shifted its role as the supplier of food in the past to the current multi-function role in food security, rural village development and ecosystem conservation. The common requirement in the business world of asking for multi-disciplinary expertise for the new entrants to the job market has been always been the case for small farming business. For those who could engage in multiple tasking on a farm by provide value added to the farm

product tends to be more successful than others. It has been evident from the agricultural census information which show that for those farms that take up the processing and services business as integral part of the operation is more profitable than the traditional farming which only focusing on the production of raw materials. The farmers, who have engaged in more industrialized operation or more capital intensive operations to overcome the influence of the nature, tend to outperform traditional farming practices.

With the economic development, there is a genuine desire for people to expect their living environment to be safe, pleasant, and enjoyable. Thus, there is an urgent need to improve agricultural sector in the quality, safety assurance not only for the food but also for the productive environment for creating other values in multiple facet dimensions which forms the foundation for to for the livelihood of human beings.

The stories of the new comers into the picture provide good model for others who want to follow. As the information on market, training opportunities are readily available on the tip of the fingers, it is promising to see to the younger generation already in the picture.

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FAMILY FARMING IN SOUTH KOREA

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Introducing the country: Location and population

It is called The Republic of Korea or South Korea and is called Nam Joseon by North Korea.

The administrative districts of Korea are composed of one special city, 6 metropolitan cities, 9 provinces. Korea is only divided country in the world and the Korean war ended in truce after the cease-fire agreement in the year of 1953.

The population of Korea is 48.544.401(2006), GDP per person is 27.647$(2008). The source of income in Korea is manufacturing industries and the field of IT has been drawing a lot of money from abroad.

Agricultural industry rate in all industries is about 3%, self-sufficiency of the food is about 27%. The rest of them depends on importing and there is little poverty.

The situation of Korean food security is that most of agricultural products have been warned except rice. Korea is the third country of all the other countries in OECD which are in food self-sufficiency. The nutritive condition of the nation is in good condition so far and meat consumption is growing due to Westernized eating habits.

The population of agricultural industry is about 3 million which is 7% of the population of Korea. Family farming in past tends to change to large-scale farming.

Farming population is decreasing in rural areas due to the hard intensity of farming and the rate of older people in farming is increasing. The major product is rice. The land ownership is 330 square meter as the smallest and 33,000 square meter as the biggest. The people who own the biggest large-scale farming own more than 165,000 square feet of the farming land.

The importance of family farming in Korea

The family farming in Korea is decreasing and is changing to market farming because family farming cannot earn much money. There are too many people in Korea compare to the small size of the land so that farmers can only get 60~70% of the wages of that of workers in cities.

Farming in Korea is planned to be the assurance for future national security and an eco-friendly business. Therefore, people can rest in countryside and farmers can draw money not only from producing farm products but also from tour business.

Farming does not have big influence on Korea's economy, however, producing rice which is a major crop in Korea by farmers themselves means that farming in Korea would not be harshly affected by rising in farm products prices.

Threats to family farming and their organizations

In Korea, farmers should take care of every part in farming from producing to processing and even to marketing. However, they can not earn enough money since processing costs too

much. Moreover, farmers cannot ignore the quality of farm products since there are FTA and DDA that threaten agriculture in Korea. The way of farming in Korea is changing from pesticide producing to organic producing and to more eco-friendly farming.

There are many farmers' associations in Korea. Some represent certain products and others such as KAFF represent agriculture itself. These farmers' associations have great influence on policy making of the Ministry of food, Agriculture, forestry and Fisheries in Korea. Farmers' associations speak for all the farmers in Korea and they make recommendations to the government, discuss them and make solutions.

In the past, farmers' associations had risen their voices when the president of KAFF was the minister of the Ministry of food, Agriculture, forestry and Fisheries in Korea. That was the time when farmers had chance to see the minister and speak for farmers themselves.

The meeting hall for agricultural sector is planned to be built in near future. The agricultural meeting hall in France will be benchmarked as a role model and this meeting hall will be used as a place where farmers' associations can gather their opinions and suggest them to the government.

Young people in Korea do not consider the agriculture as their future jobs because they cannot earn much money as farmers. It is not possible to produce anything without any land although they want to. As mentioned above, there is little land and many people in Korea so that young poeple cannot afford to buy the land unless they inherit their parents' land.

Moreover, even farmers themselves do not want their children to be farmers since it is such a hard work and vulnerable to natural disasters such as typhoons or floods.

Initiation of response to the problems and challenges

People can hardly be wealthy as farmers in Korea. They can afford their own food or clothes since GDP is high in Korea but farmers are poor compare to workers in cities. Only few farmers can be successful as rich farmers. We are trying to export our products not just as products themselves but as well-made food and make high-quality food with changing the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in the past to the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries now. We do not sell cabbages but Kimchi and not apples but apple juice since exporting raw agricultural products does not have merit in world-wide market with FTA that allows importing low price agricultural products from abroad.

Conclusion

It is clear that agriculture has been going through hard periods until now. However, giving up the agriculture is not the way to solve the problems. Agriculture will get the limelight as an important industry that could prevent global warming and extreme climate change.

Koran dishes are getting popular abroad nowadays. Introducing Korean dishes like, Kimchi, Bibimpop, Makgeoli and Tteokbokki is also the way of introducing Korean agricultural products. Just simple farming cannot bring success to us. Farmers themselves as well as farming have to keep the pace with fast changes in the world. Only those who try to get much information and study hard would be successful and support their family.

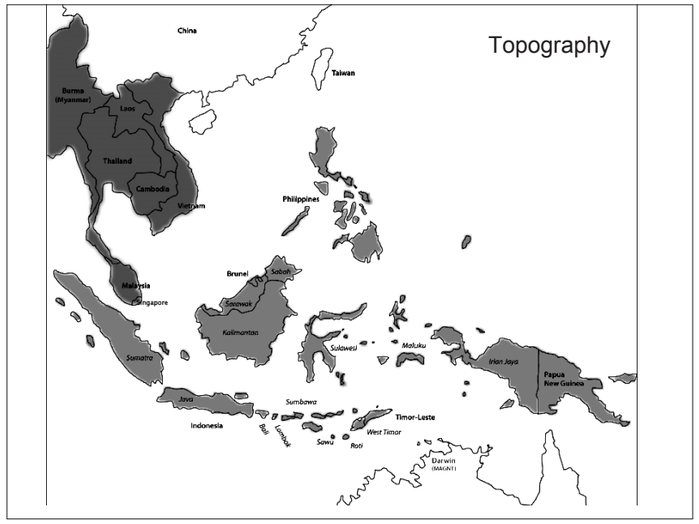
Southeast Asia Perspective

Lead Discussant:
AFA General Secretary. Ms Esther Penunia. Philippines

Country Presentations:
SorKorPor. Secretary General. Mr. Pote Chumsri. Thailand
WAMTI-Indonesian Farmers Society Organization. Executive Secretary. Ms Lany Eugenia. Indonesia

BRIEF PROFILE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

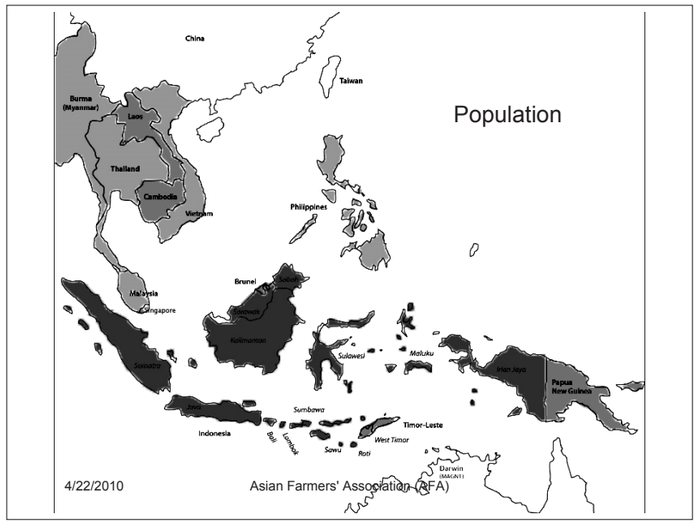
By Ms. Esther Penunia, Secretary General
Asian Farmers Association (AFA)



Topography: Southeast Asia is a subregion of Asia, consisting of the countries that are geographically south of China, east of India and north of Australia. The region lies on the intersection of geological plates, with heavy seismic and volcanic activity .

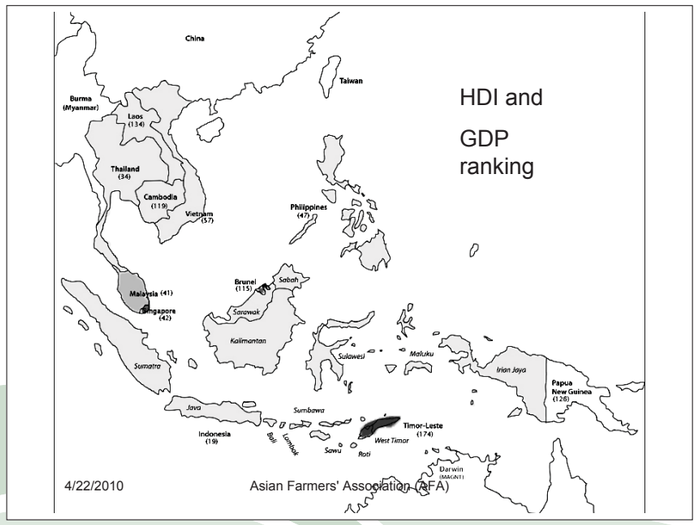
Southeast Asia consists of two geographic regions : the Asian mainland (aka) (IndoChina), and island arcs and archipelagoes to the east and southeast. The mainland section, here in brown color, consists of Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and Peninsular Malaysia. While the maritime section, here in blue color, consists of Brunei, East Malaysia, East Timor, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Singapore. Except Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea , all are members of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).

Southeast Asia, as a whole, is richly endowed with natural resources. Expansive river valleys and deltas, generally rich soils, and a humid tropical climate ensure that the constraints to agricultural development have historically been more economic and institutional than environmental.



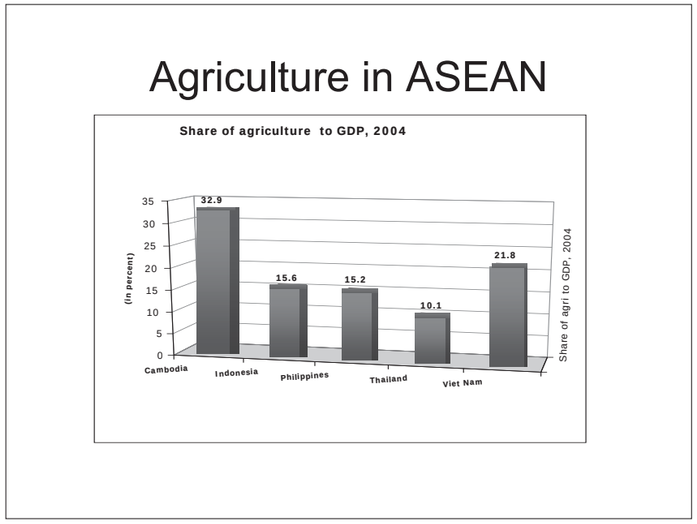
Demography: Population In SEA is about 599M in 2009; in ASEAN , around 592 M. Indonesia, with the brown color, has the biggest population . Big populations also in Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines, here colored blue; they have 28-92M people. Small populations in Cambodia, Laos, Papua New Guinea, here colored bluegreen; they have from 14,000-6M people.

It's a relatively young population. In 2003, in ASEAN, 61% of population belongs to 15-60 years of ages while 32% belong to less than 15 years of age; and only 7% are more than 60 years old.



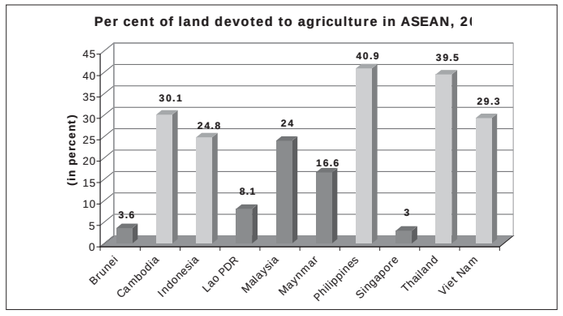
Economy: Indonesia is the largest economy in the region, 19th in GDP world ranking in 2008. With regards to 2007 Human Development Index, Singapore and Brunei has very high HDI and are considered developed countries, here colored dark green. Malaysia has high HDI (here colored light green) while Phils, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Lao PDR has medium high HDI ; here colored yellow. These countries are considered developing countries. Although Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines are considered newly industrialized countries. Only Timor Leste is considered LDC, here colored red .

While the region's economy greatly depends on agriculture, manufacturing and services are becoming more important. Still heavily dependent on agriculture are Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, although the latter is making steady progress in developing its industrial sectors. Tourism has been a key factor in economic development for many SEA countries, especially Cambodia , Laos , Vietnam and Thailand, whose GDP from tourism ranged from 7-15%.



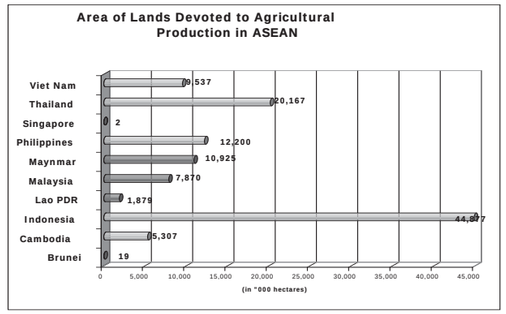
Agriculture remains a significant segment in the economies of many ASEAN countries. Although its share to total economic output has been declining, it nevertheless continues to have a vital role in meeting these countries' fundamental socio-economic objectives such as food security, livelihood security and poverty alleviation, among others. IN the main, the contribution of the sector to the economy is bigger in CMLV countries : Cambodia at 33%, Vietnam at 22%, not here in graph but data says Laos' agri share to GDP is at 50% and Myanmar at 43%.

Substantial lands devoted to agri



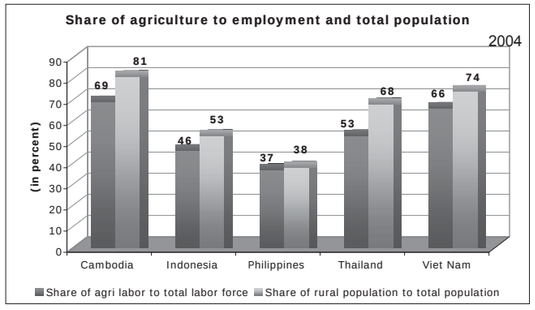
A large segment of the land resources in many ASEAN members are devoted to agricultural production. In 2002, Philippines has highest percent of land devoted to agri, followed by Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam.

Indonesia has biggest agri area, next are Thailand and Philippines



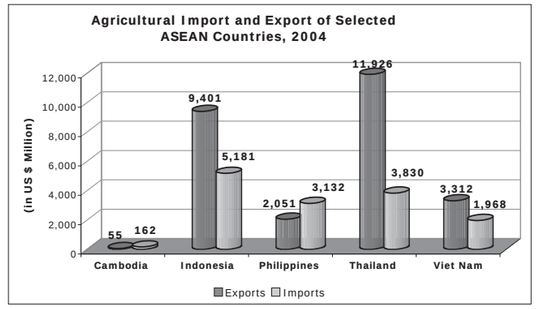
However, this ranking changes when it comes to actual size of area devoted to agricultural production. Indonesia has the biggest agricultural area , with Thailand as a far second. Who owns this agri lands? A large majority of the farmers in SEA work on small lands , averaging 0.5-2 hectares. Some are owner cultivators;; Many are agricultural workers and tenants. The fact that the percentage of lands devoted to agri production is consistently lower than the sectors' share to total economic output is indicative of the lower level of land productivity in the sector. It is also symptomatic of the general need for public investment in agriculture in the regions to improve agricultural productivity.

Agri an important source of income and livelihoods



The yellow color shows the rural population in the given country while the brown color the agri labor force. Here we see that in Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and indonesia, more than half of the population are in the rural areas.Also, more than half of the labor force are in agriculture. Not here but has the same characteristic is Myanmar and Laos, whose rural population is 70 and 76 % respectively. The fact that poverty is still a largely rural phenomenon is many ASEAN countries serves to underscore the importance of agriculture in the region's poverty alleviation efforts . In 2005 UNDP study, percent of people living on a less than $2/day is more than half in Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos; almost half in Myamar and Philippines.

ASEAN is a mix of net agri exporters and importers



ASEAN is a mix of net agri exporters and importers. In this graph, we see that Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam are net exporters while Cambodia and Philippines are net importers. SEA agriculture has always been centered on rice, the staple cereal and major crop grown in the large, fertile, and densely populated river deltas. Two countries, Thailand and Vietnam are among th world's top three exporters but most countries are net importers. Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand account for 81% of world oil palm production. SEA produces 74% of world's natural rubber, 54% of world's coconut, 20% of world's coffee. Tropical fruits have been export earners mainly for Thailand and Phils. Large commercial herds of livestock is not a major feature in SEA.

Problems/threats

- Aim: farming a livelihood that will give them happy lives, adequate incomes, and self worth/esteem
- Most of the rural poor are small scale men and women farmers , fishers, IPs
- Poverty causes: unequal distribution of resources, lack of access of economic opportunities, lack of participation in decision-making processes
- Effects of climate change

To sustain smallholder farming system, small scale men and women farmers should always find-farming a livelihood that will give them happy, decent lives, and will give them incomes able to meet their needs, and make them feel that they are worthy members of society whose farming activities are recognized and valued. Alas, hundreds of millions of smallholder farmers, landless workers, pastoralists, fishers and indigenous people – the majority amongst them women – are struggling to feed their families and better their lives. Young people are given no other viable alternative than to abandon the land and agriculture.

Women farmers are rarely recognized as producers in their own distinct economic and social right. They often face difficulties in gaining access to training, credit and natural resources, especially land and water. Moreover, women farmers are under-represented at all levels of farmers' organizations and, thus, they cannot voice their own specific needs. As a result, women farmers are even more impoverished than their male counterparts.

The poverty of smallholders is mainly caused by unequal distribution of resources, lack of access to economic opportunities and their poor participation in decision-making processes. There is limited access to land rights, agricultural research and extension, credit, technology, markets and extension services.

AFA initiatives

- Organizing at local, national, regional levels
- Policy and program advocacy
- Delivery of needed services to members
- Capacity building
- governance

We have four main initiatives, namely organizing, advocacy, delivery of services, and capacity building.

Our members organize farmers at local ,national and regional levels. We have organized geographically but now are organizing according to specific commodities as well - such as organic rice, fruit such as waxapple/coconut/rubber growers. We also are making steps to organize and strengthen our womens' and youth farmer groups at national and regional levels.

AFA endeavors to build a strong and dynamic regional lobby group for genuine agrarian reform and sustainable rural development, while facilitating the exchange of creative local grassroots' initiatives that address the root causes of poverty and inequality . AFA advocates for the rights of small scale women and men farmers , promotes cooperation and solidarity and supports building the capacities of its members.

AFA conducts activities related to policy information, policy analysis, and campaigns' as well a dialogues with decision makers at both national , regional , esp ASEAN, and international levels, esp FAO and IFAD.It develops the knowledge and skills of its leaders and members through various participatory and learn-by-doing approaches, including Farmers' Exchange Visits. It provides technical and managerial support to members' initiatives on sustainable agriculture, farmers' organizing and empowerment, agrarian reform and alternative marketing and trading; as well as develop projects along these areas that are implemented in selected countries.

Opportunities

- 2008 IAASTD's key message: small scale farmers and organic, agro-ecological methods is the way forward
- IYFF
- Heavy focus on women in agriculture by many multilateral agencies

In 2008, sixty countries backed by the UN and the World Bank called for radical changes in world farming when they signed the final report of the UN's International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD). The work of more than 400 scientists over four years, the 2,500-page report is a sobering account of the failure of industrial farming. It reflects a growing consensus among the global scientific community and most governments that the old paradigm of industrial, energy-intensive and toxic agriculture is a concept of the past. It calls for a fundamental change in the way we do farming, to address soaring food prices, world hunger, social inequities and environmental disaster. The key message of the report is that small-scale farmers and organic, agro-ecological methods are the way forward to solve the current food crisis and meet the needs of local communities. The IAASTD is the biggest study of its kind ever conducted and is intended to guide world agriculture development and food production in the coming decades.

This kind of recognition by governments and multi lateral institutions about the importance and viability of smallholder farming system provides the main opportunity for sustaining the livelihoods and culture of small scale men and women farmers. This brings bright hopes that big support, in terms of favorable policies , responsive programs and adequate resources will come for the benefit of smallholders. With a UN declaration of an International Year of Family Farming, we do hope that the situation of small scale women and men farmers will be given due attention.

We believe that sustainable, organic ecological friendly agriculture which is owned, controlled and managed by small men and especially women farmers , and supported by government policies and programs, is a key to significant reduction of greenhouse gases, ensure food security, and reduce poverty in the region. We look forward to meaningful partnerships with all stakeholders , government, business, civil society, producer organizations to promote this kind of smallholder family farming

SMALL FARMERS' POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN THAILAND: SUCCESSFUL STORIES OF COMPETENT SMALL FARMERS AND FARMER ORGANIZATIONS IN DOING FARMING

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Introduction

Thailand, like many developing countries, has a problem of poverty alleviation of indigenous people in every part of the nation. It was calculated that at least one sixth of the population or about 12 million persons are under poverty line; among them are small scale farmers of about 9 million persons whose productivity need to be improved and, whose merchandizing of their products need to be supported. The common experience amongst farmers was that they cannot sell their product at the price needed in order to cover their investment. It is rather a case of "three years loss, one year profit". This is the cause of indebtedness, loss of land, immigration and change of profession. In addition, a significant situation faced by farmers is the shortage of food security. In the past, Thai farmers have not heard of the term "food security", because Thailand is located in a tropical zone with fertile land, fishery and forest resources. This environment enabled the people to easily collect wild products for food. "Shortage", therefore, implied the lack of "something they want to eat at certain period". This did not mean lack of food security. However, when Thailand opted to go the direction of the green revolution, it had to face several adverse effects like the loss of forest area and accumulation of chemical residues in the soil and water. These have seriously weakened the richness of natural foods in the wild, which serve as a source of food security for rural population. At present, rural people have to acquire their food from urban markets. Expenses on food account for up to 25% of their total budget. It is very different when compared to their experience in the past. Thirty years ago, rural people could find their food by collecting it from the wild and exchanging with their neighbors. Food items acquired from outside were only salt and sugar, which accounted for a very small amount per annum.

Conceptual framework

Amidst negative impact of climate change and world economic crisis of today's phenomena, the only alternatives of farmers, particularly small scale producers to survive is to rely on self sufficiency for food security and sustainable economic development. Self sufficient economy in Thailand was originally introduced by H.M. the King Bhumiphol more than two decades ago. Currently, it has been acceptable for effectiveness in fighting with poverty and ignorance of indigenous people. The meaning of self sufficiency encompasses not only economic aspect but it also covers social and political aspects for which every individual person has to get involved. In other words, the one who always keeps in mind the concept of self sufficiency, takes the whole things surrounding him/her into consideration, then internalizes them or thinks about them thoroughly against his/her capability before making crucial decision in doing his/her daily work could be able to live well amidst economic crisis of today's situation. It could be concluded that sufficiency is in one's mind, if one does his best against his capability and, is satisfied with output/outcome of the work he does, we are aware that he/she is

sufficient. If one is not satisfied with output/outcome of the work he/she does but try to have more without thinking of his/her capability, we are aware that he/she is not sufficient. Insufficiency always causes suffering to anyone whose mind has never stopped thinking of having more and more.

Another major concern regarding small farmer development is to immediately provide them with assistance once they would have faced with emergency disaster for instance, flooding and drought. Emergency or sudden harm relief would help uplifting their morale in continuing their career as well as fulfilling them capacity to further invest in agricultural production.

Appropriate technology which is soundly acceptable, environmentally suitable, traditionally compatible and, economically affordable is another important issue to be promoted for wider application among them apart from credit provision.

Finally, marketing opportunity is the last end to be promoted for their access. Free trade of agricultural products should be thoroughly considered, in particular those of much impact on livelihood of the small farmers for instance, rice, cassava.

Successful stories of some small farmers and their organizations

There have been a number of small farmers or small scale producers owning accomplishment in doing their own agricultural production activities on sustainability basis both economic and social aspects. The following individuals and farmer organizations are few examples of such accomplishment.

1. Mr. Dilok Puangphoo, age 50 years, lives at House no.40, village no.3, Nong-pruea Sub-district, Phanasnikom District, Cholburi Province. Mr. Dilok started his agricultural career with rice cultivation in an area of 3 rai (less than a half hectare) in 1993. Currently, he has possessed an area of 107 rai (17.12 hectares) for rice cultivation. He planned his rice production as to marketing demand and, in relevance of geographical topography. He constructed an extra big land margin and, dredged a big water canal surrounding the paddy field. He planted fruit trees on the margin land and, cultivated fish in the water canal for family consumption and supplementary income earning. All of which were replicated by his neighbors. Mr. Dilok has always kept in mind that self sufficient economy would have led his family survived; agricultural c products have to be qualitatively and safely produced; his family could have been secured with rice production and; the consumers are to be ensured of his product quality. Mr. Dilok has arranged marketing outlets by which he promoted group formation of the rice farmers to sell paddy rice to the Centre of Native Chicken Conservation resulting in certain rice market on one hand and, keep some high quality rice in the barns for milling every 10-day period for merchandising in the community at lower price than marketing supply on the other. He has also utilized existing natural resources for production investment as learning centre of the whole community.

2. Mr. Sunthorn Samathimongkol, age 49 years, lives at House no. 5, village no. 1, Mongkoldhamnimitr Sub-district, Sam-ko District, Ang-thong Province. Prior to 1995, Mr. Sunthorn had produced paddy rice but it failed due to big loss with no profit gained. He turned to diversified farming under the project of agricultural structuring and system improvement in his paddy field of 10 rai (1.6 hectares) by which the land was leveled and adjusted for cultivation of mango with supplement of vegetables as cash crops while waiting for mango yield. He was provided training in mango production from the agricultural extension officers in the area including some other sources of knowledge which could be used in improving his mango production for export. He increased his mango plantation area to 20 rai (3.2 hectares) more in 1997 and, to 10 rai (1.6 hectares) more in 2005. Currently, he has possessed 40 rai (6.4 hectares) of mango orchard with 3,200 mango trees divided into 4 plots. In 2002, he formed a group of mango producers for export from which the mango products were initiatively exported in 2003. Nowadays, he has established a community enterprise for good quality of mango export comprising 103 members in the district of Sam-ko in Ang-thong Province and the nearby districts in the provinces of Suphanburi, Singhaburi, Saraburi and, Chainat.

3. Mr. Thuan Boonsongthae, age 74 years, lives at House no. 124, village no.5, Thothae Sub-district, Watbote District, Phitsanuloke Province. Mr. Thuan has been well known for his agro forestry since 1994 by which he joined the project of economic trees promotion introduced by the Forestry Personnel in an area of 21 rai (3.36 hectares). In 1998, he faced the problem of low price of his agricultural products resulting from economic downturn and, decided to turn to self sufficient economy based on H.M. the King's concept. With self sufficient economy concept, he planted diversified crops ranging from trees, orchards, home gardening and, fish cultivation in the 6 dredged ponds including the raising of fighting cocks. All of which have followed the pattern of agro forestry. With such effort, he has earned sufficient income for his family well living all year round.

4. Mr. Yooh Sunthornchai at Baan Tabag village in Salakdai Sub-district, Muang, Surin Province in the northeast has done diversified farming since 1977. According to Mr. Yooh, he suggested that we should do farming for our own consumption as the first priority and, if we have the surplus then we sell them accordingly.

5. The Rice Farmer Association of Thaai Talard Sub-district in Muang District, Lopburi Province, established on 30 June 1999 at 5/3 village no. 3, Thaai Talard, Muang, Lopburi with first membership of 48 persons, the group has had membership of 186 persons at present. The activities undertaken for benefit and welfares of its members comprise:-

- Fund raising by which each group member has to hold at least 2 shares valuing 100 baht for every business activity he wishes to take part;
- Bio fertilizer production and merchandising;
- Group savings in support of self sufficient economy mobilization by which the group members have been encouraged to deposit 1 baht a day/365 baht a year and, the group would have paid interest of 3 % a year to the participating members;
- Production of commodities on Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) for value-added of community products with participation of 50 group members;
- Promotion of career development for benefit of the group members and community people as to their interest and capability namely mushroom production, food processing, animal (cattle) husbandry, community enterprise for fish sauce processing;
- Promotion of saving for school children with participation of 53 school children.

With attempt and all efforts applied, the group can run its activities beneficial to the members and their family members on sustainability basis.

6. The Field Crop Farmer Association of Pong-nam-ron, Fang District, Chiangmai Province, established on 22 November 1976 at Number 43 in village no. 5, Pong-nam-ron Sub-district, Fang, Chiangmai, with first membership of 45 persons, the group has now owned membership of 184 persons performing their career in corn production, cultivation of chili, shallot, garlic, planting lemon trees, orange trees and, litchi. The policy of grouping was placed on services provision in purchasing products at the reasonable price, promotion of self sufficient

economy in doing their career, mobilization of bio fertilizer application to replace the chemical one and, seek financial source for the purchase of bio fertilizer to further distribute to the group members at the cheaper price than marketing supply. The group structure comprises 9 executive committees, 8 Unit Heads, 3 Inspectors and, 1 group officer. The group earned net profit of 14, 514.77; 252,015.77; 18,821.70 baht in 2006; 2007; 2008 respectively. In 2008 alone, the group has run business on credit provision amounting to 380,545 baht and, merchandising goods to the group members amounting to 3,557,511 baht. Currently, the group has owned assets valuing 2,368,915.26 baht with burden of debt of 358,519.85 baht.

7. Small farmers in Mahasarakham province in the northeast of Thailand have formed their group to merchandise non-toxic vegetables and safe native foods on every Sunday. The group members with green shirts on as their entity could have earned between 500 and 1,000 baht each at a time and, it is likely that products of the group have increasingly been acceptable among Mahasarakham citizen.

Recently, there was a study revealed by Office of Agricultural Economics that due to the study on small scale farming based on self sufficient economy, it was found that:

1. The farm size of 1.5 – 20 rai with family members of 3- 4 persons by which 2- 3 members are laborers could earned 210,686 baht per household or 74,290 baht per one laborer; the suitable production activities comprised cash crops for instance, rice, vegetables and field crops as source of income for daily living and, perennial trees as source of income for saving and natural resource conservation; in addition, animals and fish were also the source of food and income earning as well;
2. It was also found that the farm size of not bigger than 5 rai could earned 178,000 baht or 59,000 baht per person; it was therefore suggested that land allocation of about 5 rai for the small farmers with family members of 3- 4 persons, with 2- 3 laborers and, with diversified farming would have been able to earn sufficient income for living.

Office of Agricultural Economics also suggested the following key factors for career achievement of the farmers:

1. the farmers and their family members must be diligent, economic and persistent;
2. they must be based on self sufficient economy;
3. they have to do diversified farming;
4. they must have accessibility of water source for their production;
5. they must know how to sell as well as knowing how to produce.

Recommendations

Lessons learned from previous experience can be addressed for all sides concerned in making small scale farmers development for their farming successful in the following manners.

1. Identification of poverty and food insecurity: It is essential that poverty and food insecurity be identified with awareness of community people, particularly in the target areas. Certainly, integrated efforts from personnel and agencies concerned are needed for the mobilization of problem identification and analysis. This is also inclusive of possible solutions, alternative development and, activity planning. Nevertheless people's participation approach has been known to all, actual practice at the local level has still been carried out by the responsible officers with passive or silent participation of the community people.

2. Establishment of body of knowledge: By its meaning, a body of knowledge (BoK) is the collected wisdom, experience, processes, and facts that both inform a profession and provide the solid foundation from which continuous improvements and innovative change can occur. It is, therefore, essential that BoK be established at the local level to allow the desired change for sustainable development occurring which means the community people being alert of surrounding situations, able to make appropriate adjustment in conciliation with conflict and crisis and, capable of making possible solutions to the problems encountered for their well living both on the basis of collaborative effort and individual practice. Lesson learned from the project pointed out that establishment of a learning center in a target village could encourage self learning of the community people to update their knowledge and experience in consistency of the real world.

3. Natural resources utilization and conservation: Soil, water and, forest in the community are to be wisely used and improved for career development of the community people. This entity could have been occurring and being continued on sustainable basis if the community people are being convinced of the pros of having its existence and the cons of damage of these natural resources. Lessons learned from the launch of community forest, fish cultivation in public pond, bio fertilizer production and utilization pointed out that the community people were satisfied with these activities and, wished to replicate them in a wider scale. In other words, in response of self sufficient economy policy, self reliance of the community people can only occur once the have made effectively used of locally existing resources for instance, forest as their food banks including sources of humidity, public/individual water sources as fish cultivation sites for both consumption and merchandising.

4. Village funds utilization: It would be more responsive to need of the community people as a whole if there would be a regulation to be developed by the community people themselves to utilize different funds other than their own group. In other words, there should be one compacted fund amalgamated from all existing revolving fund for overall use of the community people for their livelihood development. Simultaneously, group saving should be widely promoted among the stakeholders participating in group activities not only for saving purpose but also for awareness stimulation regarding self sufficient economy approach in fighting against poverty, food insecurity and, social unrest.

5. Enhancement of farmer involvement in policy- making with concerned agencies: individual farmers should be encouraged via group process to have their delegates/representatives working closely with personnel concerned for policy- making at all levels from the grass root to national level. In doing so, it is essential that all concerned agencies be alert of reality of the community people in the respective areas, listen to their needs as reflected from their existing problems and, let them propose what they demand; simultaneously, it is also important that the farmers be suggested to propose only what are related to their problems and needs which could have direct impact on their livelihood. In doing such challenging task, there has to be mechanism at the village/community level for which network of cooperation could have been easily linked at all levels. More important is the farmers themselves have to be convinced of their own capacity in problem- solving and, developing their own plan to solve the problem whereas the concerned agencies have to change their way of thinking from 'working alone for the farmers' to 'working in collaboration of farmers and all concerned for benefit of the whole community'.

6. Support of farmers' capacity- building: Amidst global crisis of today's situations, it is important that farmers be competent in dealing with negative impact intervened as a result of such crisis, particularly food insecurity caused by high price of production inputs, global

warming caused by climate change, natural disaster for instance, flooding and drought and, animal and plant pest outbreak. Currently, most farmers, if not all, have made use of indigenous knowledge and accumulated experience in generating production activities and problem- solving. In case of sudden events in particular, those concerning impact from global crisis, would have not been tackled appropriately and timely. It is, therefore, imperative that the farmers be equipped with workable knowledge which could have been brought into use in timely manner at their locality. Experience learned from the project pointed out that the farmers wished to be trained in resource management, auditing, personnel and organizational development, career development planning.

7. Integrated effort development: Many evidences indicated successful cases resulting from integrated effort among all sides concerned in collaboratively working at each level of development intervention. At the ministerial level, the national committee or central steering committee played important roles in supervising and guiding project roadmap for the right direction. At the provincial level, participation of agencies concerned under management of the provincial governor could encourage participation of personnel in monitoring and follow-up project activity running. At the local level, the workgroup chaired by the District Officer, played very important roles in working closely with the stakeholders in the target villages. More important is, however, there should be mechanism linkage among these networks to assure smooth connection so as to allow movement proceeding to the same direction and support to each other.

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SIGNIFICANCE OF FAMILY FARMING IN THE ASIAN REGION-THE INDONESIAN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

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General introduction

The Indonesian agriculture sector is dominated by small family farmers, with cash crop production in particular and fruits, vegetables crops. The main staple food is rice. In 2003, contribute about 15% of the Indonesia Product Domestic Bruto and in 2009 slightly increase to about 16,3%.

Even though the number of people employed in the agricultural sector has declined in the past 30 years, various documentation shows that within the period of 2004-2005, the agricultural sector is still dominates the labor force with a near 44,3% to 44,02% share or about 42 million people. And will increase about 44,5 million people In 2009 (a report of the Economic coordinator Minister of Indonesia, 2008).

According to Indonesia's Central Bureau of Statistics Agricultural Census, the number of family farmers has increased from 12.2 million in 1963 to 21.5 million in 1993, a 76% increase. The increase was significantly higher in the outer islands (128%) compared to Java (47%), due to a higher initial base in Java, limits of arable land in Java, and transmigration programs that relocated Javanese from Java to the outer islands.

Geographical spread of farming and land ownership

From the total of suitable land for agriculture 100,8 million ha, about 68,8 million ha has been utilized, and the remaining 32 million ha still unutilized. There is another 16,9 million potential unutilized land. Most of the unutilized land located out of Java island. In which dominated by the wet and dry land that spread out from Papua, Sumatera, and Kalimantan. While, in Java is over utilization, at the same time it fragmented from time to time for non farming purpose.

In the period of 1981 – 1999, the land conversion took about 1.627.514 Ha, in which about 1 million ha happened in java. The economic of scale of farming in Java is impossible to achieved. That's why the agriculture in java is being stagnation. In Java, about 88 % of the family farmers control only no more than 0,5 ha and 76% of them has only 0,25 ha (http://www.fastmr.com).

It is identified (Minister of Agriculture of R.I, 2004), that the dominant problems of small family farmers in the dynamics in rural communities among others are;

1. Big amount ; 25 million family, where 20 million control of 0,3 Ha average of land, the other 5 million family are landless labour.
2. Lower education, almost 60% under the elementary school and 40% illiterate
3. Low of regeneration
4. Less awareness to organize in the farmers group organization
5. Poor

6. Weak in politic access to struggle their rights
7. Less in entrepreneurship
8. Strong believe in Mithos
9. Low of productivity and inefficient on utilizing resources
10. Government bias in defining the farmers as target group of the programs
11. Heritage system of land
12. Less capital and access to economic resources
13. No insurance system, weak of risk management

Indonesian Rural Phenomenon (a theory given by Clifford Geertz)

One highly acclaimed account of Indonesian rural agriculture is given by Clifford Geertz, who has written several books on the effects of colonization on Indonesian society. One of his better known works, Agricultural Involution (1963), makes the argument that agriculture in Indonesia, particularly Java, has experienced what he terms involution. This is a process in which increasing population is absorbed into the agriculture sector, as yields increase but production per worker does not increase. It describes a pattern that involves intricate dissection of the farming system (particularly rice) into a complex, complicated web that requires more and more labor. Under the Dutch plantation system (including the Culture System and the Corporate Plantation System), the whole rural economy was pervaded with "tenure systems that grew more intricate, tenancy relationships more complicated, cooperative labor arrangements more complex -- all in an effort to provide everyone with some niche, however small, in the over-all system." Because of this phenomenon, Geertz argues, Indonesian rural villagers were not able to connect with growing urban communities, which were dominated by foreigners, Chinese middlemen, and the wealthier classes who ran international trading operations.

"The Dutch kept these two societies separate from one another, reasoning that this would preserve the Indonesian way of life and thus fulfill a certain "moral" obligation."

The combination of these two phenomena, involution and social dualism, made a smooth transition to modernism more difficult than if the rural and urban sectors were allowed to integrate, such as was the case in Japan. Japan, often used as a comparative case study for the late 19th century to early 20th century phase of Indonesia's development, had many similarities to Java: both were heavily populated, both had labor-intensive, small-farm, multicrop cultivation regimes centering on wet rice, and both managed to maintain a significant degree of social and cultural traditionalism in the face of profound interaction with the West. However, excess labor in Indonesia was used by the Dutch to build plantations for export or was absorbed into rice production; in Japan it was used to build a capital-intensive manufacturing sector. The Dutch may have built an infrastructure -- they created better irrigation, improved communications, increased availability of foreign manufacturers -- but they did not build human capital or a modern business class. The Javanese peasant did not need to leave his rice terrace, whereas the Japanese peasant had to become an active member of a manufacturing system, no matter how small scale it may have been. Geertz conceived this theory in the early 1960s, while Sukarno was still president. This was a dismal time for Indonesia's economy, and the picture he paints for Indonesia's future is of a society imbedded in the trap of involution, unable to effectively industrialize. This inability is mostly rooted in an isolated rural majority that has not developed an economic mentality to think or act entrepreneurially.

A contrasting viewpoint is presented by. Hayami and Kawagoe (1993), in The Agrarian Origins of Commerce, postulate that smallholder farmers in Indonesia are entrepreneurial, and the government can play a positive role in developing this trait through the following: fostering easy entry into trading by improving rural infrastructure, providing marketing information as widely as possible, developing reliable and appropriate property rights and contract mechanisms with grades and standards, and by staying out of the business themselves. Between May 1986 and August 1990, Hayami and Kawagoe, They found that the peasant marketing of agricultural products was efficient and profitable with little government intervention and regulations. The trade hierarchy included a large number of self-employed marketing agents. The bottom of the hierarchy consisted of small traders specializing in the collection of small marketable surpluses from village farmers. At the top, there were large traders specializing in the shipment of the assembled commodities. The larger traders were usually more educated and of a wealthier class than the village collectors, and were able to receive credit from large lending institutions. They in turn extended this credit to the villager collectors and farmers, neither of which had the collateral to make these loans directly. This created a bond between the small and large traders, and guaranteed a delivery of produce upstream. Since charging interest is not permissible in Muslim law (approximately 80% of Indonesians are Muslim), the large traders indirectly lowered their credit costs through charging a premium for fertilizer and supplies, and "cheating" on weights and measures (i.e. underpaying).

According to Hayami and Kawagoe, this decentralized hierarchy stemmed from the following characteristics of Indonesian smallholder farming: 1) a small marketable surplus per farm in the peasant farming system, 2) scale economies in transportation and processing, 3) differences in labor's opportunity costs, and 4) differences in financial positions. The nature of agricultural production in Indonesia is largely fragmented, and the village collectors need to gather farm products in sufficiently large lots to exploit scale economies in long-distance transportation and processing. The large traders and factory owners have higher education and higher entrepreneurial/ management ability, so it is economical to let small traders (village collectors), who have lower employment opportunity costs, assemble small farm surpluses from farmers. Also, the large-scale traders and processors are able to mobilize less expensive credits on behalf of small collectors and farmers based on good collateral values of their real assets.

This decentralized system is akin to a sub-contracting system in which large firms contract out the supply of parts and materials to smaller firms. The large and small traders create long-term relationships based on ethnicity (discussed below) and extension of credit. This may appear to present ample opportunity for the larger traders to exploit small traders and farmers. However, it was found in these case studies that there was sufficient competition among large traders to temper this possibility. Although there is a time lag to communicate price information to villagers, they do eventually receive this information (usually via word-of-mouth, radio broadcasts), and this prevents large traders from exercising this monopolistic practice for very long. If they continued to use it, the villagers would be likely to shift their supply to other produce collectors in the future.

Problems to family farmers and their organizations

Access to land and its fragmentation

The land controlled by family farmers also increased 42.4% from 1963 to 1983, but decreased 0.68 million hectares, or 3.7% from 1983 to 1993. In accordance with this trend, the average

land controlled by family farmers has declined both in Java and the outer islands, reaching an average of 0.9 hectares and 1.2 hectares, respectively. Land ownership or rental less than 0,5 Ha, increase form 10,8 million family in 1993 to 13,7 million in 2003, and continuous to 15,6 million in 2008 (increase 2,6% a year). Thus, it appears that while urban migration was a significant factor in the past three decades, there is a trend of more family farmers being created through a division of land into smaller plots. And becoming a more problem of rural poor.

The distribution channel

The structure of distribution and the problems presented to the small family farmer vary for different crops. The generalizations described below are meant to give an overall picture, while the sections on coffee and spices present specific cases from which more realizable recommendations can be given.

Typically, the farmer in Indonesia must sell his crop to an agent or processor, who then either adds value to the produce before selling it to an exporter, or acts as a middleman to gather a large enough quantity of a given crop to sell it to an agent in a town or city. Although the steps vary from crop to crop and location to location, in most cases the farmers are in a geographically isolated situation and it is most feasible for them to sell their raw produce to a middleman. There may be several middlemen in the process of getting the crop to the exporter, and eventually to the manufacturer in the importing country. Since there are many links in the chain, each one adding a margin, and the price is determined by world supply and demand, the farmer may end up receiving a low price for his crops. This price may or may not cover his costs. Also, even if there is a high demand for a certain crop, the farmer may be isolated from this information and not know whether he is getting a fair price for his produce.

This problem is exacerbated if the farmer is in a relationship with a money lender, of which there are many in rural Indonesia, to whom he has given his immature crop as collateral. If the farmer is not able to repay the loan, as is often the case with the high interest rates charged by the lenders, he must sacrifice his crop to the lender and begin the borrowing cycle again.

Another issue of concern for the farmer is that the majority of the time he is selling his crop as a non-value-added commodity. Since he does not have the technology, finances, or know-how to add value to his produce, he is not able to charge a premium above the market price. He may try to compete for a higher price with a higher quality crop, but the price differential is sometimes not high enough to compensate for the extra effort required. (McStocker, 1987)

Due to the fragmented nature and inadequate infrastructure of smallholder agriculture, it is easy to identify potential problems. The long supply chain also seems susceptible to monopolistic practices, through middlemen and a higher concentration of players at the top. To understand the reality of the situation, however, a review of the theory and case studies regarding this sector will be helpful.

The capacity of the peasant farmer to take advantage of market opportunities and integrate with an urbanizing society has generated several studies and corresponding theories. Reviewing these studies will help provide a rationale for the structure of distribution, the marketing of agricultural products, and the effects of policy intervention in this sector.

Rural Woman as partner in the family economy

In most cases, women often are not considered during the development planning. They are not given equivalent access to land, credit and extension services. This restricted access to land, has implication for access to credit as well, where women are for less likely than man to have collateral for loans.

Rural woman, (Delima, 2007), basically have the same right as men with respect to marriage, divorce, inheritance and property right. They also have considerable degree of economic independence and initiative, exercise significant social power. In Rural Java (an island where the most of Indonesian Inhabitans live or about 70% of the 220 million people), Woman have an equal status in the household decision making process and are often described as the silent head of the home or informal power. Moreover, in the domestic activities, women have a role as agricultural producers, in self employment ventures and in wage labor. In the area of production, crop growings like seedlings, weedings, harvestings, are the domein of women.

Looking at this potential, it is suggested that the development of the rural economy can be boost more by empowering the role of woman as an important family income earners. Programs should be made to assist and educate women to stronger their role in home economic. And, by eliminating barriers to women's access to productive assets, it may give them more opportunity to participate as an important partners in the rural family farmers.

The young toward the farming;

Increased productivity has become a necessity given that the challenges facing Indonesian agriculture are quite hard. In the food sector, for instance, Indonesia faces growing demand due to an increasing population and rapid economic growth, but also has to deal with the reality that some of the factors of production are declining, such as the amount of land and the number of farmers. Considering the increasingly open market at the regional and global level, the challenges in Indonesian agriculture will be even greater.

However, the farmers must compete more rigorously with foreign products.Farmers' skills are strongly linked with their level of education and experience, (Najib, IASA, 2009). Currently, 70 to 80 percent of farmers in Indonesia only have an elementary education. This is certainly related to the ability of farmers to plan well and to solve problems. Nowadays, the problems facing farmers are more complex than ever, so it follows that the abilities and skills of farmers should also be improved. A program to educate farmers' children is a part of human investment that is very important in agricultural development.

The children of farmers are expected to be able to access higher education, and after graduation they are expected to return to their villages to develop agriculture there. With better competency, young generations of Indonesian farmers can contribute more toward increasing agriculture productivity. Unfortunately, investment in agricultural education does not necessarily correlate to improved agricultural productivity. In this context, agricultural schools thus have less of an impact on agricultural productivity improvement, due to many of its graduates being reluctant to work in the agricultural sector.

What is happening, the farmers' children who go to school tend to leave the farm after graduating. The backwater image of the agricultural sector comes about because agriculture is generally not considered as a promising business.

Conclusions, opportunities and challenges

Conclusions

1. Family farmers weak in politics as well as economy access
2. Women have less access the economic resources such as land and water, capital, education.
3. The young generation in the rural tend to work to other urban sector since the agriculture and rural economic becoming not promising

Opportunity

1. The right of woman in the rural society, with respect to economic independence and initiative, is a significant social power
2. The increasingly demand of food and agriculture products at the regional and global level, will creating more opportunity for the rural young.

Challenges and Recommendations

1. Need an immediate action to promote the importance of the young and women in building the foundation of rural economy. As a one action of the WRF
2. Suitable Program should be launched to empower the role of woman, as an important family farmer income earners.
3. Need massive campaign to eliminate the barrier of women and young at the rural to participate the development of rural economy.

PLENARY PANEL SESSION 2:

IMPACTS OF WORKING WITH SMALL FARMERS/PRODUCERS: SHARING OF GOOD PRACTICES

WORKING WITH SMALL FARMERS: TAIWAN EXPERIENCE

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Introduction

The major players in agriculture in Taiwan are small family farmers. Farmers Associations, Fishermen's Association, Irrigation Associations are major farming related social community for the farmers. For the rice economy, the irrigation associations play the most important role on maintenance and operation of the irrigation and drainage system and allocation and distribution of the irrigated water system. On the other hand, the first two types of the associations are closely linked to local politics as its boundary of membership in most cases corresponds with the government administrative boundaries. The membership in these two associations is limited to one person per registered farm household, since there are diverse benefits available to the membership.

Agricultural extension system and the farmers' organization

The most notable experience of working with small farmers in Taiwan is through the agricultural extension system that collaborates among government, farmers' own organization (farmers' associations) and the academia. The structural chart is depicted in Figure 1. A similar scenario is applicable to the fishermen's organizations.

The farmers' associations at the local level provide comprehensive services from farm inputs, credit and finance, animal insurance, cooperative marketing of products, farmers' insurance, farmers training as well as programs for farm women and the youth. It provided comprehensive services, or more appropriately, through the platform of the farmer organization. The collaborators of the services rendered include those financed by government's projects as well as government research institute and academia. The farmers association is self sustaining though the operation of financial institution (credit department), supermarket and input supply store (supply and marketing department). The law governing the farmers association has an explicit requirement stating that 62% of the profit from the operation of the units has to be devoted to the extension related services. However, even when the association is not making profit, it is still eligible to apply for government project to conduct the agricultural extension services.

Since it has a broad based membership, accessibility to the membership is not an issue, hence it is a well established channel for the government to reach out to the farmers as well as for the farmers to receive the services, as long as the farmers association is run appropriately. In order to make sure that the organization is run properly, the performance of the executive manager of the farmers association will not oversea by the board and the general assemble of the farmers association, it will also be reviewed by the responsible authority in the government.

Cases of successful operation

For many small farmers in the region, accessibility to technology, credit, and the market are the biggest concern. With the current extension services, these are taken care right at the local farmer's association. Taken the market access for example, it is the mandate of the government that at each of the local area should have a township level of wholesale market for the products. The wholesale market in the township nowadays is either operated by the township government or the local farmers associations or sometimes the joint ownership of the government and non-government entity as a not-for-profit public entity. In addition, to reach to the major consumer market more efficiently, the products run on cooperative (joint) marketing through the farmer associations or other farmers' organization are eligible to get preferential status while arranged for auctioning. Over the years, the farmers groups also gain recognition from the buyers that whether there be preferential status is not the major factor anymore, because the buyers would recognize the products from the best performing farmers groups thus getting better price.

An example of the Production and Marketing Team for Cauliflower

The Production and Marketing Team for Cauliflower in Kaohsiung City is comprised of around 12 members of small farmers. The members jokingly mention that we could pick any three members from the team, and by adding their age together could easily over 200. The newly appointed team leader aged 62 was the youngest of all. The previous team leader Mr. Chen was the winner of the 2004 "Shin-Non" (god of agriculture) award. The team specializes in producing cauliflowers. Their products are certified with GAP (good agricultural practice), and their product mainly ships to the Taipei Wholesale Market. Their product almost always gets the highest bid of the day whenever they make the shipment. Through the help of the extension expert at the farmers association, the team has a record of the weekly transaction chart of their product during the production seasons.

According to the team leader, the secret of the team is that they recognize the need of the Taipei consumer to provide a small flower because their family size is smaller. Therefore, their team members all adapted to the new production technique by narrowing the rows and columns of the plant.

Even thought the team is formed by very senior farmers, they also benefited from the modern internet based communication technology. They usually ship out their products the evening before the auction (usually starts at 3:00am), by 8:00am they will be able to link to the website to make inquiry on the price they got for the shipment. Mr. Chen and his colleague learnt to use the system for more than 8 years ago when they attended the computer training workshop in NPUST.

For more information

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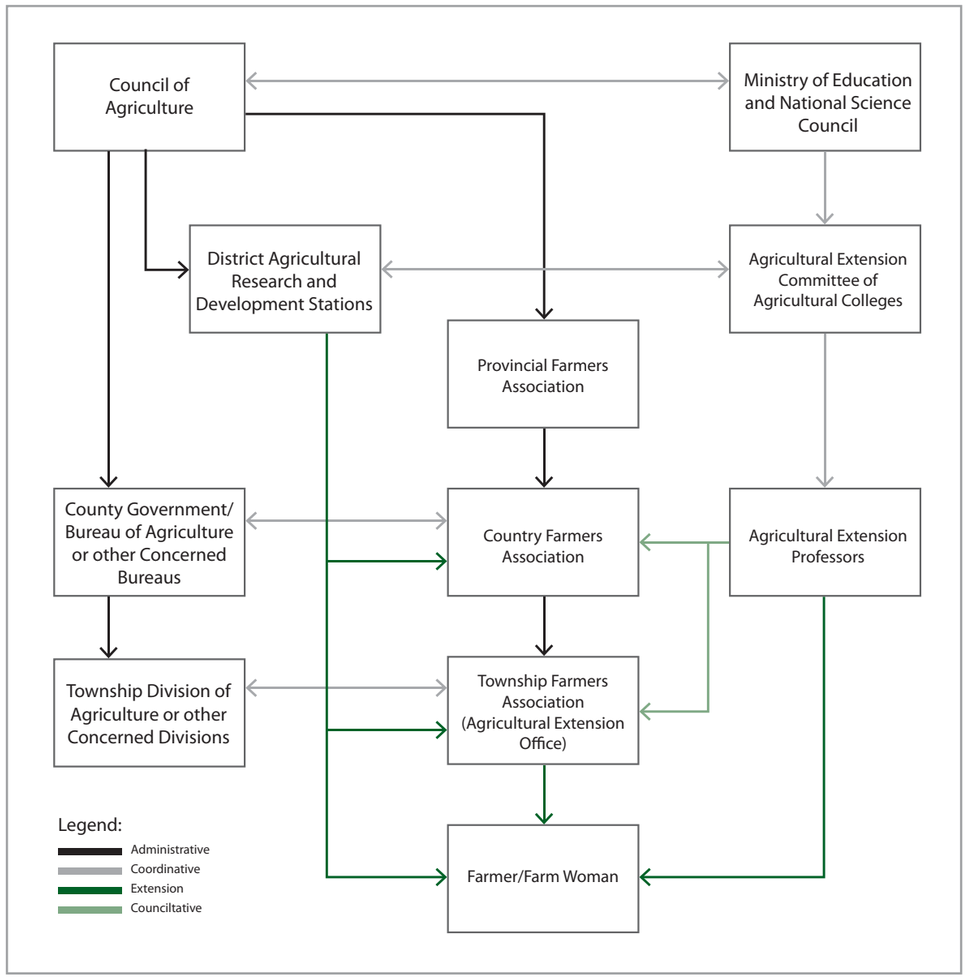
Figure 1. Agricultural Extension System in Taiwan



Source: Huang, 2007

SUCCESSFUL FAMILY FARMING CASE-INDONESIA

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Agriculture for Small Farmer

Background

Indonesia known as an agrarian country with rich of natural resources (biodiversity). However, the rural people that mostly living in agriculture sector likewise living under the poverty line. For Indonesia, agriculture as a source of life for more than 45 million people (49,68 %) from 91,65 million people working in agriculture sector with around 38,2 % women. More than 17 million people (around 87%) small holder farmer families producing food. In the sixty years since Indonesia's independence, the agricultural sector is known as the "primadonna", or a leading sector in the economy which contributed to nearly 70 percent of GNP and job creation. In addition to food security, the agricultural sector contributes to the broader macro-economy, including to the GDP, job creation, provision of industrial materials, and influx of foreign exchange. At the time of the economic crisis, the agricultural sector served as a buffer, such that the national economy did not experience a greater collapse than it did. However, the lack of a long-term vision for national economic development has weakened agriculture and limiting its role in the national economy.

Through the implementation of Green Revolution which relies on agriculture inputs industry has been marginalizing the small farmers and women. Their knowledge, experiences and skills in agriculture have been neglecting replaced by agriculture industry. In addition, green revolution has worsening the imbalance in land ownership.

Objectives of the program

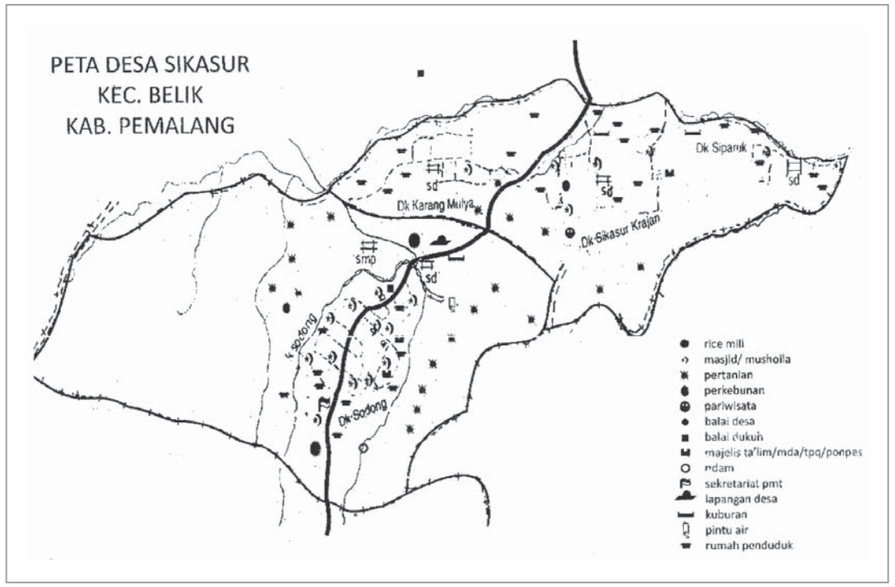
1. Strengthening the capacity of small farmers men and women in agriculture using locally available agriculture resources
2. to address the dependency of small farmers to external and highly chemical inputs that have caused the loss of their experience, knowledge and culture as well as deteriorating natural resources
3. to empower household economy of small farmers

Main implementers

Family of Mr.Yasim and Mrs.Chozah, Paguyuban Mekar Tani (PMT), CO (Community Organizer), TA (Technical Assistant for sustainable agriculture), FO (Field Officer) and Bina Desa staff.

Location

Village of Sodong-Sikasur, Sub District of Belik, District of Pemalang, Central Java.



Village of Sodong, Sikasur located within Belik sub District, District of Pemalang, Central Java. Total population is about 11.229 (5.799 women and 5.430 men) with 2.314 head of household. Most of the inhabitant (4.492 is living as small farmers which average own small piece of land less than 1 hectare while 3.635 people own land more than 1 hectare. The rest is working as small trader, labor industry and government employee.

Condition before the project started

1. Chemical input is the main input in agriculture.
2. Certain seeds known as superior seeds produced by seed industries such as ciherang, fatmawati, IR etc and hybrid vegetables seed are the only seed available in the village.
3. Women dealing with domestic work as there is no places for women to work in agriculture
4. Children Education level; elementary to secondary school
5. Selling vegetables to middlemen done individually or direct to the market. This was led to competition of price among small farmers.

Main project activities and management structures

There are main activities in the project are in the following;

1. Integration with the community by a Community Organizer (CO);
This process is basically to build a close relationship between CO and the community as a relation among subject while the object is problem faced by the community. Once the CO has been accepted by the community as their friend, dialogue could be developed easier; on individual or household level as well as common problem within the community.

From the dialogues, came into agreement to establish a community group named Paguyuban Mekar Tani (PMT). The establishment was based on the need to face challenges together as they learned from experiences that working individually does not give significant impact.

The role of CO is to facilitate capacity building of the PMT through various training related to rising critical awareness, solidarity and strengthen their self confidence.

2. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)
Once the CO has been accepted and the people's organization (or community group) has been established, the process is continue by doing Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) as a process of learning together between CO and the community on locally available socio, economic, politic, culture and natural resources that could be managed to sustain their life in a more dignified way.

Main results of PRA are among others;

1. Strengthening their organization especially on strengthening its member on the importance to be united in their organization
2. Natural Farming (NF) development to reduce cost of production, natural conservation and release their dependency to agriculture industry
3. Develop Home industry

Result of PRA becomes a basis for community and CO's plan of action. First of all, training on strengthening the organization should be done before other trainings. This is aimed to strengthen the community to work collectively.

3. Training on Natural Farming (NF)
While strengthening the PMT is being implemented through various activities facilitated by CO, PMT sent its 4 (four) representatives to a natural farming training held by Bina Desa in Banjarnegara, Central Java in 2006 facilitated by the TA (Technical Assistant for Natural Farming). Among the four, there is Yasim attending the training. After Yasim returned to his village in Sodong, Sikasur, Pemalang, Central Java, he shared his knowledge and skills from the training to Mrs.Chozah, his wife, and his family as well as to other PMT members.

The training also discussed on how to make use of small plot of land to plant vegetables and other purposes such as fish pond, chicken or goat breeding.

4. NF Development
In 2007 Yasim and his family started to change from conventional agriculture to natural faming technology in their 5035 meter square (0,5 hectare) of paddy land.

First they found a local paddy variety from farmers in Banjarnegara and they plant it in their paddy land. At the beginning they were anxious on the yield especially Mrs.Chozah as she was considering if the trial would fail then it means their family does not have food to eat. Besides, she also think about pesticide and other chemical inputs which she usually just buys to exterminate insect or other predators, need not to make any natural pesticide by her. The PMT members have also been waiting what will the result of NF; some responded cynically while the others just kept quiet.

In this situation, the CO convinced Mr.Yasim and his family that what they have started by practicing NF will give a new experience.

This condition is challenging Mr.Yasim to continue practicing NF. He considered as an education media for his family and the PMT members; he believes that a long time ago, his parent had also practicing agriculture without chemical inputs which called orthodox agriculture. Therefore, he does not find any difficulties in practicing NF since he just recalled as what his parent did in the past.

5. NF Coordination Meeting and Reflection

As part of capacity building, TA, FO and CO held a coordination meeting at provincial level every 3 months. This meeting is aimed to share experiences working collectively in a group, identifying the gap, progress on NF implementation as well as efforts need to be done for improvement. Mr.Yasim and Mrs.Chozah always attending the NF coordination meeting. These meetings convinced Mr.Yasim and Mrs.Chozah that they should continue what they have been starting. They got confidence to implement NF using their knowledge and experiences. NF is not an investment of capital but an investment of life.

Aside of practicing NF in paddy land, as well Yasim and family has implemented farming in small plot of land; they plant vegetables and cassava a long dike between rice field which they could sell once the family need has fulfilled. They collect the money from selling vegetables and the difference from cost of production to start goat breeding which also using NF technology and fish pond. They used the dung from goat breeding to make fish woof.

Main results

Through this program, there are main results related to small farmer's empowerment;

1. The growing of self confidence as small farmers–in this case Mr. Yasim, Mrs. Chozah with two of their children.
2. Reducing cost of production significantly. This can be calculated below;
    - Using chemical input: For their 5035 meter square the cost needed is Rp.2,000,000 (USD 215) to by fertilizer , pesticide and other inputs for one season. The yield is 3500 Kg.
    - Using NF; They need Rp.150,000 (USD 16,1) with the details;
        - Bran 200 Kg @ Rp 350/kg = Rp 70,000
        - Nutrition/pestiside/fungicide= Rp 80,000, with the yield is 2000 Kg.
        - The nutrition which its cost Rp 80,000 can also be used to the following seasons (second and third season). In the second and third season, they only bought 15 Kg of ban which equivalent with Rp 5, 250.
        - Note : USD 1 = Rp. 9,300
3. Experiencing the benefit of practicing NF; by using local seed variety and locally available resources, not only economically profitable but also taking care the health of family and nature.
4. Safe from rats attacks; when rice field in the village attacked by rats, rice field of Yasim family was secured due to local paddy variety (Pandan Wangi) has a hard stalk.
5. Learning from Yasim family the number of farmers implementing NF has increased. In addition, they do not sell grain any longer; they sell rice in order to get more profit through their organization PMT.

6. NF development has reduced the number of youth to find job in the cities as factory worker

Facilitating factors

1. Introduction of NF once the people's organization has been established. Not only technically on NF but also its values
2. Using family approach in all the activities
3. Willingness and open minded of Yasim and Chozah helped a lot in developing NF in Sikasur.
4. Women actively involved in NF as the material for making nutrition and pesticide are familiar with women's daily life
5. The availability of CO and TA
6. Bottom up process, based on the farmers need

Hindering factors and how these were overcome

1. Pragmatically thinking of small farmers caused by the green revolution has caused reluctant to make agriculture inputs by themselves. As well, they would see the result first before going into practice.
2. Agriculture extension worker in the village which selling chemical inputs often time tempt the farmers to return to conventional agriculture as well as middlemen which approaching PMT member individually.

To overcome those hindering factors done through genuine participatory processes; the CO takes those phenomenon as object for discussion with the community, to analyze its impact to their life and nature and to find solution together.

Lessons learned (especially for replication purposes)

1. Community organizing process is dialogues to strengthen self confidence and critical awareness on what's going on in the community, its cause and impact to the community and nature as well as the need to unite. Through this process, awareness of the community is rising on the need to be self reliance and release their dependency to other parties. Once the farmers fully aware on the condition, they would fastly find out its alternatives through working collectively
2. Need an effective team work; CO, FO and TA
3. Avoid to talk about money at the beginning; what they need basically is to change the way of thinking

Note:

Bina Desa which founded in 1975 beliefs that one fundamental actions to achieve sustainable development is human development in order to be able to manage natural resources in a sustainable way. Knowledge, experiences and skills of small farmers men and women in agriculture are the key factors to further develop agriculture.

WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS

WORKSHOPS ON IYFF CAMPAIGN IN ASIA

The most important day of the meeting was the second, on March 24th. During these hours we were supposed to define more precisely the objectives of IYFF in Asia, as well as to identify more concrete commitments that the meeting participants would be willing to assume in the campaign in the short to medium term. We did it through working groups moderated by Ms. Dwi Astuti, although we highlight the great work done by Mr. Prasad, the representative of LEISA, India (ILEIA) and even Mr. David Kahan.

The commitments identified relate better to create national coordination between the organizations supporting the campaign, getting new members of civil society and work actively to gain support from their governments.

It must be said that this second day was essential for the participants to internalize the meaning of the Campaign. Although they were people who had previously signed a letter of support for the IYFF, each came with a different idea of what is intended by the campaign

The day began with a broad brush on the IYFF Campaign and its process by Mr Osaba:

1. To reach the UN declared the International Year of Family Farming is necessary to introduce the topic in their bodies through the mobilization of civil society but, essentially, through the actions of governments.
2. An adequate family farming practice necessarily involves the consolidation of access to land. This is a key issue.
3. Farmers' organizations must have an active role.
4. The situation of women farmers and their recognition in a state of equal rights must also be central.
5. In a broad view of agriculture, fishermen should also be considered within the framework of action of the IYFF.
6. he local specificities will have the appropriate priority.
7. Overall, the goal is to obtain a bottom-up approach and incorporate local realities.

During this day we worked through two groups, so as to facilitate different contributions. At the end of each time was devoted to presentations of the work of each group and unify the results are presented below:

How do we achieve the declaration of the IYFF?

1. There are two different areas of work: we must tackle a participatory bottom-up approach, involving grassroots organizations (farmers' associations, rural NGOs, rural think tanks, local authorities, etc.). Building coalitions and identify common issues for discussion.
2. The second way would go up and down, involving regional and national governments, etc. Simultaneously we must involve national governments, through their ministries of agriculture, presidents, etc.
3. Define the priorities and political influence.
4. Signature of accessions and the establishment of coordination committees at national and regional levels.
5. Broadening the campaign through multidisciplinary discussion and debate.
6. Involvement of the media.
7. Mobilization of resources locally, nationally and globally; the help of Ministry of Agriculture, Planning Commission, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, IASSTD, …
8. It would be interesting to involve opinion leaders in this movement. Some of the names suggested by members of the group were MS Swaminathan, Jeffrey Sachs, Bill Gates.

On what will we focus during the IYFF?

1. Participation of farmers in the design of agricultural and rural plans and policies. Empowerment of women and men farmers.
2. Implementation of government programs through strong leadership of local rural technical training of farmers and farmers' organizations, local human resource development.
3. Allocation for agriculture 10%, at least the national government budget (as the government of Malawi-Africa).
4. Equal rights for men and women in a matter of land ownership.
5. The land reforms to ensure the availability of land for each and all farmers.
6. Food security and climate change.
7. Establishment of agricultural infrastructure by governments.
8. Establishment of agricultural markets.
9. The sustainable family farming through the integration of horticulture, fisheries, beekeeping, animal husbandry, etc.
10. Access to education and quality health care and general welfare of farm families.
11. To inform and celebrate the successes of family farming in public.

Mr. Jose Osaba identified three phases on this process. In the first phase called the campaign phase, diplomacy is extremely important. During this phase the Conceptual document should be a global document and not related to any country specific policy matter (as it is already done). For the second phase (during the year of family farming), and the third phase (which is the period after that), the specific activities which are to be undertaken are yet to be decided.

Mr. David stressed upon better vision, sustainability issues, business aspects and management things. He stressed the importance of having a clear definition of family farming which may vary across countries. According to him family farming has the potential to act as the bridge between home economics and agricultural extension. If family farming is made viable, then it can ensure nutritional requirement of the household and at the same time generate some income for the household as well. Also it is important to identify the gaps in this approach.

Having identified action areas for IYFF Campaign, during the afternoon we worked on the actual work that should undertake the members of the same.

Each of the two groups worked with a very different methodology:

South Asia Group:

ACTIVITIES	BY WHEN	WHO	COUNTRY
AWARENESS BUILDING (FOs, CBO, CSO, Governments, NGO, …) Material, meetings, …	5 months (meeting) 2 months (materials)	CIFA Leisa-India	Nepal Pakistan India
MEDIA		All	N.P.I.
Networking/lobby/Advocacy	One year 4 months	All	N.P.I.
Concept Papers/Research	One year	CIFA AMEF MDS Jeevan Jyoti	N.P.I.
Contacting Opinion Leaders Identifying Champions	One year	All	N.P.I.
Resources (Local, National, Global)	MOA, Planning Commission, TISS	All	N.P.I.

South East and North Asia Group:

The suggestions made by representatives of different countries in this group have been grouped as follows:

1. Prepare a brief statement of the problem.
2. Build a broad coalition that includes more people and more organizations that have common interest in this campaign.
3. Influencing public servants and the ministers of Agriculture through personal meetings.
4. Organize meetings and workshops with stakeholders.
5. Mobilization of resources and NGOs locally.
6. Issuing letters to the Permanent Representatives of the governments in New York, Rome (IFAD, FAO, UN) and elsewhere.
7. Incorporate the Campaign in the Mass Media.

Mr David Kahan mentioned that there is most likely to be a conference in September (organized by FAO) and a concept paper on family farming should be prepared keeping in mind this conference. In the paper, the argument for family farming should be unique. In other words, the argument for family farming should not come under the umbrella of hunger and poverty.

For his part, Dr. V. V. Sadamate, Advisor to the Planning Commission of India suggested some plans for the campaign:

1. There should be local campaign in every country and farmers' organization, civil society organizations will have to take the lead.
2. Importance of definite timeline for national and regional campaign
3. Preparing a draft which goes to the ministry of external affairs and then to the Prime Minister's office.
4. SAARC can play a very important role in this issue.
5. Experience sharing on progress across different countries.
6. Identify different activities to be undertaken during IYFF.
7. Setting up of nodal agencies for each continents and for each nations
8. Each one involved in the movement must take a greater role in igniting interest among others.
9. Interactions after 3-4 months must be conducted at a higher level.
10. International research institutions and agencies should be involved in the process.

CLOSING SPEECH

By José Osaba
IYFF ASIA CONTINENTAL MEETING
New Delhi, 23-25 MARCH 2010

LET US GO AHEAD TOGETHER. WE TRUST EACH OTHER

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude and my admiration to CIFA, AFA, AsiaDHRRA, WRF, as organizers of this IYFF Meeting, and to all the participants in this first IYFF Asia Continental Meeting, including Dr. Sadamate, Planning Commission-Agriculture and Dr. Mehta, Assistant Director General of ICAR, and the FAO representative, Mr. David Kahan, and of IFAD India, Ms. Judith D´Souza.

After listening to all of you, I have reaffirmed some main principles, some convictions:

Family Farming can substantially feed the World and care for the Earth, provided that they will get enough support from governments, international organizations, NGO, etc.

A clear understanding that the billions of women and men smallholder farmers will get their demands if they come together through a worldwide coordinated action.

Agricultural policies should not come from the top only, but through a prior dialogue with all the stakeholders and, specially, the farmers´ organisations.

In this context, our IYFF Campaign is becoming stronger and more effective as a tool to promote Family Farming at all levels.

Implementing all these initiatives, we will get ready to make the International Year of Family Farming a very outstanding event in favour of the many millions of women and men farmers of the World.

So, we are going back to our respective countries with a strong commitment to strengthen the Campaign, to engage our governments, to get more and more public support, the two tracks strategy.

Thank you for approving unanimously the nomination of Ms. Marlene Ramirez, AsiaDHRRA Executive Secretary, and of Mr. Chengal Reddy, Secretary General of CIFA, as the two Asian representatives to the IYFF World Consultative Committee that will be established after the celebration of the 4 Continental meetings.

This Meeting represents a great step forward in our common Campaign. At first every body was sending the following message to WRF "We support the IYFF Campaign. Go ahead, We trust you!".

After this Encounter, the message is different: Let us go ahead together. We trust each other!

Many thanks!

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SUMMARY OF THE CONCEPTUAL DOCUMENT OF THE CAMPAIGN IN FAVOR OF AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FAMILY FARMING-IYFF

Full text can be found at www.familyfarmingcampaign.net

1. Introduction

Family farming in the world

Since the beginning of Humanity, rural communities have been developing and modernising their own coexistence culture with the natural environment surrounding them. In this context, family farming –productive unit rooted in the profound links between a piece of land and the family that owns it- represents a sector of great symbolic and strategic value because of its economic, social, cultural, environmental, and territorial functions.

Family farming is much more than an agrarian economic model: it is the basis of sustainable food production aimed towards food security and food sovereignty, of environmental management of land and its biodiversity, the fountain of important cultural dimensions of each people and, all things considered, a fundamental pillar of the integral development of all nations.

Deplorably the existing world reality is marked by the existence of extensive poverty, extreme in many cases, which is suffered by more than 1020 million inhabitants on the different continents, most of them in the rural areas.

The governments of a great number of countries, for different reasons, are not really supporting the rural sector

Some problems have been accentuated, in the case of women farmers, with regard to their lack of access to and control of the resources linked to the land, to technology, to training and to credit. A quarter of the world population is composed of women farmers, often heads of families, which represent some 1,600 million people.

In the last three years many different causes, greater supply than demand, natural catastrophes, cultivation of non food crops, speculation, etc., have produced a vertiginous fluctuation in the price of basic products. We are talking about a crisis that has been described, in numerous forums, as a world-wide food emergency.

The progressive deterioration in farming income and its effects on rural economies is causing the disappearance of many family farms due to the migrations to the cities. Family farming, a reality present on all continents and in a massive manner in developing countries, is, today, subject to great challenges and grave uncertainties.

To create real hope of progress and quality of rural life demands of the Community of Nations an initiative of great significance in its favour, as the official declaration by the United Nations of an International Year of Family Farming. By the very nature of this campaign, its objectives fit perfectly into the criteria and procedures established by the UN to regulate such events (1980/67 Resolution).

An International Year for the future of family farming

In the words of Jacques Diouf, the General Director of (FAO), "the time has come to re-launch farming, and the international Community should not squander the opportunity".

For our organisations, coordinated by WRF, the celebration by the UN of an International Year dedicated to family farming would create a unique opportunity to develop means, which would assure in the medium and long term, a prosperous and sustainable family agriculture development and, as a result, in the rural areas on all the continents, especially, in the developing countries.

This proposal by the WRF in favour of the declaration by the UN of an International Year of Family Farming is intended to give a decisive boost to its potential and development which, at this moment, face, among others, the following challenges:

- The difficulty of access, at fair prices, to resources and production inputs (land, water, pastures, local quality seeds, equipment, etc.).In the crucial issue of access to land –often exposed to a very serious legal insecurity and pending real agrarian reforms-, many small agricultural families, indigenous communities and shepherds are deprived of their assets through the forced "acquisition" of their land to establish vast domains of export oriented industrial crops, nourishing a growing spiral of precarious day-labourers, rural exodus and new forms of rural marginalisation and urban poverty.
- Aging of the rural population and the migration to cities. Scarce incorporation of young people in agriculture.
- Effective recognition of the role of women in agriculture, as an essential part of the concept of family farm household´s adequate legal regulation.
- Lack of or insufficient participation of small farmers in the making of decisions and policies.
- Volatility of prices, subject often to speculation, etc.

For its part, the International Evaluation of Knowledge, Science and Technology in Agricultural Development (IAASTD), points out that "in agriculture, the current dominant focus, industrial on a grand scale, is not sustainable for it depends on cheap petroleum, produces negative effects on the ecosystem and worsens the growing lack of water".

The focal point of the International Year of Family Farming which we are proposing is based on a positive and dynamic approach, demonstrating to civil society and its numerous institutions, not only the challenges and difficulties of family farming, but also its great contribution, real and potential, to the world's food, to the fight against poverty and to the fulfilling of the Millennium Development Goals.

Family farming, along with being the greatest source of employment in developing countries, represents the social base on which the Right to Food should be made a reality as recognised in the Charter of Human Rights, 1948.

2. Objectives

The prime objective of the International Year of Family Farming is to promote, in all countries, real active policies in favour of the sustainable development of farming systems based on the family unit, provide guidance to put them into practice, to boost the role of farmers organisations and to raise the awareness on the part of civil society of the importance of supporting family farming. And all this is to fight against poverty, to seek food security and food sovereignty, and to achieve an active rural world based on respect for the environment and the biodiversity.

3. Results

Among the IYFF's foreseeable results the following achievements are contemplated:

1. Outstanding recognition of the United Nations, of international organisations, of governments and of civil society, of the essential function of family farming as a sustainable rural model, as an efficient producer of food, as a source of income, as a fountain of cultural values, of agrarian know-how and as a guarantor of the preservation of the environment and biodiversity.
2. Greater social and political recognition and legitimisation of farmer's organisations as useful partners with public powers in everything related to the elaboration of agrarian policies in favour of family farming, effective legal protection of agricultural land owned by family farm households, and rural development in general.
3. The approval of substantial budgets in different countries and in international organisations aimed to providing better and greater infrastructures and services in rural areas and in family agriculture.

Progressive recognition of the specific and equitable status of rural women in the framework of an authentic regulation of the family farm household and the creation of supporting tools directed to investment, credit, ownership, etc. for women in the farming sector, etc.

4. Calendar of activities

January-December 2010

- Getting other organisations support to IYFF: farmers, rural NGO, etc.
- Giving advice and information to all the organisations involved in the Campaign.
- Organisation of four continental meetings in Asia, Africa, America and Europe to strengthen each region in the IYFF Campaign, to elaborate recommendations and proposals which would strengthen the Campaign at world level.
- After the four continental meetings, the organisation of a World Consultative Committee, arising from the Continental Meetings, in order to give advice and recommendations to the IYFF Campaign promoted by WRF.
- Approaching governments to introduce IYFF and to get their support to the Campaign in favour of the IYFF. Getting approval of the IYFF by the next UN General Assembly.





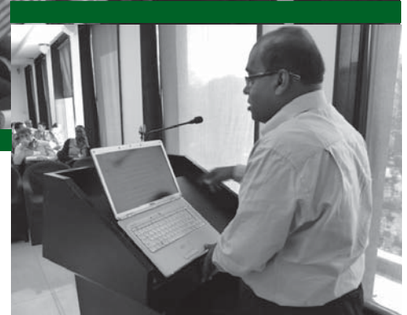

FEEDING THE WORLD, CARING FOR THE EARTH

ASIA CONTINENTAL MEETING




WRF • AFA • ASIADHRRA • CIFA



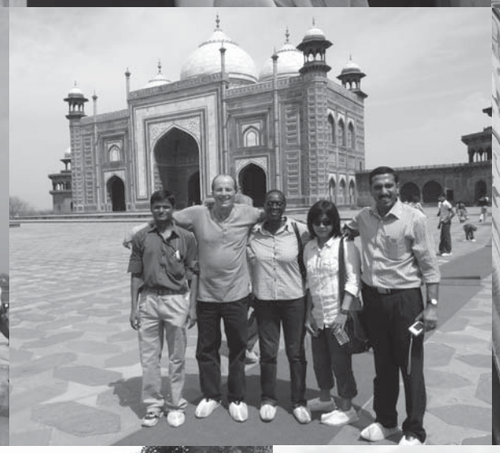
2010-2012 CAMPAIGN
International Year of Family Farming

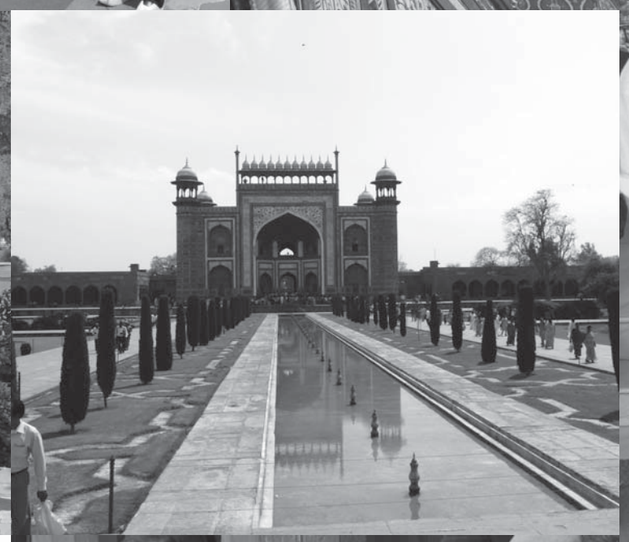
23-25 MARCH 2010
NEW DELHI, INDIA

2010-2012 CAMPAIGN

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FAMILY FARMING





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