FEEDING THE WORLD, CARING FOR THE EARTH
AFRICA CONTINENTAL MEETING
OCTOBER 24th 2010
LILONGWE, MALAWI

2010-2012 CAMPAIGN
International Year
of Family Farming

www.familyfarmingcampaign.net
The organizations more involved in the implementation of this important event have been:

- 5 African Regional Farmers Associations: EAFF (East Africa), PROPAC (Central Africa), ROPPA (West Africa), SACAU (South Africa) and UMAGRI (Maghreb).

- World Rural Forum Executive Secretariat: as the responsible of the worldwide lYFF Campaign Coordination.

- Local host: NATIONAL SMALLHOLDERS’ FARMERS ASSOCIATION OF MALAWI - NASFAM

Sponsors:

- The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development - CTA. The CTA is an ACP-EU institution working in the field of information for development. They operate under the ACP-EU Cotonou Agreement and their headquarters are in The Netherlands. When it was set up, in 1984, CTA was given the challenging task of improving the flow of information among stakeholders in agricultural and rural development in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

- CCFD – Terre Solidaire. CCFD is an association comprising 28 movements and services of the Catholic Church. It has a permanent staff of 170 based in Paris and in various regions of France who work to implement CCFD objectives.

With gratitude.
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The International Year of Family Farming – IYFF Campaign, as a worldwide activity, demands a great coordinating effort. Since the beginning, the IYFF Campaign established an outreach, gaining adherents and network creation program. It was seen as a basic to hold continental meetings to share knowledge, analyze, disseminate and support the reality of Family Farming in the different continents.

The main objective is to know 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, 3 regional IYFF strategy meetings have been held in Africa, America and Asia. The first of them has been held in India. The Asian meeting provided important lessons to be applied to the 2 following meetings.

**African Continental Meeting**

The 24th October 2010 was held in Lilongwe, Malawi, the African Continental Meeting of the Campaign for the statement by the UN an International Year of the Family Agriculture - IYFF.

There were Malawi, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Uganda, South Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, Tanzania, Gambia, Lesotho, Burundi, Central Africa Republic, Tunisia, Cameroon, Rwanda and India.
TOWARDS THE CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FAMILY FARMING - IYFF
A dream nearer each day
José Maria Zeberio
Executive Secretary of the World Rural Forum - WRF
Last report before the publication of this brochure.

1. RATIONNAL OF THE IYFF CAMPAIGN. Brief introduction

In the world today there are 3000 million people who live in the countryside. The greater part of these women and men, some 2500 million, are farmers. More than 1500 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 925 million people who suffer hunger in the world, a great number are peasant families, including fisherfolk communities, 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, etc.

In this so significant, so dramatic context, at the end of 2007, a thought-provoking proposal arrived at the Executive Secretariat of the World Rural Forum: that of promoting the recognition and the support of family farming by means of the declaration by the United Nations of an International Year of Family Farming - IYFF.

After taking a positive decision, the ideal occasion to make known this idea came with the celebration of the 2nd Farmers’ Forum in Rome, 11-12 February, 2008, a note-worthy meeting of agricultural organisations from all over the world. This meeting is organised periodically by International Fund for Agriculture Development - IFAD whose headquarters are in Rome. The WRF had been invited as an observer.

After the end of the Farmers’ Forum, we launched the first pamphlet about the IYFF Campaign.

2. Main support to the Campaign: Civil Society and Institutions

From that time until now, more than 314 farmers and rural organisations etc. from 60 countries covering the 5 continents have given their official support to the WRF Campaign in favour of the IYFF. (See up-dated list in the WRF web: www.familyfarmingcampaign.net).

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 7 Ministries and Divisions of Agriculture of Belize, Pakistan, Peru, El Salvador, Switzerland, Uganda and recently, the Philippines. We confidently await the support of the governments of Spain, Brazil, Costa Rica, India, Lesotho, Kenya, Luxemburg, Malawi, Mali, Nepal and Uruguay, and many others.

We have already taken the first steps to arrange political support in the UN headquarters in New York, as well as financial support to the IYFF activities from donor institutions.

On many occasions, linked to the participation in the diverse Forums in Rome, we have maintained contacts with the FAO and the IFAD as international organisations linked to agriculture in which we have explained everything in relation to the Campaign in favour of an IYFF.

We attended, as observers, the 3rd Farmers’ Forum organized by IFAD, Rome, February 15th-16th as well as the IFAD Governing Council, 17th-18th. Several Farmers’ organizations supporting the IYFF Campaign, AFA, COPROFAM, etc, raised the question about an official support from the III Farmers’ Forum to the IYFF Campaign.
The Farmers’ Forum Synthesis includes, at the end of the second paragraph, the following phrase: “We acknowledge in the significance of family agriculture in the world and we uphold the campaign for the UN declaration of the International Year of Family Farming”.

This support represents magnificent encouragement from the associations involved in the Farmers’ Forum to our common IYFF Campaign.

In addition to this, The Parliamentarian Front Against Hunger, of Latin America and the Caribbean, at the end of its First Forum, held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 4th-5th March, gave its support to the IYFF Campaign. The point 9 of the final Declaration states “To support the Civil Society Initiative requesting the UN to declare an International Year of Family Farming”.

Last June 2010 we received a message on behalf of the FAO Director General, Mr. Jacques Diouf, giving relevant advices and support to the Campaign. Last July the IFAD support to the Campaign was transmitted by an official letter sent by their President, Mr. Kanayo F. Nwanze. In a subsequent communication, Mr. Kevin Cleaver, Assistant Vice President in charge of Programs, confirmed the strong moral and political support of IFAD.

On August 2010 the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Cooperation-IICA-, through an official letter of it is Director, Mr. Villalobos, adhered to the IYFF Campaign.

3. Main events of the IYFF Campaign

Since February 2008 a substantial number of initiatives have been implemented by the WRF or by the many associations supporting the Campaign as they own initiative. The different events are included in the IYFF`s web. Among then, the most relevant are:

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.

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-AsiaDHRRRA, and Mr. Chengan Reddy, Secretary General of the Consortium of Indian Farmers’ Associations-CIFAs, as the two Asian members of the future IYFF World Consultative Committee (one woman-one man, one rural NGO-one Farmers’ association).

The Africa IYFF continental meeting was held on October 24th in Lilongwe, Malawi, in close coordination with the five Farmers’ Federations of the Continent: SACAU, EAFF, PROPAC, ROPPA and UMAPRI. The Constituent Assembly of the Pan-African Farmers Organisation-PAFFO, took place in the following days, October 25-27. This coordination work was a great opportunity for the IYFF meeting to be framed in a very representative and historic moment for the African farmers’ movement.

The IYFF Meeting was attended by members of the 5 Farmers’ Federations, as well as various African rural NGOs. The facilitator of the PAFFO establishing process, Mr Mamadou Cissoko, was the principal speaker, framing the Campaign in the purest tradition of the rural Africa, centred on the Family Farming, source of food and identity values.
Several organizations were unable to go to Malawi because of logistical problems we could not resolve due to lack of time. The CTA and CCFD financially supported the travels and board and lodging costs of a part of the audience.

The nomination of the African representatives on the World Advisory Committee of the IYFF Campaign will be made through PAFFO and the rural organizations supporting the Campaign in Africa. As some of them were not present, it was decided to postpone the assignment.

The main commitments made during the meeting are referred to the action with the various governments for their support, to the work within Civil Society and to the media to popularize the Campaign.

The Continental Meeting in America took place in Brasilia on 13-14 November, just before the XIV Specialized Meeting on Family Farming-REAF, MERCOSUR, held on November 15th-19th 2010.

The IYFF America Continental meeting brought together over 80 representatives of peasant organizations, rural NGOs and experts in family agriculture of 13 American countries, as well as representatives of the governments of Brazil, Chile and Paraguay. Also in attendance were AFA’s General Secretary (Asian Farmers’ Association) Mrs Esther Penuria and a member of the Executive Committee of ROPPA (Network of Peasant Organizations of West Africa), Mr King David Umoah, representing the worldwide dimension of the Campaign.

There had been two days of intensive sharing about the present situation of Family Farming in the region. The main areas of work were identified and specific targets were set to strengthen the Campaign in the different regions: Andes, MERCOSUR, Central America and North America: getting support from governments, media, civil society, etc.

We do hope that the Continental Meeting in Europe will take place beginning 2011. The recent support given by organizations from Australia and New Zealand is bringing IYFF to new shores.

Once these meetings have ended, the first World Consultative Committee-WCC of the IYFF Campaign will be organised with two representatives – our suggestion: to be elected, as in Asia, with gender approach and associational criteria: one woman-one man, one Farmers’ association, one rural NGO-by each Continent. At this moment, the representatives of Africa, America and Europe are undergoing the election process. We hope that, in two month, the WCC will be in place.

In the coming days will be published the reports related to the Africa and America continental meetings. They will be available also in the IYFF web.

We have also set in motion an IYFF Scientific Area which will be able to get diverse world experts together, women and men capable of laying the basis of all things relevant to Family Agriculture as the principal of food production and the preservation of environment-friendly conditions. The first preparatory meeting was held in Bilbao, Spain, on March 10th 2010.

After visiting Brussels from June 1rst to 4th and meeting CTA, European Parliament and several NGO, a delegation of the WRF will travel soon to New York in order to meet several Embassies and International Institutions with the aim of promoting our IYFF Campaign and to get acquainted with the UN procedures.

On June 25th, the WRF Executive Secretary briefed the Central American Agricultural Council-CAC, in Panama City, about the IYFF Campaign, requesting their official support. The CAC will decide about this matter during its next meeting, to be held in the first quarter of 2011.

With the aim of getting more acquainted with the procedure to obtain the declaration of an International Year and to explore future supports in New York, the UN see, a delegation of the WRF visited the USA on July 3rd to 10th.

The meetings with the FAO and IFAD liaison offices to the UN were very relevant, as well as the visits to the Permanent Missions to the UN of Pakistan, Switzerland, El Salvador and Peru.

The WRF delegation got the opportunity of introducing the IYFF Campaign to the World Bank Agriculture Department in Washington, and to several USA NGOs.
All along 2010, the WRF has held several meetings in Rome with the Permanent Representation of Colombia, El Salvador, The Philippines, Spain, Peru, Pakistan, Switzerland, Tanzania and Uganda to FAO/IFAD/WFP, and also with qualified FAO and IFAD representatives, in order to take forward the official support of these international organizations specialized in Agriculture.

In this context, WRF- who has met several times, in 2009-2010, the FAO staff in relation with our IYFF Campaign- has received, on 11th January 2011, an official letter of the FAO Director General, Mr. Jacques Diouf, granting WRF a liaison status. Taking into account the linkage between WRF and the coordination of the IYFF Campaign, it is a very positive tool to carry out our common goal with more international recognition.

The Campaign for the IYFF Declaration has also been present at the Civil Society Consultation Forum, aimed to agree on the Mechanism of Civil Society Participation in the FAO’ Food Security Committee.

On December 2010 OXFAM International, one of the most relevant NGO- deeply committed to the search of Development in solidarity worldwide-, adhered to the IYFF Campaign.

On December 9th the WRF attended in Amiens, France, the International Seminar organized by the association French Farmers-International Development-AFDI.

The theme of the first Round Table was “Family agricultures, a modern reply to the food challenge”, a crucial subject totally within the objectives of the IYFF Campaign.

The second Round Table was focussed on the search of an agricultural pact among farmers’ organisations from the South and the North, in order to get a different governance of food security. Such a pact is a hope for the future and should be based on international justice.

WRF has attended, from 5th to 11th February, the World Social Forum in Dakar. WRF representative gave a talk linking Family Farming with Food Sovereignty. It was a good opportunity to meet many of the IYFF partners and to promote the Campaign.

4. IYFF Campaign priorities during 2011

As a result of these last initiatives and encounters we have been able to review the IYFF Campaign priorities:

- Search for more governments’ political and financial support.
- Encourage the active participation of the Permanent Missions to the UN and to the FAO/IFAD/WFP in the process towards making possible the IYFF declaration in 2011.
- To further develop the cooperation with FAO and IFAD in order to prepare the IYFF programme.
- To obtain new supporters among farmers’ organizations, NGO and other sectors of Civil Society.
- The strengthening of the Scientific Area in order to identify the main characteristics, challenges, objectives and needs of Family Farming, in the perspective of establishing a catalogue of rural demands.
- The new Web is a very effective tool to make known to the world the up to date evolution of all the activities of the IYFF Campaign. Visit it and use it as a sensitizing instrument with the existing diverse material to promote the Campaign.

Many millions are the peasant families throughout the world that will be able to get most benefit from the implementation of an International Year of Family Farming, sponsored by the United Nations Organisation.

We will give maximum possible projection and effectiveness to the official IYFF through the 314 organisations participating in the Campaign, in order to get more governments support and more associations adhering to the Campaign.

To make this dream a reality is in the hands of everyone. We need cooperation, support and help to make it come true.
## Programme Flow

**International Year of Family Farming Campaign**  
**Feeding the World, Caring for the Earth**  
**Africa Continental Meeting**

#### 23rd October

- Attendants arrival

### Day 1: 24th October 2010

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<th>TIMING</th>
<th>ITEM</th>
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<td>8:15 – 8:45</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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| 8:45 – 9:15  | Opening, Welcome Remarks    
               Opening Remarks                                                   | • Malawi Host Organizations  
                                                                                  • IYFF Campaign Coordinator, WRF, Mr. José Osaba                         |
| 9:15 – 09:30 | Invited Dignitaries Speeches + Keynote Message                     | Mr. Mamadou Cissokho                                                   |
| 10:30 – 10:45| Solidarity Messages                                                  | Other Continental Partners                                              |
| 10:45 – 11:00| Coffee Break and Photo Session                                      |                                                                         |
| 11:00 – 12:00| IYFF Campaign: What have we done at world level? What is the        | IYFF Campaign Coordinator, WRF, Mr. José Osaba                          |
|              | procedure for a UN Declaration                                       |                                                                         |
| 12:00 – 12:30| What happens to African fisherfolk?                                  | Mr. Gaossou Gueye. CAOPA General Secretary                              |
| 12:30 – 13:30| Discussion about what happens to farmers in the different African   | Open to participants. 5 minutes maximum each.                           |
|              | countries represented.                                              |                                                                         |
| 13:30 – 14:30| Lunch Break                                                         |                                                                         |
| 14:30 – 16:00| Regional Workshop (5) Which are the next steps at (1) national     | Participants to be gathered by region.                                  |
|              | level, (2) regional level, (3) and continental level? Who is going  |                                                                         |
|              | to do what and when? Letter to IFAD/FAO                             |                                                                         |
Day 1: 24th October 2010

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<td>16:00 – 17:00</td>
<td>Plenary Reporting, discussion and review of Letter to IFAD/FAO.</td>
<td>We should define basic demands about Family Farming and a post-meeting work program, at different levels (national, regional, continental).</td>
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<td>17:00 – 17:30</td>
<td>Other Continental IYFF Campaign representatives</td>
<td>Other Continental Partners.</td>
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<td>17:30 – 18:00</td>
<td>Closing Session</td>
<td>Host Organization and IYFF Campaign Coordinator, Mr. José Osaba</td>
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18:00 – 18:30 Campaign Launching
18:30 – 19:00 Press Conference

Day 2: 27th October 2010

9:00 – 13:00 Field Visit: Organic Free Gardens

Day 2: 28th October 2010

Attendents Departure

From 25th to 27th October, the World Rural Forum and other organizations present at the IYFF Continental Meeting participated in two major events:

- **The Constituent Assembly of the Pan-African Farmers Federation Organization – PAFFO** where we presented the results of the IYFF African meeting. (Lilongwe, 25th - 27th October).
- **A seminar on various forms of agriculture financing in South Africa**, organized by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development – CTA. (Lilongwe, 25th - 26th October).
Dear participants in this IYFF Africa Continental Meeting,

On behalf of NASFAM it is my pleasure and my honour to welcome all of you to Malawi! We are sure that you will feel at home among us, and that this IYFF Continental Meeting will be a very significant event.

In our country Family Farming is a very crucial reality. Most of our people are involved in farming as a subsistence activity. Historically we have been quite left aside by governments, and farming was poor in productivity and in access to markets. Hunger and malnutrition have been a painful experience during long periods of time.

Nowadays the situation is improving. The government of Mr Bingu wa Mutharika, our President, his giving much more attention to Family Farming, to smallholders. Access to fertilizers and to seeds have been promoted through subsidies. The local food production, mainly corn, our staple food, have increased substantially.

We still face many challenges concerning the food prices, subject to high fluctuations, the lack of rural infrastructures, as roads, irrigation, local markets, silos, etc. We need more training, more women participation in rural leadership. NASFAM is deeply involved in such areas.

Today we are going to share about the situation of the women and men smallholders in the whole of Africa, trying to get a better knowledge about our common issues and demands. We are going to identify our main objectives order to promote the IYFF Campaign among our governments and civil society.

NASFAM is proud of having all of you among us and we remain at your disposal during your stay in Malawi.

Many thanks,
Dear friends,

Welcome to Lilongwe, to the IYFF Africa Continental Meeting.

Our Campaign in favour of the declaration by the UN of an International Year of Family Farming is a worldwide initiative. In this global context, the celebration of this Africa Continental Meeting is a very significant event. Africa is a rural continent, with several hundreds million people, family farmers, living in the country side, often neglected and forgotten.

As we all know, Family Farming is not getting a proper recognition and support from many governments. The Maputo declaration with the formal commitment about allocating 10% of the national budget to Agriculture is largely pending. The African agriculture is lacking protection and support. Them food imports at subsidized prices are causing a great damage to the local crops, to milk production, etc.

Africa needs food security and food sovereignty to overcome hunger and malnutrition. The IYFF Campaign is a very important tool to change this situation, to improve agriculture and rural life.

We have gathered in Malawi because all of us, and specially our African partners would like to express their gratitude to the Government of Malawi, to President Bingu wa Mutharika, for his policy in favour of Agriculture and Rural Development, for allocating more than 10 % of the national budget to the promotion of food production.

Our Continental Meeting is taking place just before the Constituent Assembly of the Pan African Association of Farmers-PAFFO. We would like to join hand with PAFFO to push ahead the IYFF Campaign under their guidance and leadership.

Today all the African participants, their associations, will take commitments at national, regional and continental level in order to get more governments support, more Civil Society recognition, more mass media attention to the farmers' demands.

On behalf of the worldwide Campaign, active in five continents, I wish you the best for your deliberations and your future successes.

Many thanks,
Mamadou Cissokho

Hello!

Family Agriculture is at the very heart of rural Africa and for this reason the Campaign in favour of the International Year of Family Farming - IYFF is very significant for us.

For centuries, colonisation has smashed up this model in the name of their economic interests. The whole traditional agricultural production system was undermined.

The basis of the economy is production and the aim of agricultural production is, above all, to allow each person to feed himself. This is a non-negotiable situation as the first duty of farmers is to nourish their society. African farmers have not failed in their duty and they must be given justice. A large part of the agricultural producers’ movement fight rests on this: making sure that the farmers’ contribution to our national communities is recognised thereby giving them back the dignity that has often been scorned. However, there is so more to do.

This explains why we, farmers of Africa within our associations, have come together to define our vision of agriculture in long term development: modern and lasting agriculture will be able to assume the economic, social and ecological functions required to preserve family and national solidarity; an agriculture that assures equal and lasting management of natural resources and that is capable of assuring sufficient, stable income and a decent standard of living for family farms and producers; agriculture capable of clearing any surplus for export, significantly helping to create national wealth and provide healthy food to the national and sub-regional population.

Since independence, we have continued to suffer from acts and decisions that slow us down and hold us back from the real questions, real problems and the perspectives of mobilising all our human and financial resources. This is no longer tolerable and excuses are no longer possible, because from now on the decision makers have understood and recognised that we have made a lot of mistakes and lost time.

We have to break with this way of acting. The moment we got our independence was the right time to do it, but we have simply continued along the path of State colonial management simply by changing the decision-makers, or in other words replacing Whites with Africans. No debate was held to answer these ever-present questions: Who are we? Where are we going? What should we produce and for whom? On which of our own resources are we going to build our autonomy?

Even today, we have the means not to lose faith, guided by our values. If we want to build sustainable development, we have to start with what we are: farmers who are humans living on our land, sharing our moral, religious, cultural and social values that have allowed us to confront life’s difficulties whether they are physical (climate), political (conquests since feudal times up to colonisation) or simply the result of human relations that life imposes on living beings.

All these difficulties together can be managed and overcome thanks to values that farmers continue to pass down from father to son, ignored by colonisation and then by the States where we find ourselves citizens nowadays, even if we are questioned on our traditional wisdom and on our history from time to time. Today’s State is not a farmer state, not one where rural life has a place or where people who did not go to school are recognised or held in esteem.

In a nutshell, we have not started off with our own ideas, resources or values. Today, we are still hanging on to things that are foreign to us. We can get out of this rut if we break with these ways of looking at and doing things.

Our major handicap is this: "We are not ourselves"
But firstly, let’s be proud of being farmers
The social and cultural fundamentals of our farmers’ associations are clear: we must do everything to make farmers proud of their lifestyle. Today, in all small African villages, in all groups, when agents from an organisation come to talk with the population, people will insist on the fact that they are “family farmers”. Their fight does not first and foremost concern production but recognition for their way of life because this is always being questioned. We were “nothing” as long as we were convinced on the whole that we were nothing. We should value the people producing above the products themselves. When we, farmers, are recognised and respected, then we can talk about “controlled-origin products”.

This vision can only be promoted when the agricultural credit rate in the region lies between 14 and 20%. It cannot be guaranteed when the States only devote a mere 4 to 10% of their financing budget to agriculture when in other countries, public funding for agro-pastoral development exceeds 20, 30 and 40% of national or regional budgets. We should not let the countryside become abandoned, as European countries have done, because this would represent delivering ourselves, with our hands and feet bound, to the domination of the cruel economy run by the interests of anonymous firms. Our vision will not come true if we reform our landowning regimes simply for securing loans. This will never happen if we do not find ways and means of respecting men and women in their families, in their lives, in their ways of understanding them. There will soon be more than a billion Africans and our production, consumption and mobility capacities will play an important role in the world.

**Three priorities**

The rural world must not be sacrificed; on the contrary it should be promoted. It is society, as a whole, that is respected if it respects the rural world and protects its resources. We have three priorities.

- The first is to reconstitute and assess natural resources that have been excessively exploited. They are the basis of our wealth, the storehouse of our societies. Regeneration of soil fertility and control of rational land and water management must become our politicians’ top priorities and feature in significant investment programmes.

- The second priority is to develop and secure human resources to protect and create paying rural jobs that produce wealth and hope. In this field, for our farmers’ organisations, this is a matter above all of guaranteeing substantial income for young farmers currently working on family farms and creating new markets to provide a complement for their current farming income where the level of profitability leaves a lot to be desired.

- The third priority is to clean up and rebuild politics. Attitudes and behaviour in this area have to be reformed urgently. If our independence was stillborn, it is because we have not been able to set up rules that respect public good and create solidarity that targets distributing resources fairly. Ever since, we have largely forgotten social justice and dialogue.

Today, Africa and the world are no longer what they were, in the mid 1970s, at the birth of the farmers’ movement. Africa has always been bewildering and the world increasingly puzzling. More than ever, it matters that we should not give in and should assume our share of responsibility.

Thank you,
Key Note Address by Basavaraj Ingin (India)
E.C. Member CIFA & Karnataka State Red Gram Growers Association

Respected Mr. Jose Osaba, IYFF Campaign Coordinator, Ms. Miren Larrea, WRF Asia Desk Coordinator, Distinguished Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen, Farm Activists, Leaders of Farmers Organisations, NGOs and all other stakerholder including the members of societies, Good Morning everybody.

At the outset, on my own behalf, on behalf of my organisation, my country and my continent I offer my sincere thanks to the WRF and all other hosts for having given me the opportunity to be with you all and meet you and speak to you in Africa.

Feeding World & Caring the Earth are complimentary to each other and most relevant, important, in the content of the Global Scenario which needs to be tackled, handled, deliciously especially by the developing and under developed poor countries which have the need to formulate strategic action plans to improve the living standard of the farm households and to provide poison free food to the world.

Mr. Chengal Reddy, the Secretary General, CIFA, dealt the matter in depth with all factual, statistical & logistical approach to the need for the declaration by the UN of an International Year of Family Farming. I only intend to deal with political & social aspects which can influence directly or indirectly the needs to declare 2011-2012 as the IYFF.

Agriculture is the culture of humanity, so also Fishiculture, Horticulture, Floriculture and all other allied activities of Agriculture including Animal husbandry, dairy, poultry, sheep breeding, pig breeding, etc.

Population explosion and division of families resulting in fragmentation of land is most worrying cause of millions of small and marginal farmers in keeping up the pace of culture of Agriculture, since one cannot expand, create or produce the area of Land by any means.

At the same time explosion of population made the developing countries worry to face the challenges to feed the mouths and fill the belly of starving millions.

Nowadays many are adopting unethical, unhygienic methods to grow more to feed the hungry world. In this process to safeguard the food security we are forced to sideline the fundamental issue of caring the earth. Instead of food security we need to have food sovereignty.

Mahatma Gandhi the father of our nation said that Agriculture is for necessaries and not to fulfil the Greed.

Socrates the renowned philosopher of olden days exclaimed saying: what is the point of walls and glittering statues, if the men who built them are not happy?

Both of the above thoughts appears contrary to each other but are similar when analysed.

So the challenge now before the farmer is how to match the demand and supply position of the hunger to feed the world and care for the earth.

We also know that the earth is dying speedily due to land degradation due to the excess use of chemicals for unhealthy and unethical means in the process to produce more. We should also know that if a human being dies they are buried under the earth, but if the earth dies where to bury?

So, ladies and gentlemen, now the farmers are at the crossroads of farming, since the household land holdings of 80 to 85 % of farmers reduced to 7 Hectare to 2 Hectares, small and marginal farmers land holding is insufficient to continue farming as viable to have the honourable livelihood. The farmer is undeceive as to weather go ahead with
farming in the available land, think of community farming, co-operative farming, contract farming or corporate farming. Added to this, the global warming is another for the sustenance of farming since farmer is being trapped under the uncertainties of vagaries of seasonal conditions of rainfall. For all this, I suggest this house to answer the remedy as Family Farming.

Unaware and afraid of all the above the farmer is abandoning his farm land and migrating to the urban centres in search of employment and to earn their livelihood since the farm land at his disposal is supposed to be unable to cater his necessities.

Another threat is the unwanted land acquisition by the greedy with the hand in glove support of the State. This also forces the farmer to abandon remaining insufficient or lost land and enter urban centres for job.

Off farm input supply is another problem to the farmers which results in non remunerative proceeds. As such he is being attracted by the urban facilities and luxuries and also the day to day wages one earns.

**POLICY INNOVATIONS PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE**

I- **What green revolution attained**: Green revolution rallied round the two cereals i.e. wheat and rice, but never cared for any other food-grains. Use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides resulted in producing residual poisonous food for the society.

II- **Adverse and negative effects**: As already told off farm inputs resulted in increase of input costs, farmer is caught in debt trap due to low income from the farm.

III- **Policy makers happily**: Indulged in measuring and recording inflation and GDP projecting Agri-Producers as cause of inflation and not the service and industry responsible for GDP. This resulted in curtailing remunerative prices to the Agri Producers in the name of consumer protection.

IV- **Land Acquisition are cancerous Bomb Cells**: On some or the other pretence mainly to provide profit oriented commercial and industrial venue and also to provide Red-Carpet welcome to the rich. Land acquisition continued unabated which includes for urban housing and making farmers landless.

V- **Prevent migration**: Need of the day is to prevent farmers and farm labours migration which is mainly in search of employment and earning daily wages. But who knows a day may come soon when urban centres stop providing employments to the migrant labour due to adoption of high-tech methods.

VI- **What next**: De-urbanization is the lone solution in addition to providing the modern amenities, luxuries education for children. Urban-Rural Divide gap is sea deep and wide; it needs urgent bridging with equal and similar facilities at both places.

VII- **Discourage**: As far as possible discourage corporate and contract farming since the resultant fruits are likely to fill the treasuries of corporate sector leaving farmer at large as only a labour working to cater the greed of the sector empowerment of small and marginal farmer, specially women farmer remains only a dream.

VIII- **Provide**: Assured fullest domestic and external support and linkages both backward and forward including for export of-farm produced through the groups of farmers.

IX- **Solution**: Only community farming through the family farming group organized among themselves.

X- **Labour Support**: Any farmer of whatever size or extent of land he holds he cannot do everything by himself all the farming activities. So he needs additional borrowed or hired labour to support him. This instead of borrowing or hiring can be met through the other member of his family.

Here we, may have to quote an instance of practice of olden days joint family structure where every member of the family was responsible to do away the job entrusted to him, which use to save energy and money to the farm households.
Due to the bifurcation and division of family in small groups, and engagement of many members of family otherwise the farm activities suffers with the need to procure additional borrowed or hired labour.

Another important problem is all members of family may not have work on all days in the family farm. This required to engage all members of the family in additional employment or job engaging them in allied agriculture. Job like animal husbandry, diary, etc. which ends up in earning more for the family and improves the livelihood of farm household.

XI- Only Solution: FAMILY FARMING.

XII- Where is the land: As already discussed above, the availability of land resources due to various reason especially the land available for cultivation is very little. But in some parts of the Globe cultivable land is not being utilised to its optimum extent.

We now understand that the land surplus countries have willingly offered their land on rent for cultivation. Example: Australia, Canada and Burma have even offered land for sale. Ethiopia and Zambia have offered land on lease for a nominal one dollar a hectare. But multinational companies and trusts have already obtained large extent of land in Ethiopia; up to more than one hundred thousand of hectares each. This will be for contract and corporate farming.

Unfortunately, the manpower engaged on such land will remain as labour, he cannot be partner or never be a owner.

So my appeal the land that too cultivable land Nation is to invite and EMBRASS the landless, small and marginal farmer families and involve them in cultivating land on Partnership basis to help each other.

XIII- Who should Net and KNIT: The civil society, the farmers organizations, the NGOs should start establishing network of landless, small, marginal farmers families, motivate them, counsel them, train them, bring awareness, in them and then, make them to work in groups of 100 to 200 farmers, as one family with the farmers of land surplus countries.

XI- Result: The above Network works for knitting the farmer family groups at village, regional, state, national and continental level and will have the force and power behind them to influence the member countries at UNO to convince the UNO and get the “Declaration of the International Year of Family Farming” which the World Rural Forum is aiming at in the interest of encouraging family of farmers to involve hearty in the farming.

With this, ladies and gentlemen, I once again thank-you all for inviting me alone to represent my country and continent and providing me the privilege of interacting with you all and giving me a patient hearing.

Thank You
24-10-2010
Basavaraj Ingin
President
Karnataka state Red Gram Growers Association
And
E.C. Member Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations.
SOUTH AFRICA
South Africa Presentation

1. All developmental programs are imposed. There is no facilitation including participation of communities. Decision making by communities is not considered no ownership.

2. No research or situational overview to find out who is already working in a particular area, what are they doing (CBOs, NGOs, etc.). How do we work together with them? All are underlined.

3. NGOs, CBOs, etc. including small farmers are ignored. They are not taken seriously. But when projects initiatives collapse, they are approached and expected to offer free service (e.g. training, capacity building, etc).

4. Government initiated massive food programs are imposed and do not benefit family farmers. They are mostly monoculture type and more funded nothing for household farmers.

5. Action learning and reflection processes in order to change practice are not prioritised. Same mistakes are repeated several times, year after year (the implication is serious waste of scarce resources).

6. Agricultural and rural development policies are silent on family/small holder farming.

7. Developmental processes are politicized (party politics). This result in social inclusion meaningful relationship between politics and development is not clearly conceived. There is a need to facilitate processes of political education for all citizens including key political leadership. It should be noted that the politics should provide conducive environment for development thus, politics and development work together and complement each other. Politics do not work against development. Politics provide and implement conducive policies for development.

8. No monitoring of developmental and social change programs.

9. There is abundance of productive land net to perennial use. This is not productively used.

10. Abundance of social grants programs promote dependency syndrome and paralyses the future of many girl children. Perhaps education and awareness is necessary. There is strong need to uproot this social problem. Social grants can be offered only to the disabled and elderly.

This is more bribery by politicians.

1. Livestock improvement programs are also imposed. Local NGOs who started similar programs long ago are by passed. (Noteworthy) Such NGOs had been successful and still continue to help village farmers in programs that are imposed; villagers get inferior rams while in these facilitated by NGOs quality rams from registered breeders are accessed.

2. As Civil Society Organizations (NGOs, CBOs, etc.) we complement what our Government is doing. We are not competitors with them. We humbly request our Government in all spheres (local, provincial and national) to understand this and acknowledge that without our work specifically in remote rural areas there could be no development and support for communities in these areas.
GAMBIA
GAMBIA PRESENTATION by Musa F. Sowe

**Context**
Gambia is agrarian country and agriculture is the leading employer with over 75% of the population.
Rice is the staple food for the country.

**Organization:**
National Coordinating Organization of Farmers Association the Gambia. The organization is established on the basis and sustainable food production, food security and sovereignty and give fundamental dimension for culture, environmental management and its biodiversity.
Member of ROPPA which is a sub-regional farmer’s network.

**Challenges for food security**
1. Women. Lack of access to and control of the resources linked to the land, technology, training and credit facilities.
2. Additional causes of food insecurity have natural catastrophes and man made catastrophes.

**Under natural catastrophes.**
1. Drought, low rainfall, floods, erosion, disease unpredictable rainfall, low moisture in the soil due to low rainfall, insects invasion.
2. Green house gases

**Man-made catastrophes**
1. Deforestation, bush burning, over grazing, marketing, land tenure system, policies, attitude and people concept of agriculture, control of prices.

**Other challenges:**
1. Difficulty to access resources and production inputs (land, seeds and cereals and equipment).
2. Agricultural families are deprived of their land that are sold for settlement and big export oriented industrial to build their factories, industries, etc.
3. Signing of partnership agreement which are west driven e.g. Structural Adjustment Programme (1980) and EPA negotiation.
4. Progressive deterioration in farming income and its effects on rural economies is causing the disappearance of many family farms by people migrations to cities.
5. Other causes by government falling to decentralized development (infrastructure) and policies.
6. Poor storage and infrastructure.

**Recommendations:**
1. Family Farming.
2. Diversification of Agriculture.
3. Promote and strengthen research.
4. Build the capacity of farmers.
5. Plant more trees to combat deforestation.
6. Government to revise policies on Agriculture.


9. Farmers and farmer’s organization to build network and raise more awareness that will involve indigenous farmers, lobby government to change policies that will better farming system.


11. Provide inputs to farmers and give subsidies in the form of fertilizer.

12. Promote the irrigation method.
When we are talking about family agriculture in Senegal, we should distinguish between three periods to understand how it has evolved.

1. **Before independence in 1960**

   During this period, people in the countryside lived under a social regime revolving around large families. The head of the family was responsible for all this brothers, his own wives and his brothers' wives. There was a large family cereal farm where all adult members of the family came together every morning in the rainy season to work although that did not prevent each adult member of the family from having their own plot usually growing groundnut, but sometimes also cereals.

   During this period, men lived in harmony with nature because they had no idea about fertilizer or pesticides. Men took what they needed from nature for their buildings, their medication and their ritual ceremonies.

2. **After independence in 1960**

   A few years after independence, governmental authorities were advised by French cooperation workers to modernise Senegalese agriculture as quickly and as effectively as possible. So the State created public companies in charge of organising peasants. This led to the creation of the National Development and Dispersion Company (SODEVA) and the National Groundnut Commercialisation Office (ONCAD). When this agricultural project was first set up, the State distributed enormous quantities of fertilizer and pesticides plus seeds and agricultural material. All this cost the peasants very little because it was highly subsidised by the State.

   Once the peasants were familiar with this agricultural package, the State put up their prices so peasants fell into severe debt and entered a vicious circle.

3. **GOANA**

   Three years ago, the President of Senegal launched the Great Offensive for Wealth, Food (GOANA). This project aims to lead Senegal out of the tyranny of importing prime necessity goods such as rice by making sure that the country can produce enough food to feed itself.

   This is an idea the head of State has launched to make the best use of the land. The State has deployed a lot of resources in this project but we have to wonder who this
is really helping. Instead of giving these resources directly to the peasants by asking them to expand their farms, he is asking civil servants to go and assess the land. The Rural Community Presidents (PCR) are very sensitive to this issue and have distributed all the good land to people working for the administration and the rich to the detriment of the poor, whilst telling them that all non registered land belongs to the state.

4. Others
Other problems in Senegal include:
- Distribution and sales difficulties for agricultural products due to the common market.
- Access to land (inheritance problems).
- Lack of agricultural insurance and obstacles to get loans.
- Land impoverishment.
- Unequal share of resources with seasonal workers.

UGANDA
Organizations Represented:
1. PELUM Uganda.
2. Uganda Environmental Education Foundation.

a. Brief Background of Uganda
- Uganda is an agro-based country 80% of Uganda's population is employed in agriculture. Agriculture contributes 60% to GDP.
- Population: 31.3 million people.
- Uganda is the only country in Africa endorsed to IYFF.

b. Issues affecting small farmers
- Land tenure system: Accessibility, ownership, acquisition.
- Limited access to and control of farm inputs: seeds –expensive, do not germinate, don't regenerate-
- Phasing out of indigenous seeds: creates dependence and food insecurity.
- Lack of political will, lack of pro-poor policies.
- Lack of proper information.
- Climate change: prolonged droughts, floods –take long to plant, crops die, thus food insecurity-, weather conditions –heavy rains, destroy-.

c. Recommendations proposal
- Small farmers should embrace Family Farming through networks and campaigns.
- Identify markets for small farmers.
- Government should support small farmers with favourable policies that support sustainable agriculture.

d. Opportunity
- Land availability.
- Partnership with external investors, potential to process agricultural outputs.
GROUP A:
WHICH ARE THE NEXT STEPS

NATIONAL LEVEL

- Organize follow-up forums on awareness creation among the member organisations.
- Organize for awareness creation Campaigns to other partners who are necessarily the member organizations of the network.
- Follow-up with the relevant Government Ministers Offices to get the feed-back on the letter sent.
- Invoice media in spreading the information to the public domain.
- (NB') Resources will be required for implementation.

REGIONAL LEVEL

- Request PELUM Regional Desk office to write direct letter to Regional blocks introducing the idea.
- Have in place a central team committee to spearhead the process at the regional level.
- PELUM Regional to link with other blocks and ROPPA

CONTINENTAL LEVEL

- PELUM Regional to link up with other African blocks e.g. ROPPA etc.
- RD Individual National PELUMs to link with World Social Forum for publicity and get support Government February Dakar-Senegal.

GROUP B:
WHICH ARE THE NEXT STEPS

NATIONAL ROLE TO STRENGTH IYFF

The national Government should endorse the IYFF as a strategy
How: The CSO and Farmers raise awareness
- Have common understanding of IYFF concept
- Campaign and Lobby for government support
- Government support will be manifested by: Endorsement of letter to FAO and IFAD.
Time frame: at least by December 2011

NB: Evidence based advocacy + lobbying
- Capacity building + research
- Media campaigning sensitization, public dialogue.
- F-F visit ministries, show case documents

REGIONAL LEVEL TO STRENGTH IYFF CAMPAIGN

Farmers + farmer’s organisations + NGOs formulate and strengthen networks, organise more awareness workshops.
Regional bodies to raise awareness- COMESA, SADC, EAFF, SACAU, ROPPA, PROPAC, PELUM.

1 NB: A report ought to be developed at the end of the period prescribed giving the true picture of the situation.
Campaign and lobby with AU to support the IYFF Campaign.
Time frame: 2011.
West Africa: ROPPA.

CONTINENTAL LEVEL TO STRENGTH IYFF CAMPAIGN

AU
WRF.- to lobby with UN to declare the IYFF as an International event.
WRF.- to continue building capacities of the Regional Farmers Network.
AU.- to strengthen research on science and technology for agriculture development.
AU.- to ensure all countries are fulfilled 10% of National Budget allocated on Agriculture.
WRF.- to lobby AU to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

GROUP C:
WHICH ARE THE NEXT STEPS

NATIONAL LEVEL
• Restitution of malawi IYFF campaign continental meeting to governers & civil society not later than november 2010.
• The national governers should endorse the IYFF as a strategy. Their support will be manifested by endorsement of letters to FAO General Director & IFAD President.
• Mobilisation & implementation of decision makers / leaders in favour of IYFF campaign (before December 2010).
• Capacity building + Research & documentation.
• Mobilisation of media, students & universities, etc.
• Organise a dinner with MPS.
• Organise a family farming campaign seminar (April 2011).
• Report of activities to the IYFF africa continental committee (May - June 2011).
• Co-organise a IYFF conference with concerned ministries and strategics stateholders (October 2011).

REGIONAL LEVEL
• Mobilisation of regional stakeholders (CEEAC, CEPEGEL, CEDEAO, etc.).
• Providing documentation at regional level about the family farming campaign.
• Have in place a central team to spearhead the IYFF process at the regional level.
• Regional bodies to raise awareness: COMESA, SADC, ETC. / EAFF, SACAU, ROPPA, PROPAC & UMAGRI.

CONTINENTAL LEVEL
• AU to sign a letter of support to the IYFF addressed to the UN General Secretary & General Assembly Chairman.
• AU to strenght research on science & technology for family farming - agriculture development.
• AU to ensure that all countries allocate 10% of national budget to agriculture.
• WRF should lobby with UN to promote the declaration of IYFF.
Traditional African Fishing
Sustainable Fishing Engine

African Confederation of Professional Traditional Fishing Organisations
Tel: (00221) 77 632 66 65 Email: caopa.peche@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

- The deterioration of halieutic resources in Africa continues to impoverish traditional fishing communities as they see their living conditions getting worse day by day.

- These fishing communities must confront rampant poverty today due to a drop in their income linked, among other factors, to a considerable drop in their catch. We should also add the enormous difficulties that these communities face today to access sustainable stock resources.

- This situation springs from a current shortage due to our States not defining clear fishing policies that also state that:

  - Traditional African fishing is now the engine of economic, social and sustainable environmental development for fishing in Africa.

  - From now on, they think it is urgent and essential that the main players in Africa’s traditional fishing are involved in fishing policies and decision-making by means of participative approaches, such as implementing the NEPAD Action Plan.

  - This represents professional organisations, coastal communities and supportive NGOs working together and organising themselves properly whilst prioritising democracy and transparency at all stages of decision-making, above all abiding by the principles of good governance.

Traditional African Fishing
True Sustainable Development Engine

- Sustainable development and sustainable exploitation of marine, lake and river resources require the environmental, social and economic needs of the coastal communities to be taken into consideration and treated fairly.

- Within the field of African fishing, we believe that a halieutic production system based on a small scale, traditional exploitation model is the development model best able to contribute to social, environmental, and sustainable economic development.

- In this respect, the comparative study between traditional fishing and industrial fishing based on key factors, relevant to the sub-sectors made by Daniel Pauly, presented in the table below, are led to show that “the shortest path to sustainable development throughout the world would be to encourage traditional fishing.”

- Considering the current crisis conditions (food crisis, resources crisis, energy crisis, financial, etc.), we agree with this conclusion and we are convinced that this approach is the best able to allow sustainable development for fishing in Africa.
The table below shows the potential of traditional fishing in terms of sustainability. These are worldwide figures although the same table applied to African fishing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits for society</th>
<th>Industrial Fishing</th>
<th>Traditional Fishing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of fishermen employed</td>
<td>+/- 1/2 million</td>
<td>Over 12 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual catch for human consumption</td>
<td>+/- 29 million tonnes</td>
<td>+/- 24 million tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual catch for fish flour, oil, etc.</td>
<td>+/- 22 million tonnes</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital cost for each fisherman’s job created</td>
<td>US$ 30,000-$300,000</td>
<td>US$ 250-$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual consumption on fuel/fossil fuels</td>
<td>14 to 19 tonnes</td>
<td>1 to 3 million tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity of catch per tonne of fuel consumed</td>
<td>2 to 5 tonnes</td>
<td>10 to 20 tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishermen employed for each million US$ invested in the boats</td>
<td>5 to 30</td>
<td>500 to 4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish and invertebrates thrown back into the sea</td>
<td>10 to 20 million tonnes</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Traditional African fishing gets organised with worldwide traditional fishing**

For 25 years, supported by the International Collective Supporting Traditional Fishing (ICSF), traditional fishing communities have become progressively organised and started working in networks.

As far as Africa is concerned, an initiative from West African professionals last March led to setting up the African Confederation of Traditional Fishing Organisations (CAOPA).

**What are our priorities for the future of African fishing?**

As we mentioned at the start of this speech, traditional fishing communities are often in precarious conditions, particularly due to:

- Lack of security in terms of their rights to access and use marine and land resources;
- Shortage of and/or inappropriate infrastructures, such as road materials, landing sites, storage and transport facilities, etc.;
- Their great vulnerability to natural disasters and the negative impacts of climate change;
- Their rough and risky living and working conditions;
- Inadequate access to social services and development funds;
- Their poor representation and participation in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

Taking the points given above into account, our priorities revolve around the following strategic targets:

- Guaranteeing and protecting our rights to access fish;
- Assuring our rights after catching and fair prices for our products;
- Making sure that coastal communities’ economic, social and cultural rights are respected;
The target that we have set ourselves that we are inviting the main players to join in is as follows:

- Guaranteeing rights of access for traditional fishing and native communities on the territories, lands and aquatic zones that they traditionally depend on for their survival;
- Recognising and making sure that fishing communities' rights are applied to restore, protect and manage aquatic ecosystems and local coasts;
- Establishing traditional fishing as the preferential model in the Exclusive Economic Zone (ZEE);
- Creating measures and having them applied to prohibit industry fishing in coastal waters;
- Prohibiting and strictly and effectively controlling illegal fishing and all destructive techniques and practices;
- Stopping and preventing privatisation of halieutic resources that is specifically done using systems involving individual fishing rights, sometimes transferable, that encourage ownership rights, particularly for the rich;
- Stopping and preventing the displacement of fishing communities as victims of privatising their waters and lands to use for tourism, aquaculture, industry and military facilities, preservation of the environment;
- Making sure that the declaration, establishment and management of protected marine spaces (AMP) is done with active participation from local and native communities and traditional fishing and allowing diversification of activities generating income;
- Recognising, promoting and protecting the diversified means of existence for fishing communities.
- Assuring integration of traditional know-how for natives, customary laws in the choice of fishing policies;
- Guaranteeing fair participation for traditional fishing and native communities in the decision-making processes relating to managing fisheries and the coastline, whilst making sure they have given their informed consent before any management decision is taken;
- Protecting marine and continental waters from any type of pollution and also from drying out projects;
- Recognising, promoting and protecting the diversified means of survival for fishing communities.
- Assuring our rights after catching and fair prices for our fish

We are urging our respective States to:

- Protect traditional fishing workers' access, particularly for women in the fishing communities, to halieutic resources for transformation, sales, food, above all by protecting the diversified and decentralised nature of traditional and native fishing;
- Improve women's access to the markets, particularly by making loan facilities, technologies and appropriate infrastructures at the landing and sales points available to them;
- Take measures so that international trade does not lead to environmental damage or affect human rights and food safety for local fishing communities;
- Set up specific mechanisms to make sure that trade exchanges encourage human development and generate fair distribution of profit to help fishing communities;
- Strengthen the capabilities of traditional fishing's main players in terms of legal and negotiation skills;
• Effectively include the fishing communities in negotiations relating to international trade for fish and derivate products;

• Establish institutional mechanisms that guarantee a good balance between sufficient local consumption of fish and export or transformation of fish into flour, in order to assure food safety and fight hunger;

• Regulate capacity for transformation, particularly for fisheries aimed at exporting, in order to maintain sustainable fishing;

• Rejecting eco-label systems, whilst recognising the point of geographic indicators that identify sustainable fisheries from both social and ecological points of view.

### Respect for human rights in coastal communities

We urge the authorities to:

• Protect cultural identities, dignity and traditional rights of fishing communities and native populations;

• Guarantee fishing communities' access to essential services, such as drinking water, education, hygiene, health, prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and other transmissible diseases;

• Guarantee the rights of all categories of fishing workers, including independent workers and informal workers, to social security and safe and dignified working conditions;

• Set up the International Work Organisation Convention (OIT) on work in the fishing sector (2007) and extend its scope to people who fish in inland waters and on river banks;

• Make sure that the States obtain freely given, prior and informed consent from traditional fishing communities and native populations before launching any project or programme likely to affect their lives and their means of survival;

• Adopt specific measures that consider, strengthen and protect women's rights to participate fully in all aspects of traditional fishing, by eliminating all forms of discrimination against them and by assuring their safety against sexual abuse;

• Protect men and women from harassment by setting up regional cross-border fish trade;

• Set up mechanisms aiming to help fishing communities affected by civil war or other forms of violations of human rights to rebuild their way of life; Guarantee the rights of fishing communities to information in appropriate and accessible forms;

• Help to strengthen the capabilities of fishing communities and native population so they can participate effectively in governing coastal and halieutic resources.

• All these concerns have been defended by players from African and worldwide traditional fishing, particularly from the FAO. Please allow us to emphasise two of them:

  • Firstly, the need to work towards joint management;

  • Secondly, the need to fight against illegal fishermen that plunder our resources and put human lives in danger during accidents at sea.

• Players from traditional fishing estimate that the time is right for joint management and joint surveillance on fishing; this implies participation from them and better harmonisation of fishing policies at all levels.

• Joint management should involve a more global approach to enlarging the field of participants in conditioning fisheries to give the management of fishing and surveillance a wider and more effective dimension.
The implication of a larger number of participants must, above all, make the traditional circle of fishermen-scientists-decision-makers more functional whilst encouraging it to open up to new partners such as NGOs, civil society, consumers, media, universities, etc.

In summary, this is a context of increasingly rare halieutic resources marked by over-exploitation, illicit fishing and organised plundering without precedent where many stocks have collapsed.

Greater transparency regarding quality is required to restore the reliability of the data on the condition of resources in our countries. This work could rely on implication from participants from traditional fishing in validating fish activity management systems proposed by scientific institutions.

We should not fall back on halieutic research either as this is often supported by corporate interests and promotes industrial fishing.

As a conclusion, we are inviting you to seize the opportunity you have been presented with today by traditional fishing. Sustainable fisheries must provide environmental, social and economic benefits in the long term.

Traditional fishing is undeniably the best option in terms of jobs and means of survival, food safety, with low energy consumption and low environmental impact.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison according to Jacques and Pauly 2006</th>
<th>Industrial fishing</th>
<th>Traditional Fishing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subsidy</td>
<td>25-27 billion</td>
<td>5-7 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of fishermen</td>
<td>1/2 million</td>
<td>&gt;12 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual catch for human consumption</td>
<td>30 million tonnes</td>
<td>30 million tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miller fishing = Annual catch for manufacturing flour and oil</td>
<td>35 million tonnes</td>
<td>Almost nothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual fuel consumption</td>
<td>37 million tonnes</td>
<td>3 million tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish catch per tonne of fuel</td>
<td>1.2 tonnes</td>
<td>4-8 tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrown back in sea after capture</td>
<td>8-20 million tonnes</td>
<td>Very low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IYFF Campaign African Continental Meeting Resolution:
Final Synthesis:

IYFF AFRICA CONTINENTAL MEETING’S RESOLUTION
Lilongwe October 24th 2010

Participants: African Farmers Associations & Federations; Rural NGOs, etc.

- IYFF CAMPAIGN: STEPS FORWARD
  - Activities at National, Regional & Continental Level

NATIONAL LEVEL

- RESTITUTION OF MALAWI IYFF CONTINENTAL MEETING TO GOVERNMENTS & CIVIL SOCIETY NOT LATER THAN NOVEMBER 2010.
- THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS SHOULD ENDORSE THE IYFF AS A STRATEGY. THEIR SUPPORT WILL BE MANIFESTED BY ENDORSEMENT OF LETTERS TO FAO GENERAL DIRECTOR & IFAD PRESIDENT.
- MOBILISATION & IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION MAKERS / LEADERS IN FAVOUR OF IYFF CAMPAIGN (BEFORE DECEMBER 2010).
- CAPACITY BUILDING + RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION.
- MOBILISATION OF MEDIA, STUDENTS & UNIVERSITIES, ETC.
- ORGANISE A DINNER WITH MPs.
- ORGANISE A FAMILY FARMING CAMPAIGN SEMINAR (APRIL 2011).
- REPORT OF ACTIVITIES TO THE IYFF AFRICA CONTINENTAL COMMITTEE (MAY- JUNE 2011).
- CO-ORGANISE A IYFF CONFERENCE WITH CONCERNED MINISTRIES AND STRATEGIC STATEHOLDERS (OCTOBER 2011).
REGIONAL LEVEL

• MOBILISATION OF REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS (CEEAC, CEPGEL, CEDEAO, etc.).
• PROVIDING DOCUMENTATION AT REGIONAL LEVEL ABOUT THE FAMILY FARMING CAMPAIGN.
• HAVE IN PLACE A CENTRAL TEAM TO SPEARHEAD THE IYFF PROCESS AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL.
• REGIONAL BODIES TO RAISE AWARENESS:
  - COMESA, SADC, etc / EAFF, SACAU, ROPPA, PROPAC & UMAGRI.

CONTINENTAL LEVEL

• AU TO SIGN A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO THE IYFF ADDRESSED TO THE UN GENERAL SECRETARY & GENERAL ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN.
• AU TO STRENGTHEN RESEARCH ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FOR FAMILY FARMING - AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT.
• AU TO ENSURE THAT ALL COUNTRIES ALLOCATE 10% OF NATIONAL BUDGET TO AGRICULTURE.
• WRF SHOULD LOBBY WITH UN TO PROMOTE THE DECLARATION OF IYFF.
Dear participants,

We are about to end the IYFF Africa Continental Meeting.

It has been a very fruitful encounter! Through the different speeches, reports and interventions, we have become more aware of the relevance of Family Farming in Africa.

African Agriculture deserves much more public protection and support, as the present circumstances are very detrimental for such a vital sector. The imports of cheap and subsidized food, the lack of rural infrastructures and services, are damaging the capacity of the African crops to feed the population with its own local production, its own poultry, cattle, fish, etc.

In this very crucial context, the celebration of an International Year of Family Farming can be a very effective tool in favour a concerted action between governments, the farmers’ and fishermen organizations and rural associations, in order to protect, promote and develop the African Family Farming.

Through the different workshops, the participants from the different African regions, have identified several areas of great importance to push ahead the IYFF Campaign.

Your commitments in favour of requesting more support from your own national governments, from the whole Civil Society and the mass media, are very powerful instruments to achieve our target in the coming year, 2011.

I would like to express my gratitude and my encouragement to each organization present here today, as you are an essential part of our common Campaign.

Let us work hand in hand at national and international level, to show the global importance of our solidarity with all the women and men farmers of the World.

José A. Osaba
IYFF Coordinator
From 25th to 27th October, the World Rural Forum and other organizations present at the IYFF Continental Meeting participated in two major events:

1. The Constituent Assembly of the Pan-African Farmers’ Association where we presented the results of the IYFF Lilongwe meeting.
2. A seminar on various forms of agriculture financing in South Africa, organized by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development – CTA.

All these meetings have enabled many contacts and support, especially the formal accession of PAFFO to the IYFF Campaign, accepting their leadership in Africa.

1. Pan African Farmers’ Association Constituent Assembly

26 TO 28 OCTOBER 2010. MALAWI. EAFF was mandated by the five (5) regional farmers’ networks (i.e. EAFF, SACAU, ROPPA, PROPAC and UMAGRI) to organize the PAN-AFRICA FARMERS’ ASSOCIATION CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

Background
The Regional Farmers Networks of Africa have gone through a lengthy process in the last 6 years focusing on agriculture and producer organizations. As an outcome of the process, the Networks put together two declarations i.e. February 2004 – the Pretoria declaration and on 21st May 2009 the Addis Ababa Pan-Africa Farmers Forum declaration.

The Pretoria declaration defined the farmers’ vision on the type of Agriculture that is favorable to the family farmers i.e.

• One that guarantees food, employment and revenue to the family farmers in a sustainable manner.
• One that provides and adds value to products for industrial purpose.
• One that generates solidarity and social security.
• One that adds value to our traditional knowledge and experiences.
• And one that ensures equitable access to productive resources and sustainable management of Natural Resources.
The Addis Ababa Pan-Africa Farmers Forum declaration affirmed the total engagement of the regional networks to establish a Pan African Forum for the farmers of Africa.

- The process of establishing the Forum launched a steering committee of four (4) presidents of (EAFF, SACAU, ROPPA, and PROPAC).
- Mr. Mamadou Cissokho was nominated to facilitate the activities of the steering committee with clear terms of reference.
- The main tasks of the steering committee was to ensure that PAFFO governance documents, vision and mission statements were developed.
- The final activity of the steering committee was to finally launch a legitimate Pan-African Farmers’ Association.

2. Financing Agriculture in Southern Africa

25-26 October 2010, Lilongwe, Malawi

The CTA, the European Commission, DG Development and EuropeAid, the ACP Secretariat, Concord and various media houses in collaboration with SACAU and regional organizations of Southern Africa organized a briefing on Financing Agriculture in Southern Africa, on 25-26 October 2010, in Lilongwe, Malawi. The Briefing aimed at raising awareness about existing and emerging key challenges on financing agriculture in Southern Africa; promoting exchange of information and experiences from other regions; and ultimately at contributing to shape the debate and policies on financing mechanisms.

- Programme
- Biodata of Speakers
- List of participants
- Evaluation Form

Monday 25th October

Opening remarks: Alexander Baum, Head of the EU Delegation in Malawi, Isolina Boto, Head of CTA Brussels Office, Ishmael Sunga, CEO, Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions.

Objectives and Programme: Isolina Boto, Head of CTA Brussels Office.

Panel 1 – Key challenges for financing the agricultural sector in Southern Africa

This session provided contextual background within which agriculture financing takes place in the region, highlighting those issues and matters that have a critical bearing on financing the sector. It also discussed the major assistance mechanisms at global and EU level in support of the agricultural sector in Southern Africa. It reviewed as well the commitments from governments in the region.

Panellists:
- Setting the scene: regional key priorities and issues in agriculture in Southern Africa, Ishmael Sunga, Chief Executive Officer, SACAU.
- Opportunities offered by the Tripartite Free Trade Area (SADC, EAC and COMESA) to agriculture Taku Fundira, Researcher, Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa (Tralac) [Executive Summary], [Presentation].
- Key challenges affecting agriculture in the region: perspective from the farmers groups Dybom Chibonga, CEO, National Smallholder Farmers’ Association of Malawi (Nasfam) [Presentation], David Maree, Economist, Agri-SA [Presentation].
Panel 2: Public and Development financing in the region

The panel explored the current public and development support to agriculture in the region and strategic priorities.

Panelists:

EC support to the agricultural and rural development sector in the region, Horst Pilger, Head of Operations, Delegation of the European Commission in Malawi.

- Investments in the agricultural sector: key issues, David Phiri, Head of Field Policy Division, FAO [Executive summary].
- Taxation and Financing for Development, Alvin Mosioma, Tax Justice Network, Coordinator, Kenya (unable to attend) [Executive summary].
- Public sector investments in the southern African agricultural sector, Ousmane Djibo, Advisor for Agriculture, NEPAD.
- Public/private innovative partnerships: the case of Agricultural Growth Corridors, Sean de Cleene, Vice President, Global Business Development & Public Affairs, YARA.

Panel 3: The key role of the private sector and agribusiness firms

The panel discussed the key role of the private sector in agriculture (commodities and agribusiness) and the new challenges.

Panelists:

- Increasing private sector financing in the agricultural sector: challenges and opportunities, Hans Balyamujura, General Manager ABSA – AgriBusiness/Africa.
- Different forms of private financing of agriculture presently developed in Southern Africa, Dr Ward Anseeuw, Researcher, CIRAD / University of Pretoria [Executive summary].
- Investment funds in East Africa and Southern Africa, Patrick Oketa, African Agricultural Capital, South Africa [Executive summary].
- Private equity funds and agriculture: challenges and opportunities in Africa, Bothwell Hlahla, Investment analyst, Agricultural Investment Company, Emvest [Executive summary] [Presentation].
- Risk management and insurance, David Rohrbach, Senior Agricultural Economist, World Bank Malawi Country Office [Presentation].
- Rural Development through Agricultural Commodity Exchanges and Warehouse Receipts, Kristian Schach Moller, Agricultural Commodity Exchange for Africa (ACE) [Executive summary][Presentation].

Panel 4: The challenges ahead

The panel wrapped-up the Briefing by underlining the coming challenges and proposed actions for the mains areas discussed by sharing the views from the private sector, the donor’s community and the financing bodies.
Participants at the IYFF Africa Continental Meeting:

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- **CIFA-INDIA** / Mr. Ingin Basavaraj / Farmers’ Leader / India / bsingin@rediffmail.com
- **CNCPR** / Mrs. Digolar Dembete / Women Affairs Responsible / Tchad / dembeterobertine@yahoo.fr
- **CNCPR-TCHAD** / Mr. Paledele Kolyang / Farmers’ Leader / Tchad / kolyangpale@yahoo.fr
- **CNOP-CAM** / Mrs. Nnomendolle Alvine Leonú / Conseilleire / Cameroon / odecom_ong@yahoo.fr – alvineleone@yahoo.fr
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- **NECOFA KENYA** / Mr. John Wachira Muthondio / Programme Coordinator / Kenya / wachiramj@yahoo.com – necofakenya@yahoo.com
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- SACAU / Mr. Capuin Thulo Mafisa / Member / South Africa
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- UTAP / Mr. Mohamed Godbani / Agricultural Advisor / Tunisia
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- WRF Secretariat / Mr. Jaime Balaguer / African Desk Coordinator / Spain / jbalaguer@ruralforum.net
1. Introduction

Family farming in the world

Since the beginning of Humanity, rural communities, including fisherfolk, have been developing and modernizing 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, often small or medium, and the family that owns and works on 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.

Unfortunately, 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 despite the fact that, in many cases, this sector hosts a very high percentage of its population and natural land and aquatic resources.

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.

As far as the aquatic resources sector is concerned, fish, as food for human consumption, represents a substantial part of the right to food. More than 1 billion people all over the world depend on fish as a main source of animal protein. The fishing communities have traditionally fed the poorest sectors of humanity, while the new commercial policies have gradually marginalized them, as well as made fish become a kind of food available only to those who have sufficient money to buy it.

In the last two 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 (1980/87 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 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 in the rural and fishing 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.

- A similar situation is taking place in the fishing sector, more and more controlled by big companies against traditional fishing.

- 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 and fisherfolk 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 and aquatic systems based on the family unit, provide guidance to put them into practice, to boost the role of farmers and fisherfolk 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 land and fisheries activity 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 land and aquatic resources 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 legitimacy of farmers and fisherfolk 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 and aquatic areas and in family agriculture.

4. 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, fisherfolk, 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.
SUCCESES IN AFRICAN AGRICULTURE
Lessons for the Future


Agricultural growth offers a potentially powerful tool for spearheading broad-based poverty reduction in Africa. In a continent where 70 percent of the poor work in agriculture, an upsurge in farm productivity contributes directly to broad increases in rural income. In addition, a prosperous agriculture generates powerful growth linkages to the rest of the economy, providing cheap food, raw materials, and a growing demand for nascent processing and service industries. Even the urban poor, who spend the majority of their income on food, see their real incomes rise when growing agricultural productivity and output enable reductions in staple food prices. Consequently, growing agricultural productivity attacks poverty from three different directions. It increases the productivity and incomes of the majority of Africa’s poor, who work primarily in agriculture. It reduces food prices, which govern real incomes and poverty in urban areas, and generates important spill-overs to the rest of the economy.

Recognizing these potential gains, a growing contingent of African leaders and development specialists has become convinced that enhanced agricultural performance will constitute a necessary centerpiece for broad-based poverty reduction efforts. African leaders, through the African Union’s New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), have launched a Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program to spearhead agricultural development efforts at a continental level. In 2003, they pledged to nearly double budget allocations for agriculture, from 6 percent to 10 percent. Many donors, private foundations and Africa specialists, likewise, consider agriculture fundamental to broad-based economic growth and poverty reduction in Africa. A recent book published for IFPRI by the Johns Hopkins University Press, Successes in African Agriculture: Lessons for the Future, explores the conditions under which Africa can successfully accelerate agricultural growth and thereby contribute to broadbased economic expansion and poverty reduction. Instead of cataloging failures, as many past studies have done, the book identifies episodes of successful agricultural growth in Africa, a series of region- and commodity-specific booms, many of which have lasted for decades. By examining a series of instances in which important advances have occurred in the past in African agriculture, the book, edited by Steven Haggblade and Peter B. R. Hazell, aims to identify promising avenues for achieving success more consistently in the future.

PAST PERFORMANCE

Since the middle of the 20th century, agricultural performance in Africa has lagged behind other developing regions. During the past 45 years, the value of aggregate agricultural output has increased by 2.4 percent annually in Sub-Saharan Africa compared to 2.8 percent in Latin America and 3.6 percent in developing Asia. Africa’s marginally slower growth rate aggravates two very serious problems. First, Africa’s aggregate performance has lagged at the same time it confronts the most daunting demographic challenge of any developing region. Since 1960, Africa has had to contend with population growth rates of 2.6 percent per year, 0.5 to 0.7 percent faster than in Latin America and developing Asia. Consequently, comparisons of per capita production performance across continents during the past 45 years reveal deteriorating agricultural performance in Africa alone (Figure 1). As per capita food production has fallen, Africa has turned from a food exporter to a net food importer.
Second, the slow growth in aggregate output has been accompanied by slow growth in both labor and land productivity, which remain far below other developing regions. Given stagnant productivity, Africa’s meager output gains have come mainly from area expansion. This extensification, coupled with shortened fallow periods and minimal input use, has led to nutrient mining and declining soil fertility.

This bleak aggregate picture contrasts with periodic bursts of more promising region-and commodity-specific performance. Though inadequate in number and scale to counter Sub-Saharan Africa’s daunting demographic challenge, African farmers and agricultural policymakers have achieved a series of significant successes in agricultural development. Malian cotton production has grown at 9 percent per year for the past 40 years, while Kenyan horticultural exports have increased five-fold since 1975. Farmers and researchers have launched literally hundreds of innovative soil and water-conservation initiatives in a wide variety of locations to contend with declining soil fertility and declining fertilizer subsidies.

Work by cassava scientists across Africa has countered deadly disease and pests attacks and converted these threats into opportunities for significant subsequent rapid production growth, benefitting tens of millions of small farmers and making it one of the continent’s most powerful poverty fighters to date.

LEARNING FROM PAST SUCCESSES

Sometimes, things go right; and when they do, we may benefit from asking why. The book summarizes efforts by IFPRI to systematically identify instances of superior agricultural performance in Africa, and to study and learn from them. In doing so, the book aims to identify processes, practices, and policies that have successfully stimulated agricultural growth in Africa.

“Success” is defined here as: a significant, durable change in agriculture resulting in an increase in agriculturally derived aggregate income, together with reduced poverty and/or improved environmental quality.

In order to identify common ingredients and processes that underlie agricultural “success,” the IFPRI research team first identified episodes of strong performance in African agriculture, along with contrasting instances, over time or space, where performance has lagged. It also targeted IFPRI’s extensive contact list of African and Africanist agricultural specialists and asked: “What do you consider the most successful instances of improved agricultural performance in Sub-Saharan Africa?” The team received more than 250 nominations, ranging broadly in geographic and historical scope. From this list, the analytical team and an external advisory group selected a dozen cases for in-depth review.

Drawing on detailed primary datasets, secondary literature, and supplementary field appraisals, the team produced a set of richly detailed historical case studies. The individual case-study results were then presented to groups of experienced African agricultural specialists (including farmers, government representatives, and private-sector agribusiness operators) in order to extract cross-cutting general lessons emerging from this body of collective experience. Through facilitated small-group sessions, participants worked together to:

a. summarize key lessons learned from past successes in African agriculture;

b. realistically assess the domestic and international policy environment within which African decisionmakers currently operate;

c. identify priorities for future policy action necessary to trigger sustained agricultural growth in Africa.
CASE STUDIES

African farmers, agribusinesses, and agricultural policymakers have achieved a series of substantial successes in agricultural development, although in recent decades these have proven inadequate in number and scale to counter Sub-Saharan Africa’s heavy demographic pressure. Despite their temporal and regional dispersion, many have endured for decades, as the following thumbnail sketches suggest.

Cassava. Cassava breeding and pest control efforts over the past three decades have triggered broad productivity gains for producers of Africa’s number two staple food. A stream of improved cassava varieties, the Tropical Manioc Selection (TMS) series released beginning in 1977, has invigorated breeding programs across Africa, increased on farm yield gains by over 40 percent without purchased inputs, and permitted rapid responses to recurring viral attacks (Figure 2). Given the improved cassava’s high productivity, low purchased input requirements, and well-recognized drought tolerance, this cassava transformation has been dubbed “Africa’s best-kept secret.”

Maize in East and Southern Africa. The development and diffusion of modern, high-yielding varieties of maize have transformed this imported cereal into a minor crop in the early 1900s into the continent’s major source of calories today. Maize breeding in Zimbabwe and Kenya launched the first major breakthroughs during the 1960s, when Africa’s breeders produced the first double-cross hybrids in the world. The breeding breakthroughs have improved productivity of millions of small and large farms throughout Africa, while moderating food prices for tens of millions of urban consumers. Although the breeding breakthroughs have proven an undeniable success, the expensive public-sector input and marketing subsidies that accompanied these maize promotion programs have proven fiscally unsustainable.

Cotton in West Africa. Since independence in the 1960s, West African cotton production and exports have both grown rapidly, at a compound annual rate of 9 percent per year (Figure 3).

As a result, Francophone Africa’s share in world exports has grown from nearly zero to 14 percent, making it the world’s third largest cotton exporting block after the United States and the former USSR. Long-term, regionally coordinated investments in agricultural research have fueled a steady release of improved varieties, inputs, and pest-management systems. As a result, seed cotton yields have risen from 225 kg/ha in 1960 to roughly 1 ton per hectare in 2006. Strong coordination of input supply and output marketing have guaranteed farmer outlets and enabled high rates of capital accumulation among smallholder cotton households.

Horticulture exports from East Africa. From the early 1970s onward, Kenya’s private traders have steadily expanded high-value exports of fruits and vegetables from Kenya. During the ensuing 30 years, horticultural exports have increased fivefold in real terms to become the country’s third largest source of foreign exchange after tourism and tea. Private traders have led in the development of these highly lucrative export markets, with little direct government involvement. A stable exchange rate, favourable macroeconomic policies and the availability of frequent air freight cargo to Europe, as a byproduct of growing tourist traffic, have enabled private-sector traders to organize the production and marketing of highly perishable, high-cost, high-value products.

Dairy production in Kenya. Dairy production in Kenya has grown rapidly in recent decades, resulting in per capita production double the levels found elsewhere on the continent. Today 600,000 small farmers operating 1 to 3 dairy cows produce 80 percent of Kenya’s milk. By 2003, nearly 70 percent of Kenyan smallholders produced milk and it had become their fastest growing income source, with net dairy earnings averaging $370 per year and returns to labor of $3 to $5 per day. Long-term public and private investment in improved dairy breeds, tick control, and improved feeds have resulted in a milk production per cow triple that in neighboring Ethiopia. Kenya’s longstanding network of support institutions, many run by private farmer groups, continues to actively support artificial insemination services, livestock disease control, and improved feed and forage practices, all of which
contribute to higher productivity and higher incomes for Kenyan dairy farmers. Public marketing controls, abandoned in 1992, have triggered rapid growth in raw milk sales, which now account for 85 percent of national consumption.

**Sustainable soil fertility management.** In response to declining soil fertility, increasing land pressure, and rising mineral fertilizer costs, African farmers and researchers have experimented with a series of improved soil-fertility management systems. The book reviews two pairs of soil-management systems. The first pair, arising independently in Zambia and Burkina Faso, involves farmer-led development and dissemination of planting basins—minimum tillage systems that emphasize water harvesting, soil organic matter retention, crop rotations, and strategic additions of manure and chemical fertilizers. The second pair, a system of managed fallows using leguminous shrubs, emerged in Eastern Zambia and Western Kenya, often initiated by farmers, formalized by agricultural researchers and refined through extensive on-farm trials conducted in collaboration with farmers and nonprofit agencies.

**GENERALIZING FROM PAST SUCCESSES**

Collectively, the case studies reviewed in the book suggest two key determinants of outstanding agricultural performance:

a. sustained, productivity-enhancing research,

b. favorable market incentives for farmers and agribusinesses.

Successes have emerged at places and times where these two ingredients converge. Where agriculture has performed poorly, one or both of these pre-conditions has been absent.

Achieving these two preconditions for success requires that several underlying drivers be in place. Given the long lead times required to develop most new agricultural technologies, their availability requires sustained investment in research and development over time. Uptake at the farm level also requires effective extension, input supply, and credit systems that enable farmers to access needed inputs such as improved seeds or breeds of animals, planting materials, fertilizers, and veterinary medicines. Positive market incentives require good macro, trade, and agricultural sector policies that do not discriminate against agriculture; sufficient infrastructure to enable farmers to access markets and inputs in timely and cost effective ways; and marketing and pricing policies that encourage private trade, storage, and processing. Finally, all these factors must come together in a coordinated way, a daunting challenge for agricultural policymakers. The availability of improved technologies will make little difference if farmers cannot access key inputs, or if they do not have access to markets at prices that make adoption of the improved technology profitable. Effective public institutions are a prerequisite for coordinating agricultural development strategies and implementing key components. Collectively, the case studies affirm that it is indeed possible to create conditions under which African agriculture can flourish for protracted periods of time. Typically, episodes of strong agricultural performance have emerged where technological improvements and favorable incentive systems converge. Stable, favourable incentives enable the ‘slow magic’ of agricultural research to drive productivity and output growth over time. This suggests that government commitment to enabling policies and to sustained investments in agricultural research will provide the crucial building blocks for future successes in African agriculture.

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