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IYFF REPORT. June 2011

TOWARDS THE CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FAMILY FARMING-IYFF. A dream nearer each day.

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We are updating and summarizing this report with the last events until June 2011.

1. -RATIONAL 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 noteworthy 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 327 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 9 Ministries and Divisions of Agriculture of Belize, Pakistan, Peru, El Salvador, Switzerland, Uganda the Philippines, Paraguay and Brazil. We confidently await the support of the governments of Spain, Brazil, Costa Rica,



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India, Lesotho, Kenya, Luxemburg, Malawi, Mali, Nepal and Uruguay, Cambodia, 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.



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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-AsiaDHRRA, and Mr. Chengal Reddy, Secretary General of the Consortium of Indian Farmers' Associations-CIFA, as the two Asian members of the future IYFF World Consultative Committee (one woman-one man, one rural NGO-one Farmers' association).

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 UMAGRI. 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 Cissokho, 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 assignation.

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.



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Also in attendance were AFA's General Secretary (Asian Farmers' Association) Mrs Esther Penunia 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 associative 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 1st 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,



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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.

The Coordinator of the Asia network visited India, Nepal, Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia between 11 and 25 March, giving the WRF' s support to initiatives set up by local members to promote the Campaign in favour of IYFF.

From 28 to 31 March 2011 the WRF actively participated in the European Forum on Rural Development, held in the city of Palencia under the sponsorship of the Government of Spain and the European Union. The WRF organised a stand, exhibiting different documents related to the Campaign in favour of the IYFF and which was visited by participants.

Furthermore, numerous contacts were made with members of the WRF, namely Elizabeth Atangana, president of the Pan-African Farmers' Association, Noel de Luna, president of the Food Safety Committee of the FAO, Ramon Jauregui, Ministry of the Presidency, Soraya Rodriguez, General Secretary of AECID (Spanish Agency of International Development Cooperation), Edith Walsum, president of ILEIA.

On these same dates, the Coordinator of the Campaign in favour of the IYFF participated in Niamey, the capital of Niger, in the International Symposium on Food and Nutritional Security of the country which culminated in the reading by Djibo Bagna, president of the Platform of Farming Organisations in Niger and president of ROPPA, of the final document with the various recommendations of the Symposium.



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On 6 April 2011, the IYFF Campaign Coordinator met in Paris with the National Secretariat of the Young Farmers' trade union. After a fruitful dialogue, the members of the National Secretariat expressed their interest in the IYFF Campaign and their intention of adhering to it in the coming weeks.

During the month of May, the World Consultative Committee-WCC of the IYFF Campaign completed its membership: AFRICA: Elizabeth Atangana (PROPAC-PAFFO), Francis Ngang (INADES FORMATION), AMERICA: Alessandra Lunas (COPROFAM), Rubén Tapia (RELACC), ASIA: Chengal Reddy (CIFA), Marlene Ramirez (AsiaDHRRA), EUROPE: Lorenzo Ramos (UPA, COPA-COGECA), Laure Hamdi (AFDI). The World Rural Forum will act as Secretariat of the World Consultative Committee.

the first WCC meeting will take place on June 30th in Rome, coinciding with the 37th FAO Conference. On May 25th, the FAO informed WRF that a side-event to this Conference, related to the IYFF Campaign, had been granted. In this side-event, July 1st, the members of the World Consultative Committee will participate.

On May 27th, the Government of Brazil through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs has instructed its Embassy in New York to initiate, within the UN, the procedure leading to the declaration of an International Year of Family Farming by the General Assembly. Furthermore, the Brazilian Government has requested its Permanent Representation to FAO, IFAD and WFP to inform these UN Agencies about the support of Brazil to the IYFF declaration.

During their encounter in Paraguay early June, the Special Meeting on Family Farming (REAF in Spanish) of the MERCOSUR incorporated a paragraph in its final declaration expressing the importance of the celebration of the IYFF to the governments and civil societies of the MERCOSUR member' states.

During the month of June, the IYFF Campaign got the support of several very relevant farmers' organizations in Europe: Jeunes Agriculteurs, France, UPA, Spain, COPA-COGECA etc.

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.



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- 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 327 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.

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