



IFOAM calls for improved local, national and international policies to promote sustainable organic family and smallholder systems and businesses.

IFOAM therefore urges local, regional and national authorities, as well as donor agencies and multinational organizations, to accelerate their efforts in promoting Organic Agriculture as a system to empower family and smallholder producers and help them become more resilient, productive and profitable.

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ORGANIC AGRICULTURE FOR FAMILY FARMING

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Family farming and smallholders play an essential role in food production, sustaining rural economies and stewardship of biodiversity. Yet numerous circumstances, often beyond their control, mean many are very poor, disadvantaged, and have insufficient access to resources and support.

Organic agriculture and other agro-ecological models provide solutions to the many challenges faced by family farming and smallholder agriculture. All over the world millions of organic farmers successfully practice these solutions and are proof of how viable and effective they are.



CHALLENGES

Expensive and short-term solutions proposed by conventional agriculture can worsen both the social and economic problems of smallholder farmers. Many farmers are forced to purchase expensive

inputs that often push them into a cycle of debt. Beyond the financial implications, these inputs also pollute the environment, destroy biodiversity, and degrade the nutritional quality of our food.

What we need is a family and smallholder friendly farming system. An agro-ecological science-based system that relies on local inputs and transparent value chains.

Family Farming: Facts & Figures

- Small-scale family farming is the main form of agriculture all over the world.
- Family farming involves around 2 billion people, almost one-third of humanity.
- 1.5 billion men and women farmers are working on 404 million small-scale farms of less than 2 hectares.
- Men and women dedicated to family farming produce around 70% of the world's food.
- Family farms generate 40-60% of rural income in developing countries.



THE ORGANIC WAY TO A FAMILY FARMING FUTURE

Organic agriculture based on the scientific discipline of agro-ecology is the most appropriate way to achieve ecological, agronomic and socio-economic intensification of family farming and smallholder agriculture. It also provides healthy and nutritious food for rural communities and city dwellers.

Organic farmers ensure that traditions are kept alive and

facilitate marketplace success by sharing experiences and developing new farming methods. Together, organic smallholders can strengthen social structures, develop innovative networks and promote entrepreneurship. The impact of which includes more job opportunities, a stronger local value chain and improved rural development.

The International Year of Family Farming (IYFF)

The fundamental objective of the IYFF is to help recognize and support the contribution of family and smallholder farming in eradicating hunger, reducing rural poverty and achieving food security through sustainable production and sustainable development of rural areas.

