

“Transitional Agriculture”

Promoting exchange between Farmers’ Organizations under the umbrella of WFO

Evaluation Report

Family Farming

March 2021

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS



WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF



Contents

- 1. Introduction** 1
- 2. Methods** 2
- 3. Results** 2
 - 3.1. How do Farmers’ Organisations define ‘family farming’? 2
 - 3.2. Proportion of family farms amongst the FO members 4
 - 3.3. Participation of the youth in family farming over time 4
 - 3.4. Participation of women in family farming over time 5
 - 3.5. Advantages of family farming 7
 - 3.6. Two-sided coin: Disadvantages of family farming 8
 - 3.7. Distribution of advantages and disadvantages of family farms 9
 - 3.8. Policy development on family farming 11
 - 3.9. Challenges of policy development 12
 - 3.10. Achievements of FOs and way forward 14
 - 3.11. Potential themes for upcoming seminars 18
- 4. Conclusions and recommendations: Building tomorrows future today.** 20
 - 4.1. Agricultural Trade: The role of FOs in meeting farmers needs and expectations 21
 - 4.2. Addressing family farming and the UN Decade of Family Farming from women and young farmers perspectives 21
 - 4.3. The role of FOs in supporting farmers in the fight against climate change: What is needed and what FOs expect to achieve at national, regional, global level? 23
- 5. References** 25
- 6. Annex** 27
 - 6.1. Family Farming Questionnaire 27
 - 6.2. List of interviewees 29

Tables

- Table 1: Challenges of family farming 17
- Table 2: Opportunities for family farming 18
- Table 3: Summary of FO capacity needs 19
- Table 4: Summary of Pillar 2 and 3 of UNDF Global Action Plan 23

Figures

Figure 1: An image from the virtual interviews from left to right: DBV (Dr. Simon Schlüter; Hannes Bumann) INGABO (Jean Claude Niyonsaba; Oswald Tuyisenge; Victor Manariyo) 2

Figure 2: Word cloud on prominent definitions of family farming (more frequently mentioned definitions are displayed in larger size from a total of 16 responses; n=16) 3

Figure 3: Challenges of Family Farms (Picture from the animated video of the TA project)..... 9

Figure 4: Word cloud on the disadvantages of family farming (more frequently mentioned disadvantages are displayed in larger size from a total of 16 responses; n=16) 9

Figure 5: Beneficiaries of family farming..... 10

Figure 6: Who suffers most from costs of family farming? 11

Figure 7: Challenges of policymaking 13

Figure 8: Because with challenge comes opportunity (Picture from the animated video of the TA project) 14

Figure 9: Achievements of FOs along the agricultural value chain 15

Figure 10: Key FO strategies 16

Abbreviations

COFAG	Coalition of Farmers-Ghana
DBV	German Farmers’ Association
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FO	Farmers’ Organization
INGABO	The Rwandan Farmers ‘Organization
NASFAM	The National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi
TA	Transitional Agriculture
UN	United Nations
UNDF	United Nations Decade of Family Farming
WFO	World Farmers’ Organisation
ZFU	Zimbabwe Farmers’ Union

1. Introduction

Family farming is at the centre of the world's agricultural history. Today, there are over 500 million family farmers globally (Lowder et al, 2016). 2014 was declared by the United Nation's (UN) Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) the "International Year of Family Farming" (FAO, 2013). The goal was to reposition family farming at the core of agricultural, environmental, and social policies in national agendas by focusing global attention on its significance, particularly in rural areas, for providing food and nutrition security and sustainably improving livelihoods. On one hand, family farmers, hold the unique potential to promote transformative changes in how food is grown, produced and processed. However, on the other hand, social, economic, and environmental factors present considerable challenges and threats to the achievement of profitable sustainable livelihoods for farming families and food systems at large. In view of the opportunities and barriers facing family farming, in 2017, the UN proclaimed 2019-2028 the UN Decade of Family Farming (UNDF). UNDF further presents an incredible opportunity for the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, where the slogan, 'leaving no one behind' indicates the rationale for inclusive and holistic development efforts.

Farmers' Organisations (FO) are fundamental institutions for promoting inclusive and therefore sustainable food systems. Repeatedly, evidence has demonstrated the importance of farmers collective action for strengthening agricultural value chains and enhancing welfare and livelihoods (Bosc et al, 2018; van Vliet et al., 2015; Chirwa and Matita, 2012). Through organised agriculture, farmers can have increased access to inputs and services and considerably add value to their

farm produce (Bizikova et al, 2020; Feintrenie and Affholder, 2015; Pinto, 2009). Experience has also shown the role of organised farmers in influencing policymaking processes and outcomes. As such, Pillar 4 of the UNDF is explicitly dedicated to the strengthening of family farmers' organizations and capacities to generate knowledge, represent farmers, and provide inclusive services and distributed.

How can the strengths of FOs be leveraged, and their limitations addressed, to catalyse opportunities for family farmers - not only to survive, but to thrive? How can FOs provide an enabling environment for 'all' family farmers and farms to succeed, irrespective of farm size, farmers' age, and gender? What synergies within and across countries and continents may be entered into to explore the future of family farming in a world increasingly under pressure from global challenges, such as climate change and the current COVID-19 pandemic?

These are among the questions answered through the project "Transitional Agriculture: Strengthening Farmer's Organisations for sustainable development" (TA). The TA project was launched in 2020 by the Association of Peasant Farms and Agricultural Cooperatives of Russia (AKKOR) and the German Farmers' Association (DBV), under the umbrella of the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO). This three-year exchange project aims to collaborate closely with African FOs on challenges and solutions of farming in an ever-changing agricultural landscape. The African partner organizations are the Coalition of Farmers - Ghana (COFAG), the National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM), the Rwandan Farmers Organization (INGABO), and the Zimbabwe Farmers' Union

(ZFU). The cooperation is accompanied and supported by the Andreas Hermes Academy (AHA) and AgrarKontakte International (AKI) e.V. Within the framework of the TA project, the FOs are supported by exchanges on

development and relevant topics for family farmers. For this purpose, the six national partner organizations form a network for constructive exchange and mutual empowerment within joint seminars.

2. Methods

After one year of interactive virtual exchange, it was apparent that opportunities and challenges facing family farming deserved targeted attention. In 2020 for example, seminars covered the topics of innovations in marketing and logistics, and capacity development.¹ In view of the UNDF, six FOs completed a questionnaire and the

representatives of five FOs participated in a semi-structured virtual interview as well.² The questionnaire explored the extent of family farming, advantages, disadvantages, and challenges. The follow up interviews were conducted for purposes of verification and clarity (see Annex for questionnaire and interview participant information).

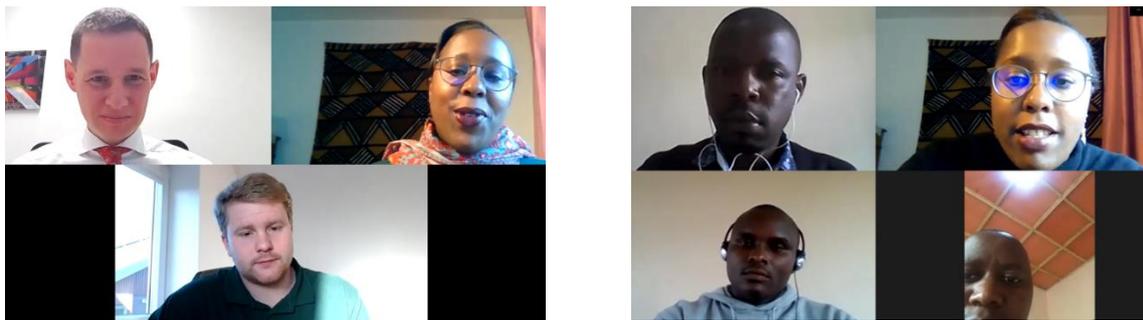


Figure 1: An image from the virtual interviews from left to right: DBV (Dr. Simon Schlüter; Hannes Bumann) INGABO (Jean Claude Niyonsaba; Oswald Tuyisenge; Victor Manariyo)

3. Results

3.1. How do Farmers' Organisations define 'family farming'?

Family farms are commonly defined as farms that are family owned and managed in terms of land, resources, and livestock. In contrast to Germany, family in Africa also includes extended families and in Russia includes

several 'partner' families. The distinction between 'who' is considered family has significant implications for land inheritance and succession under different land tenure systems across the partner countries. In Rwanda where

¹ See "Transitional Agriculture" Promoting exchange between Farmers' Organizations under the umbrella of WFO. Technical report. Capacity development. January 2021.

² For reasons beyond the control of the study team, it was not possible to conduct an interview with the AKKOR representatives.

land is owned by the government, all citizens over the age of 18, irrespective of gender and/or marital status have the right to register for land and can be recipients of land. In the other African countries, land allocation and inheritance are dictated by customary and formal systems which can run in parallel with each other – sometimes problematically – within the same country, as was seen in

Malawi, Zimbabwe and Ghana. Under customary tenure (under the local systems of ‘the chief’), it is typical for land subdivision to nuclear and extended family members at different life stages (marriage for example). Whereas, in Germany family farming is characterised by the nuclear family, where the succession system to one family member is more common.

Family members Nucleus Family Extended family

Family owned land, resources, animals

Family operated/managed

Figure 2: Word cloud on prominent definitions of family farming (more frequently mentioned definitions are displayed in larger size from a total of 16 responses; n=16)

Family farms are characterised by FOs as systems of subsistence and/or profit oriented production whereby farmers secure their livelihoods using family labour. While most family farming practiced among FO members in Africa tends to be subsistence oriented, in Russia and Germany a diversity of family farming is practiced. These include single-family farming, family farming under partnerships with other families and peasant family farming with a commercial orientation.

Land size is an important characteristic of family farming in the African context (where farming tends to be practiced on small parcels), however in Germany, family engagement and management of the farm (rather than land size) is the defining cornerstone of family farming. Family farmers, whether nucleus or extended also share or pool their resources such as draught power and inputs. One FO, described family farming as:

“...Farming owned/or operated by members of the family be it nucleus or larger families, which serves for food subsistence, income, livelihood, employment and pastime”.

COFAG

Family farms are nonetheless complex systems as the DBV representatives emphasised:

“It is difficult to have a definition for family farming because of the diversity of farm management systems. In east Germany, this was once a Soviet system where the farms are larger and can be managed by a family, cooperative and those owned by a lot of families that just hire a manager. The question in the end is, is this a family farm or not?”

DBV

3.2. Proportion of family farms amongst the FO members

Family farming is the dominant system across all FO members, indicating its value for achieving the multifaceted aspects around food systems. For all FOs, over 50% of

members are family farmers (in most cases, between 80-100% of FO members are family farmers) as it was in the past (up to 10 years ago). In the future (up to ten years from now), family farming is expected to remain the dominant system, as the representatives from

the DBV emphasised, *“family farming is the most important way of organising farming in Germany”*. However, a growing number of threats – for example the use of harmful pesticides that damage biodiversity and the use of hybrid seeds that replace well adapted indigenous seed systems – could mean more uncertain times ahead. Whereas an emerging environment for alternative farm management systems, especially in Africa, may reduce the proportion of family farmers in the future:

“Changing dynamics of society including demographics, migration, urbanisation, land ownership and use, changing job patterns, emergence of other forms of farming and food systems including increasing commercial farms and agribusinesses”.

COFAG

3.3. Participation of the youth in family farming over time

A major concern among the FOs is the participation of the youth in agriculture. With the exception of Russia, across the remaining partner countries, a smaller proportion of the youth are involved in family farms now, in comparison to the past. The reasons for these trends vary according to continent. In Russia, the youth tend to return to the family farm after attaining higher education. Whereas, in Germany, youth with an interest in taking over family farms are constrained by long-standing traditions of succession. While, in Africa where succession traditions are more clearly defined

(even though customary), agriculture is considered unattractive and is associated with drudgery, high expenses and meagre rewards. As a result, the main trend in Africa is one of mass rural – urban migration in search of more rewarding employment opportunities. Due to greater potential of finding opportunities, the male youth are by far more likely to exit farming and move to urban centres, often leaving behind female youth who continue to participate in family farming, often alongside their mothers. The below quotes provide an illustration of these contrasting experiences:

“The average age of farmers is increasing. Young farmers who want to take over family farms are struggling because farm succession is a problem. Older farmers who are the majority do not want to hand over their farms, so many young farmers do not have the opportunity to get fully involved in their farm”.

DBV

“... the youth do not look at agriculture as a rewarding career, to the extent that even those who are educated from the communal areas... move to the towns in search of job opportunities and even sometimes self-employment. There is an exodus of (rural) youths to the towns”. ZFU

The engagement of young people in farming might still be a challenge in the coming years but there are possible levers of change identified by the FOs. The youth are considered well positioned to transform the agricultural sector by adopting technology and innovations. Already the youth members of NASFAM are embracing 'video showrooms' to showcase agricultural activities. In Ghana, there is a 'new crop' of young graduates finding self-employment in agricultural processing and marketing of foods such as maize and plantain, through innovative start-ups. In Germany, aspiring farmers are increasingly enrolling in agricultural university programmes and

apprenticeships and in Rwanda, the 'Young Agronomist Programme' is underway, which facilitates an internship for one young person every year to engage in agriculture.³ The youth are also expected to be at the forefront of adopting green innovative technologies increasing the prospects for an even more environmentally sustainable future for family farms. In Russia FO representatives indicate an unclear future regarding the participation of the youth, citing examples of both push and pull factors that would influence youth engagement in family farming. The following quotes exemplify some of the perceptions:

"... we are working with DJs, instead of showing 'Rambo' videos (the youth) are now showing how to grow better tomatoes in the showroom and still make money – the business opportunities... their involvement in farming really doesn't have to mean that they physically have to hold a hoe".

NASFAM

"Young people can be more difficult. The decisive factors that consolidate (them) in farms are an increase in the technological level of production processes, an increase in the profitability of farms, which will ensure a quality of life that is competitive with urban, the development of rural infrastructure, rural areas. The success of solving these problems will largely determine the choice of young farmers.

AKKOR

"We expect the youth involvement in family farming as we aim to change and challenge the mind-set among the youth vis-à-vis the agriculture sector in Rwanda as they are a big part of the population and most equipped with skills and strength".

INGABO

3.4. Participation of women in family farming over time

Across all countries, women played, still play, and will continue to play a dominant role in family farming. Females are the backbone of family farming, whether as female headed

households, or as female spouses or as farm managers – yet to a lower extent.

A growing proportion of women are taking up more roles in family farming when compared

³ The Young Agronomist Programme is funded by the Rwanda Youth in Agriculture Forum which facilitates youth agronomists. Available at:

<https://mastercardfdn.org/rwanda-youth-initiative-for-agricultural-transformation/>

to the past. This is particularly the case in Malawi where women are increasingly participating in trading at the marketplace – a conventionally male-oriented space.

While in Germany, women today have more opportunities to engage in family farming due to the diversity of enterprises, such as touristic farming. But a significant proportion of women engaged in family farming could also be due to the feminisation of agriculture as more men and youth have migrated to urban areas in pursuit of off farm opportunities (Zimbabwe). The migration of youth and men to urban areas is not necessarily problematic, as with higher remittances, farms led by females can be

supported through hired labour – when socially acceptable, as was indicated in Zimbabwe and Germany.

The critical concern regarding women's participation in family farming is the extent of their engagement. For example, the ability for women to exercise – by choice – what to sell and how to utilise the proceeds from farm sales. According to ZFU representatives, men and women tend to make decisions on family farm outputs jointly, as women are often farm managers, with many men working off farm and sending remittances. However, the representatives of INGABO are particularly concerned and highlight that:

“There is an imbalance between the contribution women make and their control over, and access to, income, finance, technical assistance and decision-making. Despite women providing the majority of the labour at farm level, when it comes to delivering the crop to market and completing the sale, women are often excluded. These tasks are mainly done by men, who subsequently retain much of the control over household income. As a result, the role played by women is often unrecognized, unpaid, invisible”.

INGABO

In the future, the extent of women's roles in family farming could vary. Some of the FOs (COFAG, INGABO) predict that the proportion of females in agriculture will fall, especially due to generational changes and stronger policies supporting women. Whereas other FOs

(NASFAM, AKKOR, DBV) say women will continue to play a dominant role, which may not necessarily be viewed negatively if certain conditions for women are in place, as the following quotes illustrate:

“More women are taking over family farms compared to before. This is because it is actually possible, people want women to get engaged in farming and it is no longer an issue of gender compared to before... now women are increasing, and farming is more diversified making it easier for (women) to do the job”.

DBV

“The quantity and quality of participation in family farming for both rural youth and women will get better in the next ten years due to the innovations in both production and marketing.”

NASFAM

3.5. Advantages of family farming

Family farming provides a diversity of social, economic, and environmental benefits that are enjoyed by farming families and wider communities. The most cited advantages were economic and social (40% and 33% of cases respectively), followed by environmental benefits (23%). Economically, representatives from AKKOR emphasised that family farming allows farmers *“the ability to receive not only a stable, but also a higher income than fellow villagers”*, while in Germany, economic efficiency *“allows family farms to be competitive”* (DBV). The poverty reduction potential of family farming and its ability to provide food security are also important benefits as identified by two African FOs (COFAG and INGABO). With the advanced level of farming in Germany and the transition towards more business-oriented farming in Africa, FOs recognise the economic advantages of efficiency, which allows family farming to be competitive. In Russia, family farming was

advantageous economically as farmers benefit not only from stable incomes, but also from higher incomes.

In Germany, for example, social benefits include provision of community services such as firefighting services and street cleaning - services that would likely not occur if farming in rural areas was dominated by larger industry. Environmentally, family farming is critical for the preservation of biological diversity, as was identified by INGABO and NASFAM and for enabling a *‘unity with nature’* as indicated by AKKOR. The life balance that farming enables was highlighted by AKKOR whereby family farming is said to provide the *“optimal combination of factors basic for life”* with the additional advantage that farmers can be self-sufficient while gaining public recognition. The below quotations illustrate these advantages:

“... in rural townships family farmers are volunteers for community activities such as being firemen, helping to clean the streets... removing snow in winter for example. We would not have that if it was all big farming industry that are profit oriented ...”

DBV

“Agriculture sector is a main pillar to combat poverty. Gross domestic product (GDP) growth originating in agriculture reduces poverty twice as much as the equivalent GDP growth in other sectors, according to the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda. Agricultural and rural growth also benefits the urban poor by creating more wealth and jobs while offering more and cheaper food”.

INGABO

“Family farming protects biodiversity and the environment... is a source of genetic diversity that uses seed varieties and livestock breeds well adapted to various environments. It also promotes the use of agro ecological and traditional techniques, thus supporting the healthy functioning of ecosystems. Family farming is recognized as more resilient to the impacts of climate change due a wealth of knowledge on coping with natural disasters, amassed over many centuries. Moreover, it contributes to maintaining the population in rural areas and preserving historic cultural values”.

INGABO

3.6. Two-sided coin: Disadvantages of family farming

Family farming undoubtedly offers enormous advantages; however, downsides are also notable. The economic barriers to enhancing family farming are the most frequently cited disadvantages (54% of responses), especially for resource poor family farmers. FOs in Africa identify the challenges facing smallholders to engage in business-oriented farming and the

impact that poverty plays in restricting access to FO services, services that can sometimes even be free (COFAG). The expense of family farming is not restricted to Africa, while in Germany the risks of farming can also be costly, although, no disadvantages to family farming are explicitly mentioned, the challenges of farming in Germany were discussed:

"... on one hand, they (farming families) are strong, but on the other they are volatile and cannot stop their activities immediately and they also do not have that much money... the industrial farms can absorb financial costs better compared to the family farming setup".

DBV

Family farming - for reasons identified by FOs as poor capacity and limited resources - is often associated with hardship in the case of some African countries. According to some FO

representatives, only those with a financial freedom, with opportunities and capabilities to invest in farming, willingly choose to engage in farming, as the quotes below indicates:

"Extremely poor households are more likely to depend on agricultural and natural resources for their livelihoods and food security".

INGABO

"... farming is only attractive to those with capital. For those without capital, it is very hard. You need equipment to farm well... you need collateral".

ZFU

Whereas in Russia, the high degree of "atomization" combined with several governance challenges are identified as key

disadvantages for family farming, as this quote shows:

"For Russia, the main disadvantage of family farming is the high degree of its atomization, the lack of involvement of a significant majority of farms in cooperative ties. Inaccessibility of state support for most farms. High level of illegal administrative pressure. Underdeveloped production, service infrastructure, focused on the farmer".

AKKOR

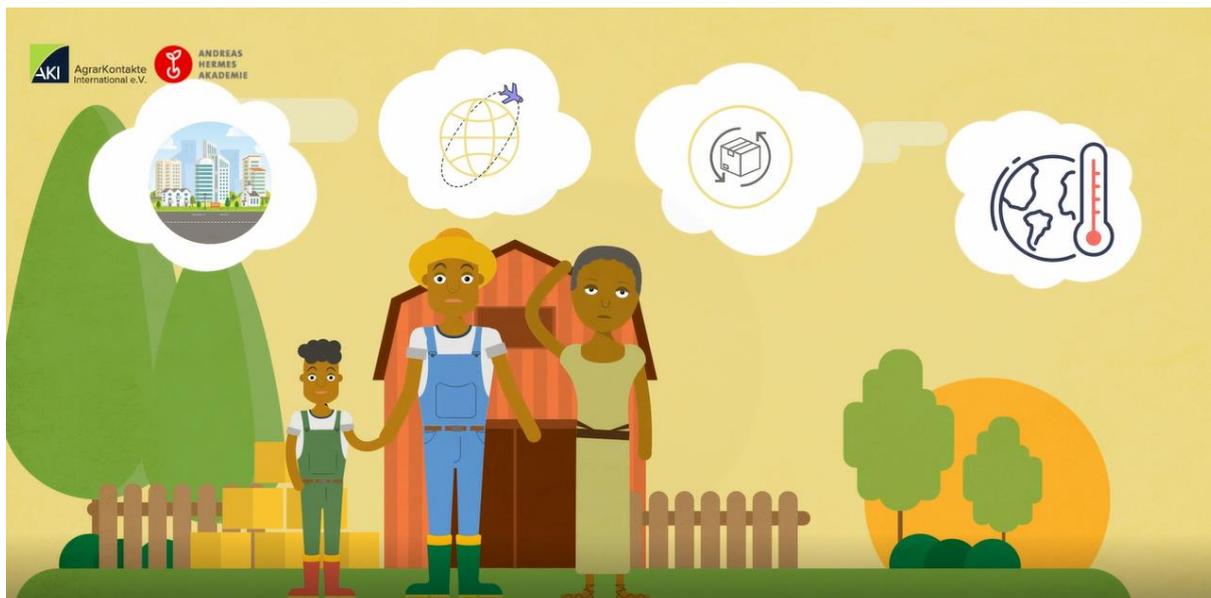


Figure 3: Challenges of Family Farms (Picture from the animated video of the TA project)

Family farming across most countries is therefore a two headed coin; alongside advantages are disadvantages. INGABO

representatives capture this perception clearly when they say there is a need for farmers to:

“Prepare for uncertainties: Market behaviour, weather, and personal circumstances mean that family farming is never going to be an easy way of life. If we can help address uncertainties - at least to some extent - then it can at least allow farmers a greater degree of control and ability to plan their future. Business can play a role here by committing to longer term relationships with smallholders they buy from; by agreeing multi-year contracts, longer term commitments on price, and providing advice on where markets are going”.

INGABO

Inequity and inequality

Resource poor and vulnerable

Slow to modernise Poor access to market and production information Poor record keeping Expensive
Representation challenges Uncompetitive None in particular

Governance challenges

Figure 4: Word cloud on the disadvantages of family farming (more frequently mentioned disadvantages are displayed in larger size from a total of 16 responses; n=16)

3.7. Distribution of advantages and disadvantages of family farms

The benefits and costs of family farming are not always evenly distributed. On one hand, whole families can be the beneficiaries of family farming – in different ways. However, on the other hand, some members, often male headed households, have greater control over farm incomes compared to the rest of the family. The uneven distribution of benefits is particularly manifest in terms of inheritance and farm succession, which was reported from FOs from both continents. For example, in all the countries, the dissolution of marriage or the death of the male household head may dispossess women of agricultural land – despite their dominant role in managing and labouring on family farms. Whereas in Russia, AKKOR representatives noted that the youth who are not interested in farming are much less likely to benefit from family farming.

In future, while the key benefits are expected to continue, there is however the risk that inequalities will be reinforced without dedicated strategic policy engagement and lobbying by FOs and other organisations. In Russia for example, FO representatives are unclear whether the benefits will be extended into the future. The reasons for this include the increasing importance of environmental factors; overcrowded cities and growing threats such as COVID19 which may minimise the benefits of family farming into the future. The benefits of family farming in Russia may however continue due to growing market demand for farm products of higher quality (natural, fresh, non-mass produced) as well as the high rate of global technological development in the agricultural sector, which may be focused on small farms.

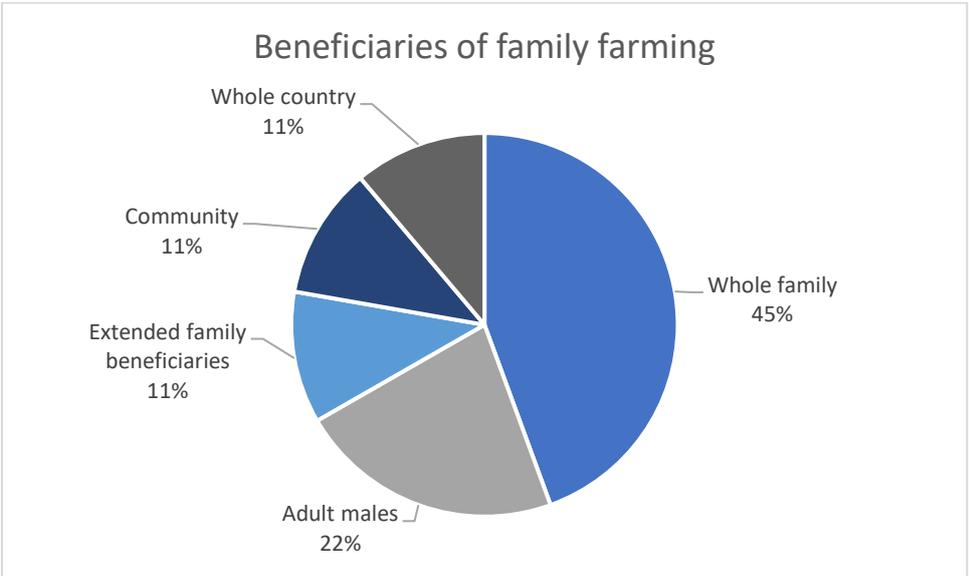


Figure 5: Beneficiaries of family farming

Different members of the family are also disproportionately affected by the costs of family farming. In Russia, Zimbabwe and Rwanda, the whole or extended family, is disadvantaged. While in the case of Ghana, adult females, and the youth (male and female) bear the brunt, mainly of inequality and

paternalism. The issue of access to and control over land and resources disproportionately affects women and the youth who in many countries face barriers to meaningfully engage in family farming. These disadvantages are likely to continue if efforts to address socio-economic inequalities, through improved

policies and implementation with and for farmers, are not effective. The Russian perspective is that while there will be a decline

in the effect of family farming disadvantages, this decline is expected to be at a slower pace than would be "ideal".

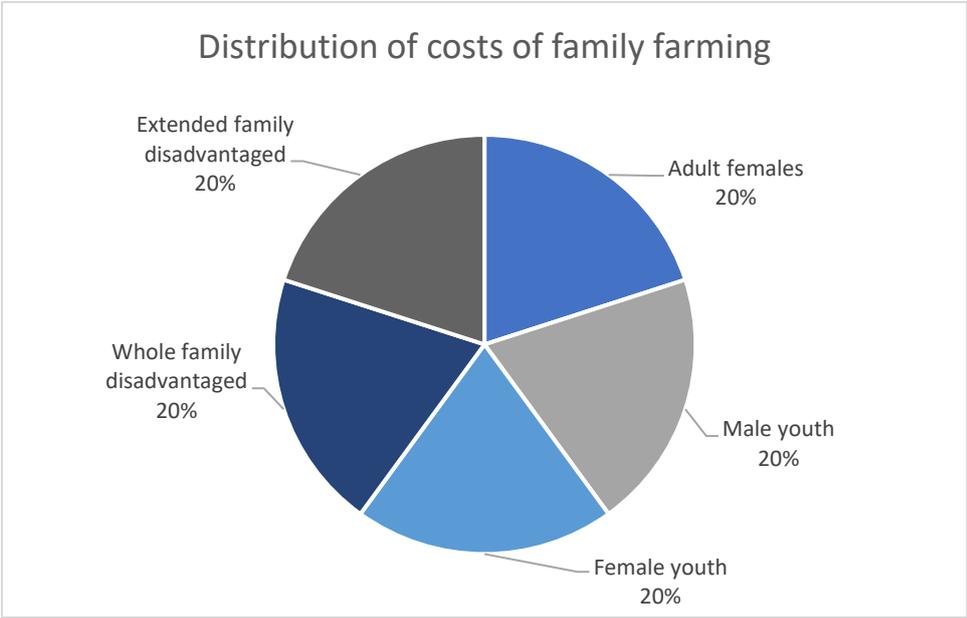


Figure 6: Who suffers most from costs of family farming?

3.8. Policy development on family farming

FOs are strategically well positioned to address, at least partially, the causes of the disadvantages faced by farming families to avoid further marginalising individual members. NASFAM for example offer an adult literacy program which is bundled with the production of micro livestock (rabbits, or small stock such as goats).⁴ While COFAG and AKKOR, are providing their members with access to financial services. Going into the future, each country may however require customised social safety nets for their members, especially because disadvantages of family farming are expected to continue.

To ensure the benefits of family farming, 5 of the 6 FOs engage directly with policy development activities on family farming. INGABO, the one FO not directly involved in

policy development on family farming is currently undergoing a restructuring process and are focussing on expanding the syndicate to members nationwide. The questionnaire results show that the main strategy for engagement is through participating in policymaking fora such as technical working groups and task forces, many of which are bottom-up (such as farmer forums). AKKOR interacts directly with state Russian institutions (State Duma, Federation Council, Government, Ministry of Agriculture) and actively cooperates with the Office of the Presidential Commissioner for the Protection of Entrepreneurs' Rights. In addition, the President of AKKOR is the public ombudsman for agriculture and agricultural processing. Collectively:

⁴ See: <https://www.nasfam.org/index.php/gender-equality>

“AKKOR systematically comes up with initiatives to improve legislation. In particular, last year, on the initiative of the Association, a law was adopted that allows 10, 600 farms to maintain the status of a legal entity indefinitely. The State Duma is currently considering a bill allowing farmers to build a house on their agricultural land”.

AKKOR

Although there is no explicit family farming policy mentioned in any of the case countries, five countries are directly involved in related policies. The DBV are a highly specialised FO with adequate capacity to facilitate full engagement in all policies agriculture. Specifically, the DBV representatives emphasise that their FO *“is involved in all policies related to farming. It is the DBV business”* (DBV). Whereas, NASFAM is engaged

in land policy (National Land Policy), ZFU is engaged in Zimbabwe’s common agricultural policy (National Agricultural Policy Framework) and AKKOR is engaged with the state on *“special sections of the state program for the development of agriculture and the regulation of markets for agricultural products, raw materials and food, and other programs”* (AKKOR). The quotes below provide an example of the types of FO engagement:

“NASFAM leads or co-chairs many strategic policy working groups for agriculture and trade which allows NASFAM to shape the policy formulation processes in cognisant of the needs and aspirations of family farming producers”.

NASFAM

“We are participating in the Technical Working Group in all of the 9 sectors (while others are in one or two, but we have been invited to contribute to all the working groups for all the pillars as the representatives of farmers). So that has been our contribution...”

ZFU

3.9. Challenges of policy development

Most FOs face immense challenges with securing financial and/or skilled human resources. COFAG representatives, for example, operate pro-bono. One of the major stumbling blocks is the willingness and/or ability for farmers in African countries to pay membership fees. In Ghana, members struggle to pay the 50 cents (Ghana Sidis) membership fee; while in Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Malawi, a nominal or voluntary membership fee is paid to facilitate basic activities. The main concern among the FOs, is the sustainability of their organisations given the dominance on donor funding. Through their commercial arm

(NASFAM Commercial), the FO engages in business activities for processing and value addition of crops – currently they are just about breaking even. Whereas COFAG leadership is more agri-business oriented and politically connected than has been in the past. The strategic decisions being made by individual FOs searching for more sustainable solutions and business models are particularly important given that two FOs (COFAG, INGABO) report operating in contexts where there is a lack of political commitment to achieve benefits for smallholder farming families – sometimes leading to top-down policymaking. The

strength of other lobby organisations can also be a challenge as the DBV reports:

“Sometimes society wants us to deliver things we cannot deliver so easily... in the end we have to find an equilibrium. The organisation of different interests has also changed because now there are other strong lobbies like the environmental lobby. We are also strong because we have our own ministry in Berlin and also in Brussels. But the environmental lobby also have their own min in Berlin and Brussels, so it is difficult to find a consensus sometimes”.

DBV

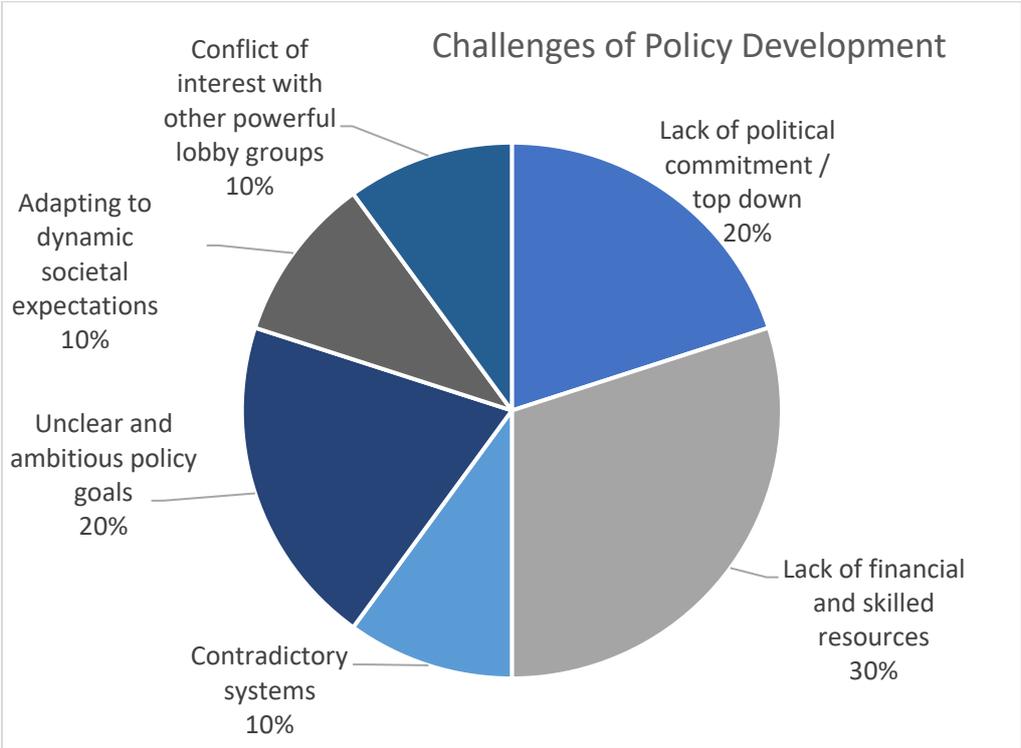


Figure 7: Challenges of policymaking

Each FO draws from a number of different strategies to address their challenges. Strengthening institutional and business models, through introducing membership fees or creating more business-oriented approaches is important for ZFU and INGABO; and using more effective bottom-up approaches to strengthen farmer

representation is used by COFAG and ZFU. AKKOR is in constant interaction with state institutions and participates submits proposals regarding issues of farming, and small agricultural businesses. Given the challenges faced by DBV, their main strategy is consensus building to find equilibrium with other organisations representing different voices.

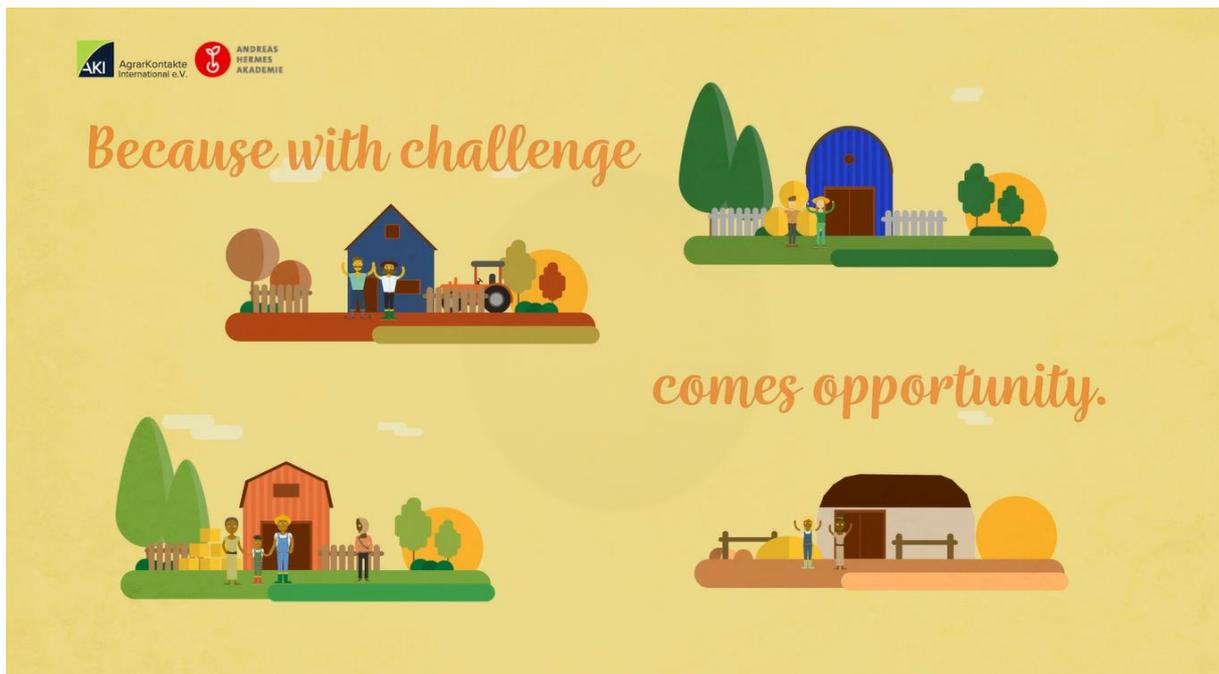


Figure 8: Because with challenge comes opportunity (Picture from the animated video of the TA project)

3.10. Achievements of FOs and way forward

Despite the challenges mentioned above the FOs have contributed considerably to a more enabling environment for family farming across the six countries. The FOs contribute to policy frameworks in different ways and most FOs work directly with family farmers by offering opportunities to increase incomes and grow farming enterprises through trade, export, and access to markets. For many African FOs, these

are also opportunities for poverty reduction. Whereas FOs engage in policymaking to strengthen family farming to different extents. Along all the value chain stages, at least two FOs play an instrumental role as the below figure illustrates.

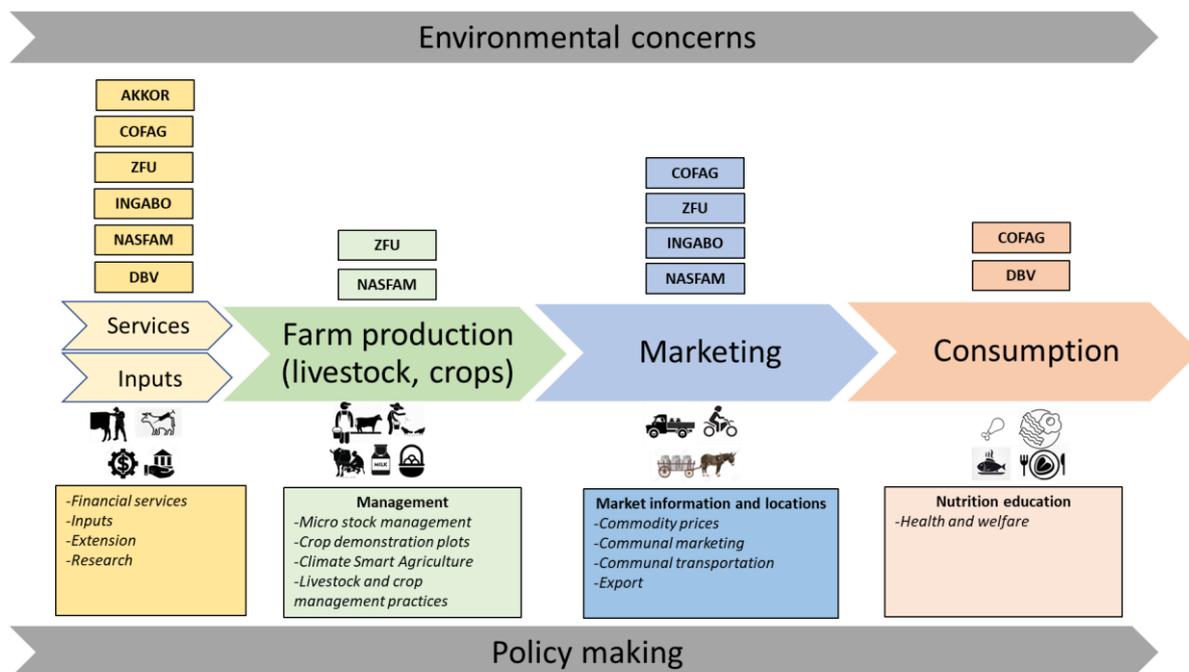


Figure 9: Achievements of FOs along the agricultural value chain

All FOs are engaged in providing inputs and services for their members. AKKOR offers concessional lending at a low rate and is in the process of launching grant support programs for farmers, whereas ZFU and NASFAM provide agricultural extension for their members. Assistance with farm production - the second stage in the value chain – is where NASFAM promotes farmer managed demonstration plots. Marketing opportunities such as communal marketing, export, trade and the

provision of commodity prices are provided by all the African FOs. Whereas nutritional education on health and welfare are provided by COFAG and DBV. To meet accomplishments, the FOs employ a diversity of strategies. These strategies range from visibility at policy fora, to evidence-based research and reporting. Networks, media engagement education and awareness raising were also mentioned by at least one FOs.

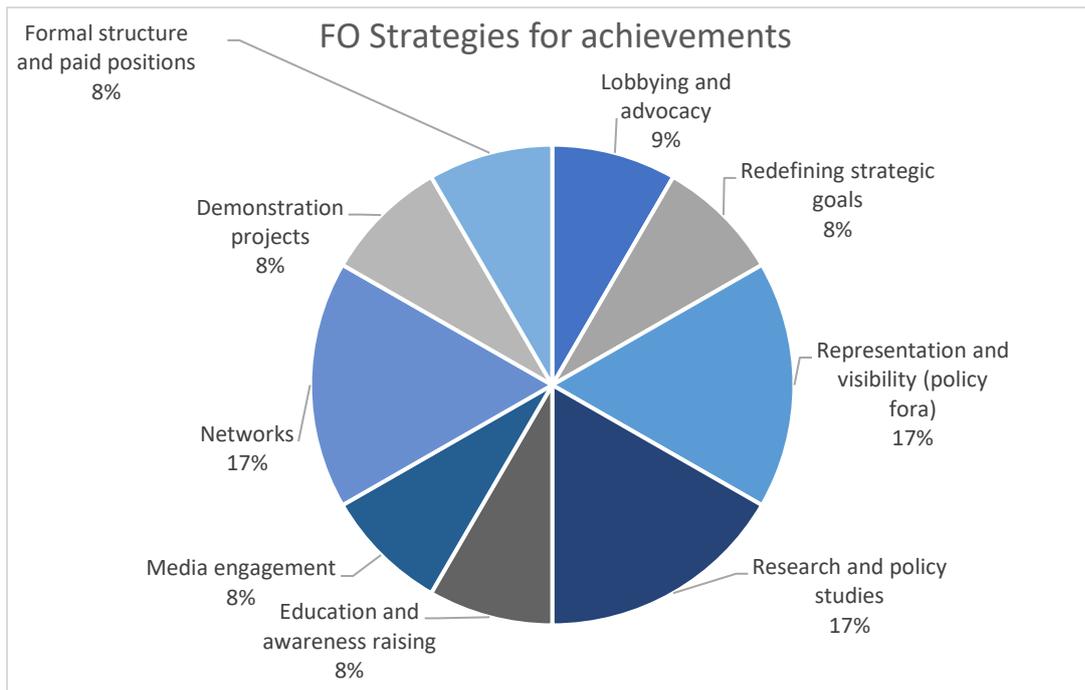


Figure 10: Key FO strategies

FOs are optimistic about the renewed interest in family farming by the youth. Inheritance and management of farms by younger generations ensures the continuation of family farming. A boost in investment and innovation is expected

in the years to come. Other opportunities include strengthening value chains through marketing and value addition for local, regional, and continental trade and advancing an environmental and sustainability agenda.

	Succession	Meeting societal expectations	Market development and access	Capacity and resources	Land tenure insecurity	Climate change
				✓	✓	✓
	✓	✓				✓
				✓		✓
			✓	✓		✓
				✓	✓	✓
			✓		✓	

Table 1: Challenges of family farming

Five of the FOs identified climate change as one of the largest challenge's family farmers will need to adapt to. The lack and capacity of resources to effectively carry out the work of FOs, particularly in Africa was also a common challenge. Development of policies that favour or are compatible with family farming are

however expected whereby issues such as climate change will be better catered for. Overall, each FO is interested to engage more with the WFO and partners to build a bigger and brighter future for family farming under the UNDF.

	Environment and sustainability	Mitigation against uncertainty	Strengthen rural organisations	Family friendly policies	Youth investment	Capacity building	Empowerment (gender / other)	Expanding operations	Value addition and markets
	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
			✓	✓	✓				
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	✓		✓	✓	✓				
			✓			✓		✓	✓
			✓	✓	✓				✓

Table 2: Opportunities for family farming

3.11. Potential themes for upcoming seminars

Based on the results, several themes to promote the benefits and manage the challenges faced by FOs can be recommended. The potential seminar topics presented below

were identified by at least 3 of the 6 respective FOs as areas where further development is required (Table 3). An overview of the key findings and a review of the literature follows.

	Capacity and resources	Business model development	Value addition and markets (trade and profitability)	Policy development	Environment and sustainability	Gender and youth development	Climate Change	UNDIFF
	✓ How to get farmers more involved, more business-oriented	✓ Less donor dependent	✓ Value addition as a future opportunity	✓ Bottom-up approaches	✓ Over chemicalisation of food UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration	✓ Uneven distribution of benefits and costs	✓ Climate change and ecosystem restoration	✓ Interested to learn and more and see how to participate
				✓ Succession concerns Consensus-building Meeting rapidly changing expectations		✓ Uneven distribution of benefits and costs	✓ Green tech	✓ Interested to learn and more and see how to participate
	✓ Advocacy and lobbying			✓ Syndicate expansion	✓ Protecting genetic diversity	✓ Uneven distribution of benefits and costs	✓ Mitigating the effects of climate change	✓ Interested to learn and more and see how to participate
	✓ Capital requirements	✓ Less donor dependent		✓ Land policy	✓ Indigenous seed systems	✓ Uneven distribution of benefits and costs	✓ Accessing tech that reduces climate change impacts	✓ Interested to learn and more and see how to participate
	✓ Organising and addressing farmers needs directly	✓ Less donor dependent	✓ As most farmers sell produce in its primary form	✓ Agricultural policy	✓ Climate smart agriculture	✓ Uneven distribution of benefits and costs	✓ Big challenge affecting family farming	✓ Interested to learn and more and see how to participate
	✓ Increase the effectiveness and influence of the Association itself and strengthen regional and local organizations		✓ Increase profitability of farms	✓ Special program to support family farming in Russia		✓ Uneven distribution of benefits and costs		

Table 3: Summary of FO capacity needs

4. Conclusions and recommendations: Building tomorrows future today.

“Family farmers are not necessarily poor, or wealthy. You will find them on all six of the continents. They are not archaic, or modern, they are not young or old. They have this one thing in common: they are families, practicing land-based enterprises which they own and control, to produce food, fiber and fuel, and do, by the vast majority, have their homes on their farms. Actually, the International Year of Family Farming (2014) left the world a little poorer by providing a very narrow definition of the concept of family farmers, which I sincerely hope we can break out of in the next decade”.

WFO President (Theo de Jager) 29.15.2020.⁵

As the above quote implies, no widespread definition of family farms exists. Literature shows that definitions tend to include two main criteria that were clearly identified by the FOs: (1) family ownership of land, or land tenure rights over generations, and (2) the use of family labour, both of which emerged from the definitions provided by the FOs (van Vliet et al, 2016). The findings also confirm what has been revealed elsewhere, namely that family farming is the predominant form of agricultural production worldwide (FAO, 2014). According to the UNDF, FOs are considered the backbone of “vibrant and inclusive rural societies” due to their ability catalyse the opportunities of farmers who are operating under increasingly challenging environments. It is critical to acknowledge the role of FOs and to promote efforts that can enhance the development of new and / or strengthen existing FOs at all levels to stimulate their capacity to offer suitable and adequate services for their members (FAO and IFAD, 2019).

As such, the findings from this study highlight critical areas where support to FOs may contribute towards the achievement of more sustainable economic, social and environmental outcomes for their members and farming systems more broadly. The findings suggest that FOs can be supported through exchanges that seek to boost their

members’ economic situation, enhance their members’ access to services and, promote the development of public policies that facilitate the continuation of family farming (FAO and IFAD, 2019). Under the UNDF, one of the most effective approaches to achieve the above outcomes includes the direct, peer-to-peer exchanges between food producers. The TA project therefore recognises how instrumental it is to facilitate horizontal exchanges and welcomes the variety of formats through which exchanges can occur. In line with this opportunity, a three-pronged approach for the upcoming series could cover the exchanges in 2021:

1. Agricultural Trade: The role of FOs in meeting farmers needs and expectations Addressing family farming and the UN Decade of Family Farming from women and young farmers perspectives
2. The role of FOs in supporting farmers in the fight against climate change: What is needed and what FOs expect to achieve at national, regional, global level?

The suggested themes accommodate for the economic, social, and environmental aspects raised in the questionnaires and interviews.

⁵ https://www.wfo-oma.org/wfo_news/global-launch-of-the-un-decade-of-family-farming-2019-2028/

4.1. Agricultural Trade: The role of FOs in meeting farmers needs and expectations

Despite several barriers, economic benefits from marketing were the most frequently cited advantages of family farming. The need for more commercialised agricultural systems for family farmers was also identified by several FOs, namely in Africa. Linking family farms to agricultural value chains is critical for improving agricultural productivity, food security, and nutrition. It is widely recognised that initiatives that improve farming families access to information on commodity prices, supply and demand, as well as quality standards minimises the chances of farmers fetching poor prices from traders and can directly increase their market participation (Omiti et al, 2009). While participation of farmers in formal markets has multiple advantages, research shows that the degree of participation is determined by a combination of non-land assets such as membership in cooperatives as well as education (Rao et al, 2011). Access to value chains can be facilitated by institutional innovations for coordination that can be delivered through producer organisations, such as FOs. Mechanisms to boost trade may require strong institutional capacity and a stable policy environment that promotes private-sector investments adapted to the needs of family farms. Financial services (bundled with, for example, insurance) and

investments in rural infrastructure are also crucial for enhancing farmer productivity to gain better access to value chains (Hess et al, 2020). Whereas, information and communication technologies offer the opportunity to link family farmers to markets, by helping reduce transaction costs, increase bargaining power, and acquire real-time market information – all approaches that the respective FOs have been using since and prior to the COVID pandemic.

The TA platform can therefore serve as a vehicle for FOs to explore potential strategies that enable the trade of agricultural commodities both locally, regionally, and internationally. Given the experience of FOs such as NASFAM, who have an established commercial division and have expertise in exporting agricultural commodities of their farmers, ideas about successful strategies can be discussed. Whereas the opening of the African Continental Free Trade Area where trade commenced in January 2021, presents enormous trading opportunities for farming families under the organised umbrella of FO on the continent (Kuwonu, 2021). Much can also be learned from the DBV who are well versed with the trade policies of the EU.

4.2. Addressing family farming and the UN Decade of Family Farming from women and young farmers perspectives

Globally, it is estimated that women comprise 43% of the total agricultural labour force, with women comprising 50% of the labour force in sub-Saharan Africa (FAO, 2014). However, as the results show, the benefits of family farming are not evenly accessible and/or evenly distributed, with women and youth often

benefitting much less compared to male household heads. Pillar 3 of the UNDF Global Action plan is explicitly dedicated to promoting gender equality in family farming (and the leadership role of rural women). Considerable evidence shows the existence of ‘gender gaps’, to the disadvantage of women, in access to and

control over resources such as land, labour, credit, infrastructure, information and technology (Quisumbing and Pandolfeli, 2010; Fontana, 2009; Sheahan and Barrett, 2014; Jost et al, 2016; Perez et al, 2015). As the FOs show, these inequalities are largely due to institutional and norm-based constraints (Argarwal, 1997). Many argue that these constraints can no longer be ignored as the underperformance of the agricultural sector is in part due to this differential access to resources for women (FAO and IFAD, 2019). The UNDF Global Action plan emphasises that the “gender gap” limits rural women’s ability to take advantage of new opportunities and prevents them from reaching their full potential” which therefore undermines the achievement of the inclusive rural development envisioned by the 2030 Development Agenda (FAO and IFAD, 2019). Reducing gender inequality therefore depends on improved access to resources including land, natural resources, financial services and technology. Sustaining gender equality in farming families will require a clear understanding of intra household dynamics in order to design context-specific mechanisms that will ensure specifically women’s benefits from farming, are safeguarded (Njuki and Sanginga, 2013).

Addressing the gender inequities in access to productive resources is not only a rights issue, as was mentioned by a number of the FOs, but also an efficiency issue. Studies show that gender inequality leads to inefficient allocation of resources, which reduces agricultural productivity and contributes to poor nutrition and health outcomes (Peterman et al, 2011). Closing the gender gap in agriculture therefore has high returns that accrue to the entire society—not just women and their immediate families (Meinzen-Dick and Quisumbing, 2012). Under the UNDF, strengthening FOs to deliver

inclusive services and contribute to gendered research and innovation is considered a precondition for enhancing women’s economic inclusion in food systems. FOs are instrumental for increasing visibility and raising awareness on the contribution of rural women’s productive work, which helps them gain recognition as contributing members of the community who can achieve autonomy and leadership roles in society.

Youth participation in agriculture is also considered essential to realize agricultural growth, improve food security and nutrition, and promote overall development. The youth are especially important for maintaining the next generation of family farmers, particularly at a point in history where the youth are increasingly exiting farming, as shown from the results (Abraham and Pingali, 2017). The challenge of retaining youth in agriculture is therefore not unique to the 5 countries. Retaining the youth on family farms and in rural communities is among the preconditions for keeping family farming viable through generations. The future of food systems rests in the hands of the youth as the next generation of family farmers (FAO and IFAD, 2019). However, as our results indicate, actions to incentivise young people to remain engaged in agriculture along the different stages of the value chain are required. Given the structural and institutional barriers mentioned by the FOs, such as limited access to land, insufficient access to financial services and income-generating jobs, a coordinated response to these complex challenges is critical (FAO and IFAD, 2019). Interventions to increase the profitability of family farms can for example target young farmers through providing better agricultural training, improved land rights, and enhanced access to financial and nonfinancial services (Abraham and Pingali, 2017). Echoing the results from the FOs, the FAO recognise

that the youth inject unique and much needed resources into farming systems, such as skills, networks, technologies, marketing and management practices, all of which promote farming innovations. To attract and sustain youth innovation may require FOs to promote new solutions that are also compatible with the local, natural environment and socio-economic conditions (FAO and IFAD, 2019). Both inter- and intragenerational learning processes are considered vital in the UNDF Global Action Plan to accelerate value-addition that will

increase the economic stability and autonomy of young family farmers (FAO and IFAD, 2019). So far, the FOs have demonstrated the importance of youth leadership, which is also identified by the FAO as critical for retaining representation and promoting generational renewal in family farming. A summary of the pillars from the UNDF Global Action Plan focussing on youth and gender indicates the importance of promoting more equitable social, economic and environmental conditions for family farming to thrive.

Pillar 2: Support youth and ensure the generational sustainability of family farming	Pillar 3: Promote gender equity in family farming and the leadership role of rural women
Improved and active engagement of youth in family farming, rural economy and decision-making processes.	Improved and active engagement of rural women in family farming and in rural economy.
Improved access of the next generation of family farmers to natural resources, productive assets, education, information, infrastructure, financial services and to markets.	Increased access of women in family farming to natural resources, (re-)productive assets, information, infrastructure, financial services and to markets.
Improved generational turnover in agriculture, fisheries and forestry.	Increased capacity of women farmers and their organizations on technical, advocacy and leadership skills enhancing their participation within their organizations and in policy-making processes.
Improved capacity of young family farmers on innovation practices interconnecting locally specific (traditional) knowledge with new solutions.	Reduce all kinds of violence against women and girls in family farming and in rural areas.
	Improved knowledge on successful experiences of women achieving affirmative political, social, economic and cultural change towards gender equality.

Table 4: Summary of Pillar 2 and 3 of UNDF Global Action Plan

4.3. The role of FOs in supporting farmers in the fight against climate change: What is needed and what FOs expect to achieve at national, regional, global level?

Climate change and variability are by far among the most pervasive challenges faced by farmers from the various FOs, and globally. The negative impacts of climate change on family farms are expected to continue well into the future if drastic action is not taken. One study shows that if business as usual continues and the world becomes 3–4°C warmer by 2050, crop yields could decline by 15–20 percent across sub-Saharan Africa with small scale farmers being the worst affected (Schellnhuber et al, 2013). According to the literature, small family farmers are particularly vulnerable to climate change due to their higher chances of chronic food insecurity, weak access to formal safety nets, and their overreliance on climate-dependent agriculture. These underlying conditions contribute to the overall weak capacity for many small family farmers to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change (Harvey et al, 2014) – all of which are factors identified by the respective FOs.

As such, under the UNDF, there is potential to leverage the role of FOs to enhance climate-sensitive policies through targeted advocacy work at all levels (local, national, regional and global). For example, sound regulatory and monitoring systems along the entire value chain can help to ensure that agricultural intensification is sustainable and does not harm people's health, a concern that was voiced by a handful of FOs (Fan et al, 2015). Collaboration among agricultural value chain stakeholders is also needed with the private sector, governments, and donors to design innovative, flexible and inclusive climate

change policies that enable the continuation of family farms under increasingly variable climate. Some of these policies may also integrate global carbon markets (Pinto et al, 2010). Investments in triple-win agricultural practices and technologies have been shown to be effective in raising productivity for both small and large sized farmers, alongside climate-change mitigation and adaptation strategies (Bryan et al, 2013).

Under the UNDF, there is the potential to leverage the role of FOs to raise finances– a challenge identified by most interviewees - to provide much needed services to cushion their members from the effects of climate change. Given the challenges of adapting to climate change, the literature suggests, and the findings imply, that family farms could greatly benefit from improved access to risk-management tools and strategies to increase their resilience to the range of climate related shocks that also affect commodity prices. Tools such as index-based crop and livestock insurance for example, can help farmers take productivity-enhancing risks, although there is a need to better understand the commercial viability for smallholders as clientele (Fan et al, 2015). FOs could use their position to mobilise resources for greater investments in the development of nutrient-rich, drought resistant crop varieties accessible to their members, coupled with public information campaigns and pricing policies, which collectively can help increase the availability and consumption of nutritious foods (Hawkes et al, 2012).

5. References

- Abraham, M. and Pingali, P. 2017. Transforming smallholder agriculture to achieve the SDGs. *The Role of Smallholder Farms in Food and Nutrition Security*, p.173.
- Agarwal, B. 1997. Bargaining and Gender Relations: Within and Beyond the Household. *Feminist Economics*, 3(1), pp.1–51.
- Bizikova, L., Nkonya, E., Minah, M., Hanisch, M., Turaga, R.M.R., Speranza, C.I., Karthikeyan, M., Tang, L., Ghezzi-Kopel, K., Kelly, J. and Celestin, A. C. 2020. A scoping review of the contributions of farmers' organizations to smallholder agriculture. *Nature Food*. Springer US, 1(10), pp. 620–630.
- Bosc, P.M., Sourisseau, J.M., Bonnal, V., Gasselin, P., Valette, É. and Bélières, J.F. 2018. *Diversity of family farming around the World. Existence, transformations and possible futures of family farms*. Springer.
- Bryan, E., Ringler, C., Okoba, B., Koo, J., Herrero, M. and Silvestri, S. 2013. Can Agriculture Support Climate Change Adaptation, Greenhouse Gas Mitigation, and Rural Livelihoods? Insights from Kenya. *Climatic Change* 118 (2013): 151–165.
- Chirwa, E. and Matita, M. 2012. From Subsistence to Smallholder Commercial Farming in Malawi: A Case of NASFAM Commercialisation Initiatives. *Future Agricultures Consortium Policy Brief*. London, U.K.
- Fan, S., Brzeska, J. and Olofinbiyi, T., 2015. *The business imperative: Helping small family farmers to move up or move out*. IFPRI book chapters, pp.25-32.
- FAO. 2013. International Year of Family Farming 2014 launched. Available at: Available at: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/207544/icode/>
- FAO. 2014. *State of food and agriculture*. Rome, Italy.
- FAO and IFAD. 2019.. United Nations Decade of Decade of Family. Rome, Italy.
- Feintrenie, L. and Affholder, F. 2015. *Contributions to Social and Ecological Systems, Family Farming and the Worlds to Come* (pp. 95-109). Springer, Dordrecht.
- Fontana, M. 2009. The gender effects of trade liberalisation in developing countries: A review of the literature. In M. Bussolo & R. De Hoyos (Eds.), *Gender aspects of the trade and poverty nexus: A micro-macro approach*. Palgrave Macmillan: Basingstoke.
- Harvey, C., Rakotobe, Z., Rao, N., Dave, R. et al. 2014. Extreme Vulnerability of Smallholder Farmers to Agricultural Risks and Climate Change in Madagascar. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B* 369, no. 1639 (2014): 20130089.
- Hawkes, C and Ruel, M. T. 2012. "Value Chains for Nutrition," in *Reshaping Agriculture for Nutrition and Health*, edited by S. Fan and R. Pandya-Lorch (Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute).
- Hess, U. and Hazell, P., 2020. Innovations in insuring the poor. Sustainability and scalability of index-based insurance for agriculture and rural livelihoods.
- Jost, C., Kyazze, F., Naab, J., Neelormi, S., Kinyangi, J., Zougmore, R., ... Kristjanson, P. (2016). Understanding gender dimensions of agriculture and climate change in smallholder farming communities. *Climate and Development*, 8(2), 133–44;
- Kuwonu, F. 2021. Africa's free trade area opens for business: Trading under the continental free trade agreement started on 1st Jan. Africa Renewal: 7th January 2021. Available at: Available at: <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/january-2021/afcfta-africa-now-open-business>

Lowder, S. K., Scoet, J. And Raney, T. 2016. The number, size, and distribution of farms, smallholder farms, and family farms worldwide. *World Development*, 87 (Supplement C), 16–29.

Meinzen-Dick, R. and Quisumbing, A., 2012. Women in agriculture: Closing the gender gap. *International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) (ed.)*, pp.39-48.

Njuki, J. and Sanginga, P. (eds). 2013. *Women, livestock ownership and markets: bridging the gender gap in Eastern and Southern Africa*. Routledge.

Omiti, J.M., Otieno, D.J., Nyanamba, T.O. and McCullough, E.B. 2009. Factors influencing the intensity of market participation by smallholder farmers: A case study of rural and peri-urban areas of Kenya. *African Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 3 (311-2016-5509), pp.57-82.

Perez, C., Jones, E. M., Kristjanson, P., Cramer, L., Thornton, P. K., Förch, W., & Barahona, C. 2015. How resilient are farming households and communities to a changing climate in Africa? A gender-based perspective. *Global Environmental Change*, 34, 95–107.

Peterman, A., Quisumbing, A., Behrman, J. and Nkonya, E. 2011. Understanding the complexities surrounding gender differences in agricultural productivity in Nigeria and Uganda. *Journal of Development Studies*, 47(10), pp.1482-1509.

Pinto, A.C., 2009. Agricultural Cooperatives and Farmers Organizations

Quisumbing, A. R., & Pandolfelli, L. 2010. Promising approaches to address the needs of poor female farmers: Resources, constraints, and interventions. *World Development*, 38(4), 581–592

Rao, E.J. and Qaim, M., 2011. Supermarkets, farm household income, and poverty: insights from Kenya. *World Development*, 39(5), pp.784-796.

Schellhuber, H. J., Hare, B., Serdeczny, O., Schaeffer, M., Adams, S., Baarsch, F., Schwan, S., Coumou, D., Robinson, A., Vieweg, M. and Piontek, F. 2013. Turn down the heat: climate extremes, regional impacts, and the case for resilience. *Turn down the heat: climate extremes, regional impacts, and the case for resilience*.

Sheahan, M. and Barrett, C. B. 2014. *Understanding the agricultural input landscape in Sub-Saharan Africa recent plot, household, and community-level evidence* (Policy Research Working Paper No. 7014);

van Vliet, J. A. et al. 2015. ‘De-mystifying family farming: Features, diversity and trends across the globe’, *Global Food Security*. Elsevier, 5, pp. 11–18

World Bank. 2007. “Turn Down the Heat: Climate Extremes, Regional Impacts, and the Case for Resilience,” A report for the World Bank by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Climate Analytics (Washington, DC, 2013); IPCC. 2007. *Synthesis Report, Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (Geneva, 2007).

6. Annex

6.1. Family Farming Questionnaire

- 1) Thank you for agreeing to participate in this interview. So far, what have been your experiences with the Transition Agriculture project?
- 2) We recognise from the last interviews in 2020 that a number of your members are family farmers. How do you define family farming?
 - a. Main characteristics?
- 3) What is the extent of family farms among your members?
 - a. Majority (more than 50%); minority (less than 50%); equal (50/50%)
- 4) What was the extent of family farms amongst your members 10 years ago?
 - a. Majority (more than 50%); minority (less than 50%); equal (50/50%)
 - b. If this has changed, please explain why?
- 5) What do you envision as the extent of family farms amongst your members 10 years from now?
 - a. Majority (more than 50%); minority (less than 50%); equal (50/50%)
 - b. If this has changed, please explain why?
- 6) According to your FO experience, to what extent are rural youth and women currently involved in the family farming?
 - a. Rural youth (if possible, please distinguish between boys and girls): Majority (more than 50%); minority (less than 50%); equal (50/50%)
 - b. Women: Majority (more than 50%); minority (less than 50%); equal (50/50%)
- 7) How has the extent of rural youth and women's participation in family farming changed in the last 10 years?
 - a. Rural youth (if possible, please distinguish between boys and girls): Majority (more than 50%); minority (less than 50%); equal (50/50%)
 - b. If this has changed, please explain why?
 - c. Women: Majority (more than 50%); minority (less than 50%); equal (50/50%)
 - d. If this has changed, please explain why?
- 8) What do you foresee as the extent of rural youth and women's participation in family farming in the next 10 years?
 - a. Rural youth (if possible, please distinguish between boys and girls): Majority (more than 50%); minority (less than 50%); equal (50/50%)
 - b. Please explain why?
 - c. Women: Majority (more than 50%); minority (less than 50%); equal (50/50%)
 - d. Please explain why?
- 9) What do you see as the advantages of family farming? (possible advantages could include social, economic, environmental, cultural, other)
 - a. Please rank the advantages in order of importance between 1 (most important) and 5 (least important)
 - i. Please explain the rank
 - b. Who in the family do you think mainly benefits from these advantages (whole family; adult males; adult females; female / male youth; extended family)?
 - i. Please explain why?
 - c. Do you believe that the advantages of family farming will continue/increase into the future (yes/no)?
 - i. Please explain your reason for this answer
- 10) What do you see as the disadvantages of family farming? (social, economic, environmental, cultural etc)
 - a. Please rank the disadvantages in order of importance between 1 (most important) and 5 (least important)
 - i. Please explain the rank
 - b. Who in the family do you think may lose out from these disadvantages (whole family; adult males; adult females; female / male youth, extended family)?
 - i. Please explain why?

- c. Do you believe that the disadvantages of family farming will continue/increase into the future (yes/no)?
 - i. Please tell us what the reason for your answer is
 - 11) To what extent does the FO engage with policy development related to family farming?
 - a. Is there a specific National policy on family farming?
 - i. If so, what is it?
 - ii. Please tell us the extent to which your FO has been involved in this policy development
 - iii. Please also explain the extent to which the FO has been involved in the policy's implementation
 - b. What have been some of the overall advantages / achievements of the FO so far (eg. Changing policy, increasing market linkages etc)
 - i. What strategies has your FO adopted to achieve these advantages? (lobbying, collective action etc)
 - ii. Please rank the strategies that the FO has adopted in order of success between 1 (most successful) and 5 (least successful)
 - 12) What have been some of the challenges so far with policy development related to family farming?
 - a. Please rank the challenges that the FO has experienced between 1 (most challenging) and 5 (least challenging)
 - b. Is there a strategy to address these challenges and leverage the strengths?
 - 13) Overall, what do you think are the opportunities or possibilities that lie ahead for the FO in supporting family farming? (marketing; organising; value addition; expanding current operations; etc)
 - a. Please rank the top 5 opportunities / possibilities
 - i. Please explain the rank
 - 14) Overall, what are the biggest challenges that enable or constrain your ability to support family farming (eg. climate change, land tenure, capacity building, organising, lobbying etc)
 - a. Please rank in order of importance, 1 (most challenging) and 5 (least challenging)
 - i. Please explain the rank
 - 15) Lastly, what is your knowledge on the [UN Decade of family farming](#)? (open question)
 - a. Would you like to know more and be more engaged in this policy process (at international, regional and national level)?
- Do you have any further comments, suggestions?*

Thank you very much for your time and we look forward to using your responses to feed into the next steps of the Transitional Agriculture project.

6.2. List of interviewees

INSTITUTION	NAME	POSITION	COMPLETION OF QUESTIONNAIRE	DATE OF INTERVIEW
COFAG	Mr Nelson Godfried Agyemang	Secretary General and CEO	✓	22.01.2021
ZFU	Dr Prince Koipa	Chief Economist ZFU	✓	12.01.2021
	Ruramiso Machamba	Chairperson for young farmers ZFU		
DBV	Dr. Simon Schlüter	Head of DBV (Brussels office)		12.01.2021
	Hannes Bauman	President of the Young Farmers Association (Schleswig-Holstein)		
INGABO	Jean Claude Niyonsaba	Communications officer	✓	13.01.2021
	Oswald Tuyisenge	Former Executive Secretary of INGABO syndicate		
	Victor Manariyo	Acting Executive Secretary of INGABO syndicate and Agronomist		
NASFAM	Beatrice Makwenda	Head of Policy and Communication	✓	12.01.2021
AKKOR	Olga Bashmachnikova	Vice-President	✓	