



CONFERENCIA GLOBAL
Agricultura familiar en
el centro de los sistemas
alimentarios sostenibles

CONFÉRENCE GLOBALE
L'agriculture familiale
au cœur des systèmes
alimentaires durables

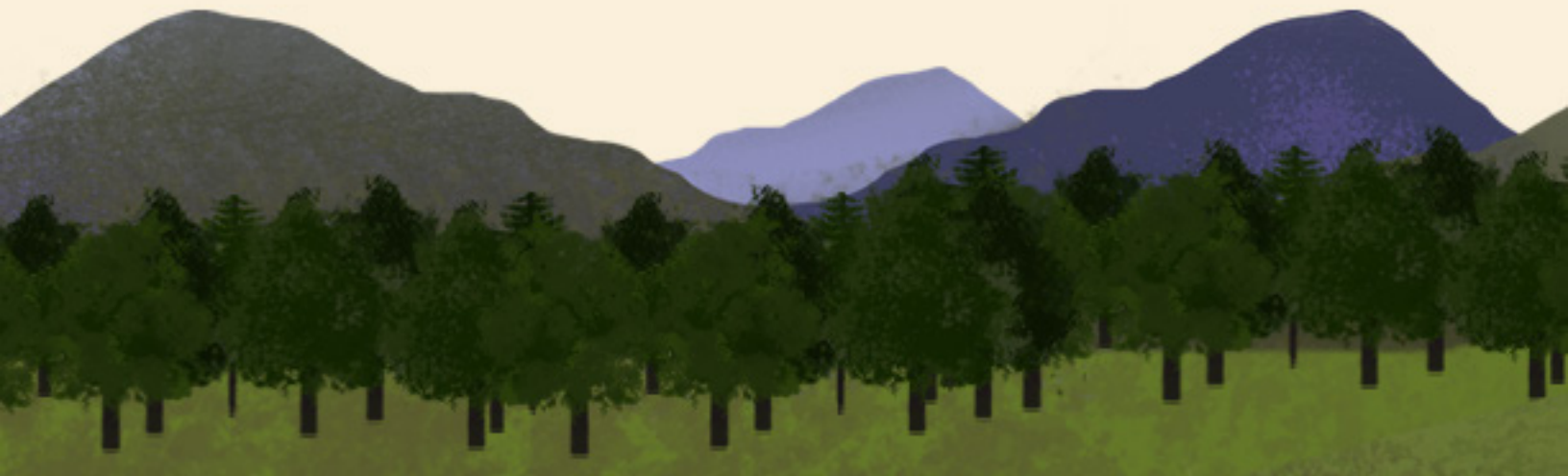
GLOBAL CONFERENCE
Family farming at
the core of Sustainable
Food Systems

23-26 NOVEMBER



SPECIAL SESSION ON LAND TENURE RIGHTS

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The United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019–2028 (UNDF), along with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of National Food Security (VGGT), provides the international community with a framework for positive change towards more sustainable and inclusive food systems¹.

Land is key for family farming development, reason why UNDF Global Action Plan, developed on the basis of a very broad consensus, included a holistic series of actions, taking into account the multi-functionality of Family Farming (FF) and focusing at all levels to increase the access to land of family farmers as one of the important components to achieve more sustainable, resilient inclusive and viable food systems, contributing directly to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. In order to address the challenges and opportunities facing family farming in this context, and secure land tenure is one of them, the Global Conference on Family Farming and Food Systems aims to accelerate the implementation of the UNDF 2019–2028 to achieve more sustainable, resilient, inclusive and viable food systems, contributing directly to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Family farming is a way of organising agricultural production based on strong ties between soil, land and the family unit that works it and act as guardians of those ecosystems. In addition to its social and economic value, land has a fundamental value in territorial, environmental (for its fundamental role against climate change and loss of biodiversity) cultural (by developing the link with ancestral traditions) and spiritual development for the communities and indigenous peoples who live on and from the

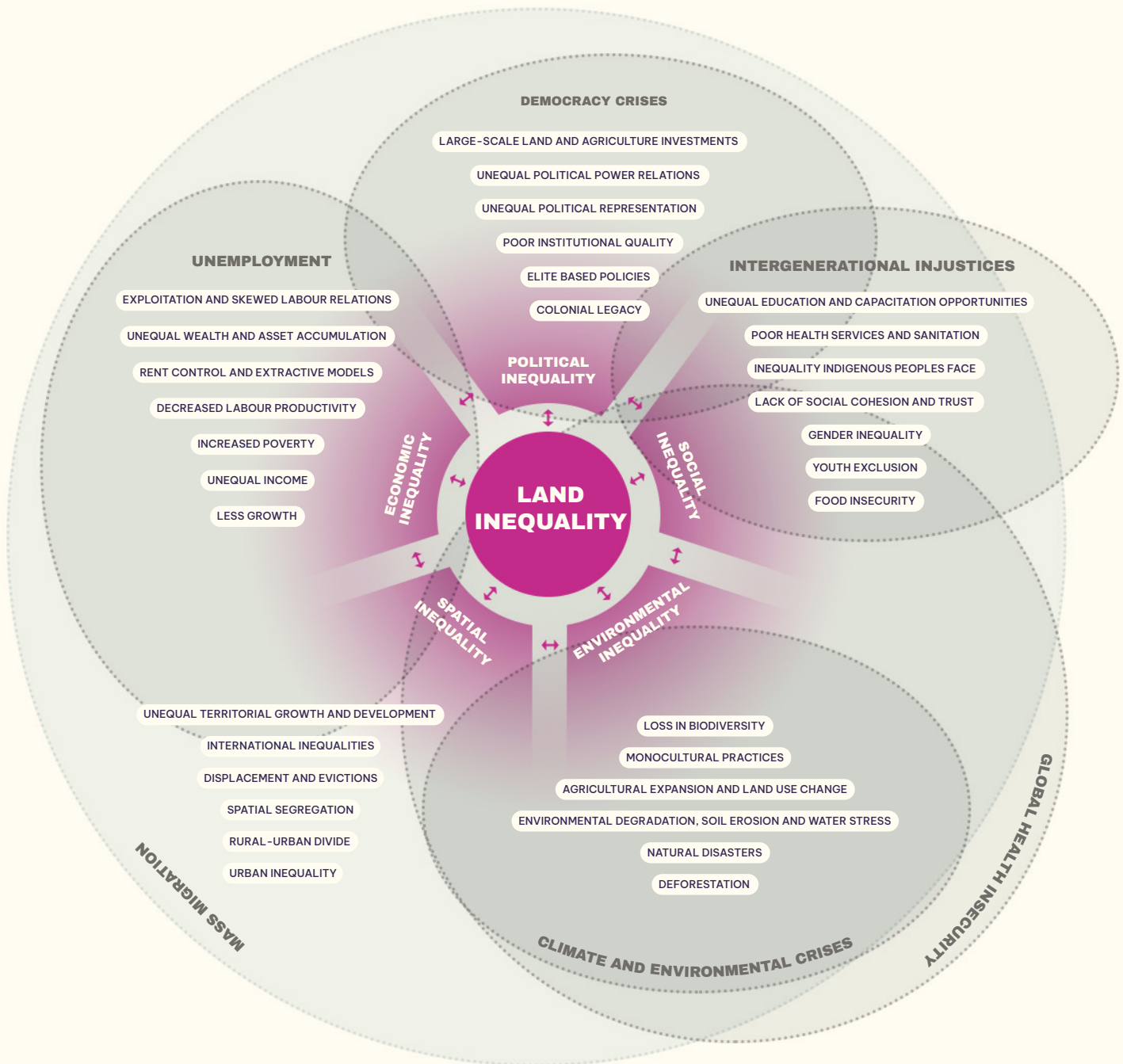
¹ It is important to highlight the efforts also made by regional institutions to provide solutions and that the Decade offers an ideal framework for the realization of the commitments made. In Africa, there are two main commitments: The AU Heads of State and Government Declaration on Land Tenure Problems and Challenges in Africa (2009), and the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policies in Africa, and A Framework for Strengthening Land Rights, Productivity and Livelihoods (2010).

land. Therefore, extensive, secure and sustainable access to and control over land, soil, water, biodiversity and other natural resources related to the livelihoods of people living from family farming is fundamental to eradicate hunger, to fight against poverty, to the establishment of peace and justice, and to the achievement of sustainable development. The access to and control over land and soil by family farmers, including indigenous peoples, local communities and pastoralists, should therefore be an integral part of regional, national and local policy frameworks to ensure sustainable, resilient, inclusive and viable food systems.

Unfortunately, it is found that in most countries, land inequality continues to increase today and directly affects millions of family farmers and their communities. According to the report by ILC and Oxfam “Land Inequality at the Heart of Unequal Societies”, the data are illustrative: 1% of the largest farms manage 70% of farmland. And around 84% of farms are less than two hectares in size but account for only 12% of farmland, with few opportunities to access large marketing channels. This inequality is a consequence of an unequal world’s land distribution and is the cause of many other social injustices, such as hunger and poverty.

Emphasizing the above, family farmers not only have difficulty in accessing land and soil, but also limited land extensions and poor quality (slopes, hillsides or eroded soils), which in many cases makes productive activity unviable.

This inequality has strong political, economic, social, environmental and territorial impacts, as can be seen in the figure below from the report:



SOURCE: Anseeuw, W. (ILC/CIRAD) & Baldinelli, G.M. (ILC)

It is therefore crucial to continue to work on proposals and build consensus to facilitate transformative changes towards equitable access to and control over land.

To this end, the UNDF Global Action Plan includes a set of measures to make effective the family farmers land rights.

The following is a compilation of some proposals related to land access and tenure that should be prioritised, some from the UNDF Global Action Plan and from multiple discussions and proposals from family farming organisations and organisations working to promote access to land.

PILLAR 1

Develop an enabling policy environment to strengthen family farming

- Provide capacity development for family farmers and their organizations, in particular women and youth, on technical and advocacy skills and promote their active participation in policy processes at all levels (development, implementation and monitoring) for effective, well-tailored and integrated policies supporting family farming to access to soil and land.
- Creating communities and networks also allows people better respond to market forces and carry out impactful advocacy efforts.
- Promote enabling environments by strengthening and implementing legislative and institutional frameworks and financial commitment, conservation and use of soil and land, forests and genetic resources.
- Promoting transparency in land information and investment in institutions and technology for efficient and fully transparent land registries, including at decentralised level. Public access to information on all transfers of soil and land use rights, whether through purchase, lease, use or shareholding, should be guaranteed in order to facilitate monitoring by the actual farmers' organisations or civil society organisations.
- Promote inter-institutional articulation to imbue a systemic approach to family farming public policy instruments both in their design and implementation.

PILLAR 2 - Transversal

Support youth and ensure generational sustainability of family farming

- Promote the development, review and implementation of public policies and frameworks to support the access of youth to soil and land and the recognition of their legitimate tenure rights by applying guidance provided in international instruments.
- Provide supportive legal and financial measures to facilitate the intergenerational transfer of farming resources.
- Promote inter-generational and intra-generational transfer of information, knowledge and practices (also through direct exchange of experiences and of good/bad practices) on entrance into farming (farm succession, farm set-up, etc.).
- Design and implement public policies to support the development of young people in rural areas and family farming processes, allowing them access to financial and non-financial products to gain access to land and land to make it productive and profitable.

PILLAR 3 - Transversal

Promote gender equity in family farming and the leadership role of rural women.

- Promote policy, legal and organizational frameworks ensuring that women and girls have equal access, control and tenure rights to land, soils and natural resources independent of their civil and marital status.
- Remove from related legislation the explicit or implicit obstacles that impede access to land ownership by rural, indigenous and Afro-descendant women and those that impede access to housing for women, particularly single female heads of household.
- Promote the monitoring of land access policies and plans, auditing women's effective access to and control over soils and land.

- Promote (i) awareness-raising programmes for local authorities on women's inheritance rights and customs; (ii) training programmes for women on their rights to access and control land and on the dissemination of adopted laws, as well as a supportive framework for legal advice.
- Encourage audits of land schemes to monitor women's right to access and legal control of land.
- Design and implement public policies to support the development of rural women and family farmers, allowing them access to financial and non-financial products to access land and land to make it produce.

PILLAR 5

Improve socio-economic inclusion, resilience and well-being of family farmers and rural households and communities

- Improve access to and control of natural resources and productive assets by family farmers, in particular of youth and women, indigenous and landless people.
- Promote the analysis, improvement and implementation of policy and regulatory frameworks to improve access and tenure security of family farmers over natural resources (water, land, soil, ocean, genetic resources, forest resources, aquatic systems, nutrients, energy) by the progressive implementation and use of relevant international instruments and guidelines.
- Promote programs for access to land and soil for food production, especially for women and youth; strengthen and expand family farming programs through access to rural financial and non-financial services, goods and assets, and markets; including cross-border, border and coastal territories and less developed rural areas; supporting the population to have sustainable livelihoods.
- Strengthen organisations' capacity and willingness to monitor the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in each of the countries that have signed the

agreement. In general, promote and build this monitoring capacity beyond the Voluntary Guidelines, including the mechanisms and/or laws linked to land tenure.

PILLAR 6

Promote sustainability of family farming for climate-resilient food systems

- Support the design and implementation of public policies and legislative and organisational frameworks to improve the rights of family farmers to sustainably use, manage and control natural resources (water, land, ocean, genetic resources, forest resources, aquatic systems, nutrients, energy) in line with existing international instruments and guidelines.
- Promote local models of land management, ensuring local decision-making, for a land use that benefits local communities as a priority, with sustainable criteria. Such an organisation should ensure the representation of all land users: family farmers, small-scale farmers, indigenous communities, inhabitants, local authorities.

The UN Decade of Family Farming is an opportunity to guide policies and secure land rights for women and men family farmers through i) continued dialogue and construction of concerted proposals by National Family Farming Committees and their farmers' organizations and other national or regional policy dialogue platforms, ii) co-construction of National Family Farming Plans and the stimulation of other legal and policy frameworks and the review of existing ones, and iii) construction of various global instruments, plans and programmes that support these processes and ensure that they are sustainable.

References:

- Anseeuw, W. (ILC/CIRAD) & Baldinelli, G.M. (ILC) (2020): Uneven ground: land inequality at the heart of unequal societies Available at <https://bit.ly/3kf4Dqx>.
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