

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE FOR FAMILY FARMING

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.



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.**

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 food and farming system. An agro-ecological science-based system that relies on local inputs and is transparent.





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 food system and improved rural development.

The Decade of Family Farming 2019 - 2028

This decade aims to inspire the international community to generate refreshed political commitment to supporting family farmers and crafting pro-family farming policies.

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

We therefore urge 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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