

Family Farming: Status and Strategies

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ABSTRACT

Family Farming is a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on non-wage family labor, including both women's and men's (FAO 2014). Both in developing and developed countries, family farming is the predominant form of agriculture in the food production sector. The world's 500 million smallholder family farms produce four-fifths of the food in developing countries (UN 2014). The women and men engaged in family farming produce 70% of world's food, and generate food and income for hundreds of millions of rural people, both within the family farms and in related enterprises. Family farming has diverse dimensions in terms of food production, income generation, equity, entrepreneurship and environment and is the predominant form of agriculture in the food sector. Family farms provide for preservation and sustainable use of natural resources, that distinguishes them from large scale specialized farming. The diverse agricultural activities of family farms promote environmental sustainability, conserve biodiversity and contribute to healthier and balanced diets. Realizing the important contributions that family farming is making towards food security and eradicating poverty, the year 2014 has been declared as the 'International Year of Family Farming' (IYFF) at the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Key words; Family Farming, Status, Strategies, cropping System

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INTRODUCTION

Family Farming (also Family Agriculture) is a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on non-wage family labor, including both women's and men's (FAO, 2014). The family and the farm are linked, co-evolve and combine economic, environmental, reproductive, social and cultural functions. Family Farming considers men and women farmers, artisan fishers (The livelihoods of some 357 million people depend directly on small-scale fisheries, which employ over 90% of capture fishers of the world), pastoralists (Extensive livestock production systems cover about 25% of the Earth's terrestrial surface, produce about 10% of meat used for human consumption and support 20 million households), gatherers and landless peasants, as well as indigenous people.

Family farming is often more than a professional occupation, as it reflects a lifestyle

based on beliefs and traditions about living and work. It ensures food security even while meeting rising societal expectations for food safety, quality, value, origin and diversity of food. It also maintains rural lifestyle and contributes to socio-economic and environmental sustainability of the rural areas. The objective of this paper is to get through understanding of the status of the family farming and discussing the roles to be played for capacity development at various levels and the task of extension as a catalytic role in linking the family farmers to outside world to acquire skills, augment their income and undertake more productive activities.

Need of family farming:

The earth has many mouths to feed. And every minute, a hundred and sixty more are added. To satisfy increased demand, global food production will have to increase by more than 50 per cent by 2050. Despite the very real progress since the year 2000, there are still over 1 billion people living in extreme poverty, many of whom live in rural areas, as well as more than 800 million people in the world that are still

undernourished. The world's 500 million smallholder family farms produce four-fifths of the food in developing countries. They are also the custodians of much of the world's agro-biodiversity. Yet today, these small-scale producers belong to the "forgotten world".

Family farming in India:

The contribution of small farmers to total farm output in India exceeds 50%, while they cultivate 44% of land. Small farmers are the ones who have lesser capital but higher use of labour and other family-owned inputs, and usually have a higher index of cropping intensity and diversification. Family farms grow a wide variety of cultivars, many of which are landraces. These landraces are genetically more heterogeneous than modern varieties, and thus would offer greater resilience against vulnerability and enhance harvest security in the midst of diseases, pests, droughts and other stresses. The diversity in farming, crops and livestock, often results in higher productivity than the large farms practising usually monoculture.

Growing food demand in India:

The demand for food and processed commodities is increasing due to growing population and rising per capita income. There are projections that demand for food grains would increase from 192 million tonnes in 2000 to 345 million tonnes in 2030. Hence in the next 20 years, production of food grains needs to be increased at the rate of 5.5 million tonnes annually (Vision 2030 of ICAR). Our agriculture is dominated by small farmers, having small landholdings for cultivation. The average size of the landholding declined to 1.32 ha in 2000-01 from 2.30 ha in 1970-71, and absolute number of operational holdings increased from about 70 million to 121 million. If this trend continues, the average size of holding in India would be mere 0.68 ha in 2020, and would be further reduced to a low of 0.32 ha in 2030. This is a

very complex and serious problem, average size of landholding is contracting when share of agriculture in gross domestic product is declining, and number of operational holdings is increasing.

Importance of Family Farming:

Shift in focus:

- Farmer first of ICAR to Family farming first of FAO
- Family Farms: Farm, Feed & Flourish by ICAR
- Zero hunger vision of Indian Government
- Family Farming, a reality present on all continents and on a massive scale in developing countries is currently subject to great challenges and serious uncertainties.
- And yet, although in many places family farmers –men and women– have been forgotten and are neglected by policy makers, they continue to be the basis of sustainable food production in the world's effort toward food security and sovereignty, they play a key role in the management of rural and marine environments and their biodiversity
- They are the source of significant cultural heritage of the local people in each country, and, in short, they are a fundamental pillar of the comprehensive development of nations.

1. Guarantee of food supply

70% of the world food production is provided by family farmers

- ✓ Key to fight Hunger and Malnutrition.
- ✓ Small farms are often more productive and sustainable per unit of land and energy consumed.

2. Generates welfare

A total of 40% of world households depend on family farming

- ✓ Out of the 3,000 million rural people in developing countries, 2,500 belong to families engaged in Family Farming.
- ✓ Also contributes to stabilize the population in rural areas, to preserve historical and cultural values, to generate income and consumption.

3. Poverty alleviation

At least twice more effective than other production sectors in the prevention of poverty

- GDP growth originated in agriculture is at least twice more effective in reducing poverty than GDP growth generated in other sectors.
- Agricultural and rural growth also benefits the poor in urban areas, due to the abundance and proximity of food.

4. Biodiversity protection

Great potential for the conservation of local varieties

- Throughout history, we have used about 7,000 plants to meet basic needs. Nowadays there are over 150 species grown commercially, of which 30 constitute 90% of the calories in the human diet and only four (rice, wheat, corn, potato) account for more than half of the caloric contribution.
- Family Farming, besides being a source of genetic agro-diversity, can ensure their preservation through the use of native seed varieties and native livestock breeds well adapted to various environments.

5. Women as farmers

Women make nearly half of agricultural labor in developing countries

- In most cases, the woman cooks and puts food on the table, sells farm products and deals with the health of the

family. She is the first educator of their children, to whom gives birth.

- Women contribute a significant proportion of agricultural labor force in developing countries. FAO estimates this figure at 43%, while UNIFEM estimates between 60-80%.

The International Year of Family Farming IYFF-2014:

Timeline:

2008: A global food crisis drew renewed attention to food security issues.

2008: An initiative was launched by the World Rural Forum in collaboration with more than 350 civil society and farmers' organizations to declare an International Year of Family Farming (IYFF).

2010: IFAD's President formally supported the call for the IYFF.

2011: The Government of the Philippines, at the 37th Session of the FAO Conference, proposed that the United Nations declare 2014 as the IYFF.

2011: At the 66th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, 2014 was formally declared the International Year of Family Farming.

2013: Establishment of the International Steering Committee for the IYFF 2014, approval of the Master Plan and organization of five Regional Dialogues Events by FAO.

International Year of Family Farming

The United Nations declared 2014 the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) to recognize the importance of family farming in reducing poverty and improving global food security.

The IYFF aims to promote new development policies, particularly at the national but also regional levels, that will help smallholder and family farmers eradicate hunger, reduce rural poverty and continue to

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play a major role in global food security through small-scale, sustainable agricultural production. The IYFF provides a unique opportunity to pave the way towards more inclusive and sustainable approaches to agricultural and rural development that:

- Recognize the importance of smallholder and family farmers for sustainable development
- Place small-scale farming at the centre of national, regional and global agricultural, environmental and social policies
- Elevate the role of smallholder farmers as agents for alleviating rural poverty and ensuring food security for all; as stewards who manage and protect natural resources; and as drivers of sustainable development.

The IYFF has four key objectives:

Ending hunger and poverty is within our reach, but only if we place family and smallholder farmers at the centre of rural development efforts.

- ✓ Support the development of policies that will foster sustainable family farming;
- ✓ Increase knowledge and public awareness on the vital role that family farmers play in the agricultural and development sectors
- ✓ Raise awareness of the needs and potential of family farmers, along with the constraints that they face, and ensure that they have access to technical support
- ✓ Create synergies for sustainability

Other objectives:

- ❖ Recognize the role and rights of women in family farming
- ❖ Strengthen the legitimacy of farmers' organizations and their capacity to

effectively represent and defend the interests of family farmers

- ❖ Create rural economic opportunities for family farmers that provide alternatives to migration to urban areas
- ❖ Promote local and indigenous knowledge and know-how
- ❖ Encourage research that improves food security and supports sustainable rural development, safeguards cultural heritage, protects the environment and maintains biodiversity
- ❖ Promote dialogue on policy and decision making processes
- ❖ Identify and share lessons learned and successful pro-family farming policies, and capitalize relevant knowledge on family farming
- ❖ Enhance communication, advocacy and outreach.

IFAD initiatives for family farming:

1. Creation of National Committees:

The national level is where governments and organizations of smallholder and family farmers can most effectively reach agreements on measures to improve the conditions of family farming. Smallholder and family farming are central to IFAD's mission of reducing poverty and hunger in the rural areas of the developing world.

IFAD-supported programmes help poor rural people improve their food and nutrition security, increase their incomes and strengthen their resilience. IFAD is unique in being an international financial institution and a United Nations agency, and is exclusively focused on agricultural and rural development in developing countries.

More than 60 National Committees in the five continents have promoted the establishment of National Committees to organise IYFF-2014 in each country so that more than 60 platforms of this type have been

set up to promote Family Farming in their respective countries.

These 60 National Committees, focal points for awareness-building in favour of family farming, bring together under the leadership of farming organisations, producers' associations, NGOs, research centres and other entities with the objective of planning goals and activities for the Year in each country. Many of these committees have incorporated governments and international organisations with a view to establishing a dialogue leading to improved public policies affecting men and women family farmers.

2. Increase Investment:

Investing in family farming is investing in a sustainable, food secure future. The IYFF presents a window of opportunity for policymakers to act responsibly to both present and future generations in a way that will reduce poverty and eradicate hunger in their respective countries.

3. Changes at policy level:

Encourage policy changes that will make family farming a more secure, profitable and attractive livelihood, including for rural women and youth. Support programmes that enable smallholder and family farmers to invest in their businesses, link to markets and overcome poverty and vulnerability; Promote incentives to family farmers to manage their land, water, biodiversity and other natural resources in a more sustainable way.

4. Mobilization:

Underlying this were the huge efforts coordinated by the World Rural Forum and supported by more than 360 organisations worldwide: farmers' federations, NGOs, research centres, institutions etc. In over three years' campaigning which attracted increasing support the declaration was finally unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly -in itself a well-deserved recognition of the silent toil of so many men and women family farmers, peasants,

indigenous communities, artisanal fishers and pastoralists, whose work and potential has been so often forgotten and underestimated.

5. FAO publications: Innovation in family farming

The State of Food and Agriculture 2014:

- ✓ Analyses family farms and the role of innovation.
- ✓ For sustainable intensification and improvements in rural livelihoods.
- ✓ Enabled to innovation can:
 - Increase production
 - Preserve natural resources
 - Raise rural incomes.
 - Need of an innovation system that meets the needs of family farms.
- ✓ Innovation systems for family farming:
 - One fundamental driver for all innovators – including family farmers – is access to markets that reward their enterprise.
 - Farmers with access to markets, including local markets, for their produce – whether it be food staples or cash crops – have a strong incentive to innovate
 - Technologies help farmers to enter the market by allowing them to produce marketable surpluses.
 - Innovation and markets depend on, and reinforce, each other.

Case studies on family farming:

1. Bara *et al.*, 2009. Any future needs family farming

Family farming, commonly considered old-fashioned, resistant to change and unable to respond effectively to market opportunities, is gaining recognition as a viable model for the future of agriculture. Governments and donors need to recognize the potential of family farming and support its development.

2. Toulmin *et al.*, 2005. Is There a Future for Family Farming in West Africa

Family farms in West Africa face a challenging future as local markets and food systems become increasingly globalised. The diversity of farming households and their differential ability to respond to market opportunities, invest in productive assets and meet their needs has led some observers to predict the end of the family farm.

3. Family Farming in India: Economic Program Reform to Eliminate Poverty by Wilson

The family farm exists as one of the most important factors in food production in India. Whole families run the farms and, because of the rural location, are less educated than their urban countrymen. The improvement of economic programs would vastly improve the life of the subsistence farmer. Through the establishment of central markets and increased availability and affordability of new technology, the farmer would be given a boost in self-sufficiency, rather than merely catered to.

4. Swaminathan. 2014. Strengthening family farming in India. Financial Chronicle

In the area of empowerment of family farmers, equal attention should be paid to the women and men in the farm family. Women play a critical role in all aspects of agriculture, but invariably their intellectual role and managerial skills remain unrecognized. The IYFF affords a unique opportunity to engender all agricultural policies and programmes.

To provide a new deal to family farmers, we need to attend to the following four areas of importance to sustainable food security and elimination of hunger. i.e., Conservation, Cultivation, Consumption and Commerce.

5. Putting family farmers first to eradicate hunger, FAO report 2014:

FAO report urges enabling the world's half billion family farmers to be agents of change

- Family farms are also the custodians of about 75 per cent of all agricultural resources in the world, and are therefore key to improve ecological and resource sustainability.
- They are also among the most vulnerable to the effects of resource depletion and climate change.
- While evidence shows impressive yields on land managed by family farmers, many smaller farms are unable to produce enough to provide decent livelihoods for the families.
- Effective and inclusive producer organizations can support innovation by members, helping them gain access to markets, and facilitating linkages with others in the innovation system, besides ensuring that family farms have a voice in policy making, the report emphasizes.
- To encourage family farmers to invest in sustainable agricultural practices, which often have high start-up costs and long pay-off periods, authorities should seek to provide an enabling environment for innovation.
- Policies meant to catalyze innovation will need to go beyond technology transfer, according to SOFA (State of Food and Agriculture).
- They must also be inclusive and tailored to local contexts, so that farmers have ownership of innovation, and take gender and intergenerational issues into consideration, involving youth in the future of the agricultural sector.

Challenges that family farmers face:

Smallholder and family farmers are faced with numerous challenges:

- Climate change and climate variability
- Lack of tenure security in a context of increasing competition for land and water (population growth, urbanization) and inadequate governance of land tenure
- Limited access to financial resources, inputs, technology, training, research and advisory services, and education
- Price volatility (energy, food, etc.) and limited access to markets.

Five key demands to be transmitted to decision makers:

1. Each nation should have the right to develop its own food production as the basis for Food Security on the way to achieving Food Sovereignty, taking into account climate change as one of the serious threats to Family Farming.
2. Governments must assume as an urgent priority the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests which they themselves approved within the Committee on Food Security –CFS.
3. In order to promote Family Farming, nations the majority of whose population is active in agriculture must proceed with the transparent and adequate allocation of financial resources to national agriculture budgets. The same criteria should apply to development aid and public investments on the basis of the meaningful participation of family farmers' organisations as well as other Civil Society entities.
4. Institute the equality of rights between men and women family farmers. Women who live and work in rural areas are frequently discriminated against in terms of equitable access to productive resources such as land, water, credit and extension services.
5. Policies in favour of the insertion of youth in agriculture must be approved, taking into

account that only genuine public support to Family Farming will make this profession attractive to them.

Technological empowerment for family farming:

National Policy for Farmers (2007) of the Government of India:

- One of the intents of the policy is to improve economic viability of farming by substantially increasing the net income of farmers and to ensure that agricultural progress is measured by advances made in their income.
- Increase in productivity and area (number in case of livestock) are the two sources of growth in domestic production to meet future demands.
- As there is little scope for horizontal expansion of area under cultivation, vertical expansion is possible through increased cropping intensity.
- This can be achieved by developing crop varieties that are of short duration, can be grown under moisture stress, and are tolerant to climatic conditions of lean period during which agricultural land remains fallow. In this context, it is important to develop technologies that can enhance productivity by raising input use efficiency and by reducing risks of crop failure and yield loss.
- Farmers require appropriate and authentic advice based on meteorological, marketing and management information for land-use decisions and investments.
- Infrastructure support would be needed to minimize post-harvest losses and enable agro-processing and value-addition in the villages to enhance employment and income.
- Farmers' organizations and other entities like small farmers' estates need

to be encouraged, so that farmers get a fair deal and enjoy economies of scale.

- Producer groups and cooperatives have to be strengthened to promote agro-processing industries.

National Agricultural Innovation Project:

- Researches in the Sustainable Rural Livelihood component of the ongoing National Agricultural Innovation Project (2007-2014; Component 3) laid emphasis on most suitable farming systems and allied off-farm activities in less favourable environments, regions and groups, so that livelihood of the rural poor improves through assured food, nutrition, employment and income, while ensuring sustainability of socio-economic and natural resources.
- Particular attention was given to rainfed, hill and mountain, and coastal and island eco-regions.
- The technologies developed under the component could be adopted either by a farmer individually or collectively by a group of farmers involving farm men and women, the farm labourer, the input supplier, the rural industry entrepreneur or the researcher.

Roles to be played to promote family farming:

The success or the failure of the small farms is determined strongly by policy environment and access of farmers to inputs and information. Categorization of farms according to the scale of operation, particularly those in the household sector, is important for formulating appropriate policies for each section of the farming community. A differentiation is needed in the treatment, and hence in choice of policy instrument, of different categories of farmers due to their differences in resource endowment,

inputs use pattern, source of farm labour, use of output and market access.

Policy support:

- **Stop increasing fragmentation:**

Shrinking agricultural land is a stark reality. The per capita availability of agricultural land has declined from 0.48 ha in 1951 to 0.16 ha in 1991, and is likely to reduce further to 0.08 ha in 2035 and even less by 2050 due to growth in human population and infrastructure required for tourism, transport, industry, mining, etc. The newly created farms require fresh efforts to plan out farm layout, as division of farms continues from generation to generation, thus raising a question about the ultimate sustainability of a small farm.

- **Stop Natural resource degradation:**

Total area in the country affected by different forms of land degradations is over 121 mha, of which 105 mha fall under arable land and 16.53 million ha under open forest. To restore and maintain land suffering from such disorders would be a challenge, that needs immediate and long-term attention with requisite ameliorative measures. Reclamation and rejuvenation of vast stretches of land with appropriate technological interventions is the way forward for ensuring livelihoods of millions in these areas.

- **Enhancing resource-use efficiency:**

The current levels of efficiency of natural resources and man-made inputs are rather low. Furthermore, when resources and inputs are used inefficiently, both cost of cultivation and threat to biosphere pollution increase, and consequently the production decreases. This has received the attention of the researchers and policy makers alike.

- **Access to quality inputs:**

Productivity enhancement, post-harvest management and value addition are critical for ensuring sustainability and increasing farm

income and profitability. Timely availability of quality inputs, particularly the seed and planting material, fertilisers, or the feed and fodder in case of livestock, has been a matter of concern for the small farmers.

➤ **Small farm mechanization:**

Acute labour shortage and rising cost of agricultural production have brought engineering inputs in agriculture into focus. Timeliness, precision and resource conservation in farm operations are of utmost importance to realise potential yields of technologies. Therefore, mechanization of small farms is the need of the hour, along with efficient energy management.

➤ **Enhanced energy usage:**

The structure of energy consumption in Indian agriculture has changed and there is a need for introducing technological change involving energy-efficient farm machinery and irrigation system. Use of non-conventional and renewable sources of energy in agriculture is urgently required. Smaller the farm, greater is the need for marketable surplus, so that small farmers are ensured with a sound income. Achieving this goal will be possible only if we develop and disseminate eco-technologies rooted in principles of ecology, economics, equity and employment generation.

Other ways of policy support are:

- Secure access to land, credit, inputs and appropriate mechanization
- Institutional and Infra-Structural Support
- Risk Management
- Supporting marketing associations
- Developing rural investment for rural infrastructure
- liberalization of the land-lease
- Market relaxation of the constraints to interstate movement of agricultural produce
- Institutional support to new models of agricultural co-operatives.

- Recognize the role of pluralistic and mixed systems
- Policies promoting on-farm and off-farm gender-smart and climate-smart investments.
- Public investment in agricultural R&D and extension services should be increased to emphasize sustainable intensification and closing yield and labour productivity gaps.
- Good governance, stable macroeconomic conditions, transparent legal and regulatory regimes and secure property rights
- A decent price for the produce and services needs to be obtained.
- Take gender and intergenerational issues into consideration, involving youth in the future of the agricultural sector.
- Expanding domains of proprietary rights over innovations (PPVFRA)
- Appropriate income, targeted policies, programs and projects are essential (Recent ARYA programme of ICAR)

Research support:

The overarching concerns are nutritional and livelihood security, poverty alleviation, profitability, gender equity, ecology and environment, and competitiveness in terms of cost and quality are major researchable issues before the NARES. Priority issues that call for attention include availability of water and its quality, soil health, genetic resource conservation, insulating farm production against increasing biotic and abiotic stresses, managing climate change, enhancing input-use efficiency, energy management, diversification, and post-harvest management.

Investments in agricultural R&D and rural infrastructure have resulted in high rates of

return. In the tenth five-year plan, the expenditure on agricultural research and development as percentage of agricultural GDP was 0.59% and in eleventh plan it was 0.70 per cent. There is a need to raise it to a level of at least 1% urgently and ultimately to a level of 2 per cent.

- The research focus should be to evolve technologies and management options to suit needs of smallholders' agriculture, and also to involve them in agri-supply chain through institutional innovations.
- International cooperation can make research efforts more effective.

Role of Extension:

1. Region wise best practices of coping mechanisms should be widely disseminated:

- Frontline demonstrations at farmers' fields and at experimental farms show that productivity of crops, livestock and fisheries at the farm level can significantly be enhanced by adopting already developed improved technologies and practices.
- More far-reaching, participatory information and communication technologies need to be developed to effectively link research accomplishments with stakeholders.
- The farmers need to be sensitized about the whole range of agri-business, production systems, research institutions, programmes and schemes of the development departments, open markets both at domestic and global scale, and other partners, to be provided through training, demonstration, literature, and other human resources development support, including interface at different levels.

- Provide access to productive resources and assets
 - Development of co-operatives and farmers' organizations.
 - Socially responsible partnerships with civil society organizations and with the private sector
 - Interaction between research, education, extension and enterprise services is needed
 - Encourage women's participation in decision making
 - Gender sensitization: Raising awareness on the role of women in family farming management and promote women's equal access to land, credit, education, technology, networks and decision-making processes.
 - More research should be carried out in gender to study the situation and reasons
 - Create conditions for private delivery of advisory services
 - Participative research, knowledge transfer and Life Long Learning should be promoted
 - Attracting youth to keep young people on the farm
 - Change the mindsetThe social sustainability of family farming is based on the next generation's willingness to take part in farming
 - Expand the role for information technology
 - Strengthen its global coordination, bringing farmers in melas and explaining the significance of family farming
- #### **2. Entrepreneurship: Agriculture to Agribusiness; Farmer to Agripreneur**
- Small farmers, in general, are faced with resource constraints, especially the poor or weaker sections.

- Such farmers can be organized into groups for resource sharing or as commodity-based and market-orientated groups.
 - The farmers can thereby, make agriculture more viable by sharing input costs, machinery rentals, cutting down on transport costs, getting better banking deals and marketing linkages.
 - Our approach should be to promote diversification to enhance income and employment, minimize risks and allow efficient and sustainable use of natural resources' community-based approaches as means to address poverty and livelihood as well as facilitate integration of disaster-risk reduction, development, and climate change adaptation.
 - Potential areas (Labour intensive): Vegetable cultivation, intercropping, mixed cropping, organic farming, Dairy etc
 - Contract and collective farming should be encouraged
 - Custom hiring centers for farmers
- 3. Linking of farmers with markets:**
- The smallholder farmers face challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing market environment brought about by trade liberalization and globalization.
 - Smallholders often have limited access to markets for both inputs and outputs, and this has a significant effect on their production activities.
 - The efforts towards regulated markets have helped in mitigating market handicaps of producers/ sellers at the wholesale assembling level.
 - However, the rural periodic markets, in general, and the tribal markets in particular, remained out of its developmental ambit.
- Smallholders, due to their small surpluses in production, generally are exposed to high degrees of risk and transaction costs.
 - There is a need for promotion of agro-processing centres in rural sector/production catchments for value addition of agricultural produce including technological back-up support.
 - Appropriate strategies will have to be worked out to address issues relating to marketing/infrastructure required, the most immediate need being development of local transport network.
 - Direct marketing through SHGs or informal groups, NGOs, cooperatives, Farmers Associations, Companies, partnerships, joint ventures need to be encouraged. Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) are a way forward in this context.
 - Community radio
 - Required an agricultural innovation system that recognizes farmers themselves as innovators
 - Innovative farming training guides should be prepared
 - Encourage innovations across different sectors
 - Farmer-led innovation and formal research should complement each other

Conclusion:

The 2014 World Food Day theme - Family Farming: “Feeding the world, caring for the earth” - It focuses world attention on the significant role of family farming in eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development, in particular in rural areas. This is a strong signal that the international community recognizes the

important contribution of family farmers to world food security and also providing resources for Women and Young Farmers. In economic terms, family farming is identified with specific entrepreneurial skills, business ownership and management, choice and risk behaviour, resilience and individual achievement. Family farming is often more than a professional occupation, as it reflects a lifestyle based on beliefs and traditions about living and work. It ensures food security even while meeting rising societal expectations for food safety, quality, value, origin and diversity of food. It also maintains rural lifestyle and contributes to socio-economic and environmental sustainability of the rural areas. Family farms have an inherent capacity for quick production expansion and key to sustainable food production, if given an appropriate policy environment.

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