



2014 International Year of Family Farming

International Encounters
« FAMILY FARMING AND RESEARCH »
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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – *for a world without hunger*

1. The Goal of the 2014 International Year of Family Farming

- Position family farming as a central piece of agricultural, social and environmental policies in national agendas
- Increase awareness and promote a better understanding of the challenges faced by Family Farmers to help to identify different ways of supporting them



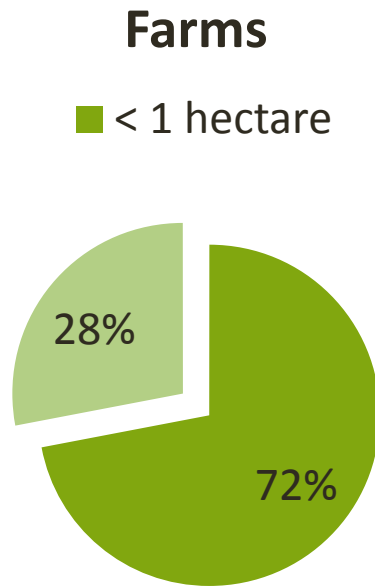
2. Family Farming is predominant in all agricultural systems across the world

- Family farming has been very persistent and resilient and has remained the predominant model of farms in the world
- Over 500 million Family Farms out of 570 million farms worldwide
- The vast majority are small farms. More than 475 million farms have less than 2 hectares



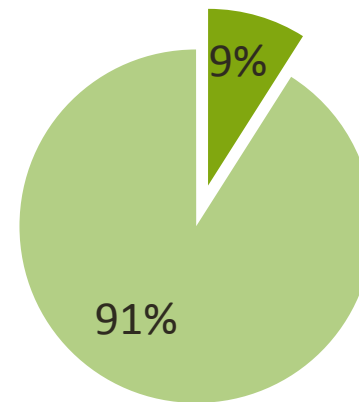
3. Small Family Farms are predominant but control a small portion of agricultural land

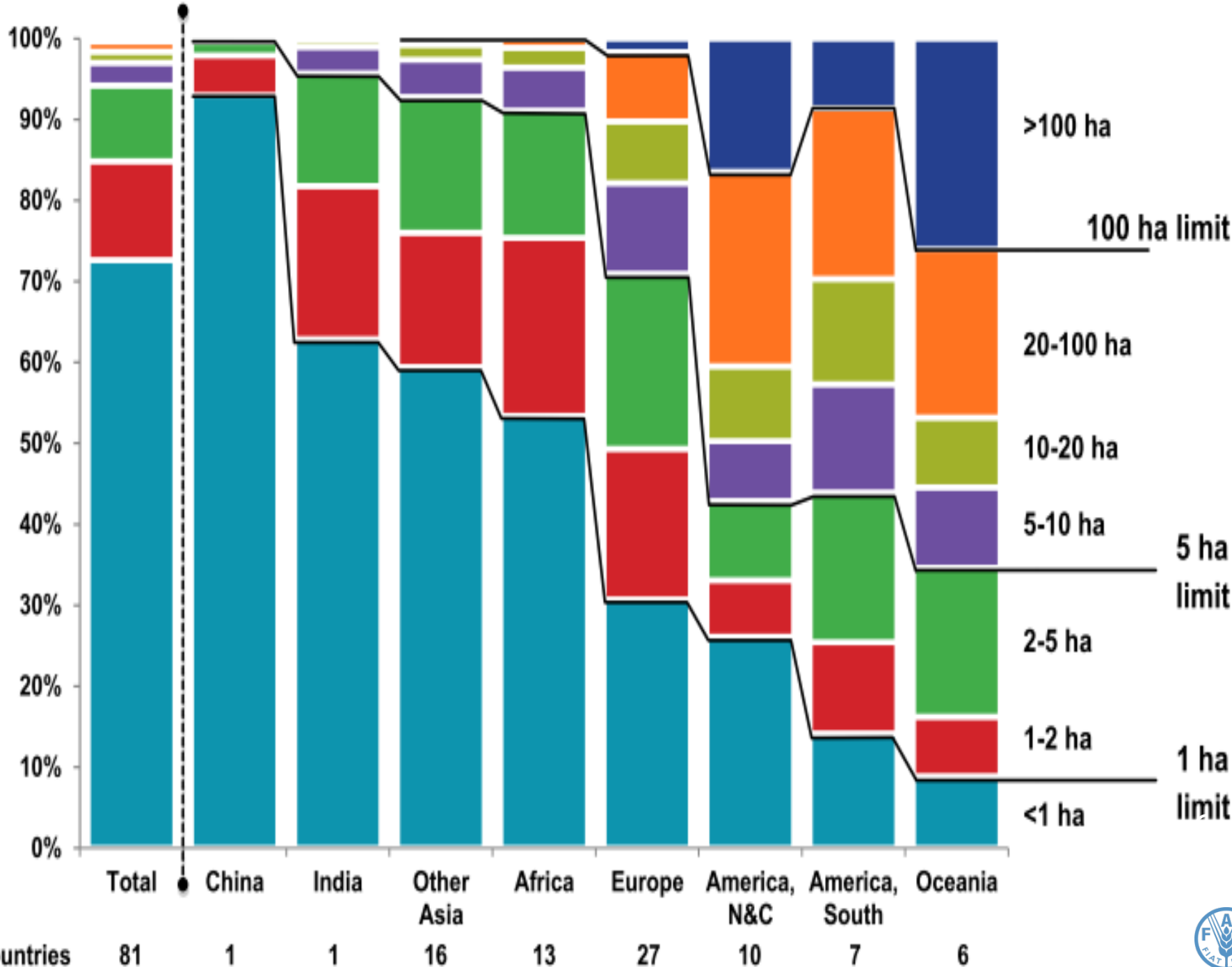
- Farms of less than 1 hectare account for 72 percent of all farms but control only 9 percent of all agricultural land



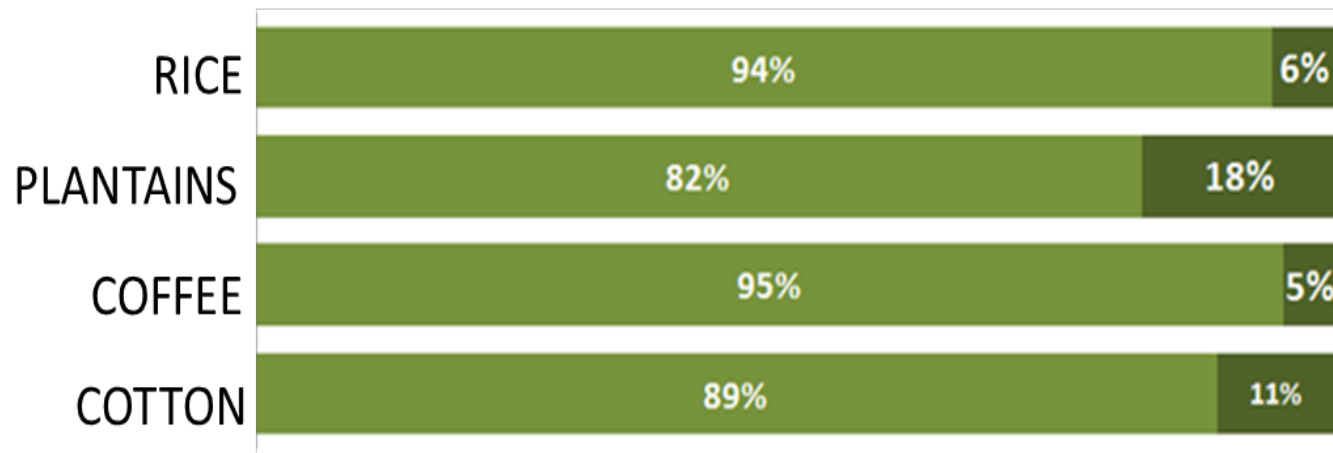
Agricultural Land

■ < 1 hectare

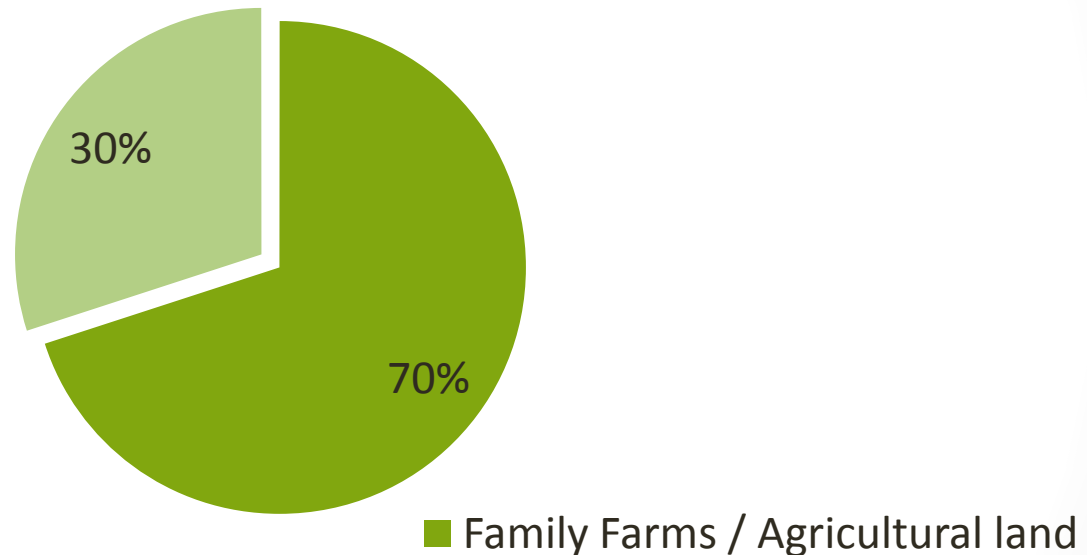




Contribution of FF in terms of volume produced



4. World wide FF control 70% of land



Family farms control about 70% of the world's agricultural land
Estimates suggest that they produce more than 80 percent of the world's food in value terms



6. Policy Dialogue : Regional Dialogues

Consensus over three characteristics of family farms:

- Diversified agricultural systems that preserve traditional food products, contributing to better diets and agro-biodiversity
- Embedded in territorial networks and local cultures, spend their incomes mostly within local and regional markets, generating many agricultural and non agricultural jobs
- Play major part in fighting hunger especially when linked to social protection policies



6. Policy Dialogue conclusions

Family farmers can quickly reach productivity potential when an appropriate policy environment is in place

- Legal frameworks
- Pro-family farming policies with voice of family farmers
- Agricultural policy that does no harm



6. Policy Dialogue conclusions

- **Access to financial services and credit**
- **Access to land and natural resources**
 - secure land tenure
- **Access to inputs and markets**
 - high input costs and low prices for products
- **Extension services**
 - Adapt and mitigate to climate change

6. Policy Dialogue conclusions

- **Producer organizations and cooperatives** must be strengthened
- **Gender equality and youth engagement in agriculture**
 - role women play in farming not recognized in terms of income earned and asset ownership
 - Youth are leaving rural areas



8. FAO Initiatives

- Expert Working Group to achieve common international criteria to facilitate definitions and typologies of FF at country and regional level
- Policy making hindered by lack of adequate definitions and characterization at national and regional level and limited statistical data at holding level
- More effective harmonization of agricultural data in UN agencies will facilitate interagency coordination



8. FAO Initiatives

The Working Group will benefit of existing initiatives:

- The ***World Agricultural Watch*** Initiative, hosted by FAO and supported by IFAD, France and CIRAD to support countries to inform policy on agricultural transformations, recognizing the centrality of agrarian structures and family farms
- ***Specialized Meeting on Family Farming of the MERCOSUR (REAF)*** established common criteria at regional level, fostering national decisions to create National Voluntary Registers of Family Farmers for policy purposes
- *WG on Family Farming in the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries*



8. FAO Initiatives

- Web-based knowledge platform on family farming
- Digitalized quality information from all over the world on family farming, including:
 - national laws and regulations
 - public policies
 - best practices
 - relevant data and statistics
 - research findings, articles and publications
- Continue dialogue after 2014





2014
International Year of
Family Farming

Thank you

For more information please visit us at:

<http://www.fao.org/family-farming-2014/en/>

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