

Territorial Development and Family Farming Program



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Julio de 2023

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) 2023



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This publication is also available in electronic (PDF) format from the Institute's web site: <http://repositorio.iica.int/>

Editorial coordination: Federico Villarreal

Translation: IICA Language Unit

Layout: IICA Communication Unit

Territorial Development and Family Farming Program/ Inter-American
Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture – San Jose, C.R.: IICA,
2023, 26 p.; 21x16 cm.

ISBN: 978-92-9273-076-5

Published also in Spanish

1. territorial development 2. family farming
3. regional development 4. livelihood diversification I. IICA
II. Title

AGRIS
E14

DEWEY
333.7

San José, Costa Rica
2023

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Acronyms

CCAF	Advisory Committee on Family Farming
DFF	Decade of Family Farming
ELTSA	Leadership School for the Transformation of Agrifood Systems of the Americas
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
MTP	Medium-Term Plan
OPSAa	Public Policy Observatory for Agrifood Systems
PDТАF	Territorial Development and Family Farming Program
PP-AL	Public Policy and Rural Development in Latin America Network
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

IICA's Technical Cooperation

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), established in 1942, is the specialized agricultural agency of the Inter-American System that supports the efforts of its Member States to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being. The Institute promotes hemispheric cooperation aimed at achieving a more competitive, inclusive and sustainable agricultural sector, capable of feeding the region and the world.

IICA works together with its member countries to identify their needs and demands for technical cooperation, in order to provide the most appropriate responses to these demands through knowledge management led by its specialized technical experts, in coordination with hemispheric programs and the participation of partner institutions and professional networks of recognized prestige.

The Institute's operations are aimed at the implementation of three strategic technical cooperation actions:

- Support the strengthening and transformation of agri-food systems, in accordance with the mandate of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture expressed in resolution 531, in which it endorses the 16 messages presented by the Americas at the United Nations Food Systems Summit of 2021.

- Provide tools and inputs that contribute to the formulation of a new generation of public policies aimed at recognizing the contribution of agriculture in agri-food systems and in solving the climate crisis, as well as addressing science and innovation issues, placing agricultural and livestock producers of all contexts and scales at the center; and

- Support the collective action efforts of member countries in areas linked to their institutional mandate.

To this end, the new Medium-Term Plan (MTP) established the creation of a new integrating body called the Observatory of Public Policies for the Transformation of Agri-Food Systems. The Observatory carries out cross-cutting actions in all areas of the MTP, and operates in coordination with the Coalition to Build Capacities for the Transformation of Agri-Food Systems, whose objective is to mobilize political, social, financial and technical support between national, regional and global entities with common and complementary objectives, in order to contribute to the development of leadership capabilities, and to the promotion and management of innovation, required to foster the evolution of the agri-food systems of the Americas.

Furthermore, the programs were adjusted to adequately reflect the emerging issues of the new global scenarios and priorities. IICA currently has the following hemispheric programs:

Innovation and Bioeconomy
Territorial Development and Family Farming
International Trade and Regional Integration
Agricultural Climate Action and Sustainability
Agricultural Health, Safety and Agri-food Quality
Digitalization of Agrifood Systems
Gender Equality and Youth

The seven programs act in a coordinated manner and with an interdisciplinary approach to ensure the provision of articulated responses to the challenges faced by the 34 Member States of the Institute.

Through these changes, we seek to continue consolidating the vision of an IICA that looks outward to the world from the Americas and that, through its network of national delegations and its various regional and subregional technical cooperation mechanisms, provides member countries with technical cooperation of excellence, offering real solutions to the Ministries of Agriculture of the Americas.

Summary

The Territorial Development and Family Farming Program (PDTAF) brings together two frames of reference in which the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has considerable experience in the Americas. On the one hand, family farming, as a heterogeneous and multifunctional player and a pillar of Latin American rural development, and on the other, rural territories as multidimensional management units that express various human groups' visions and interests. However, growing food insecurity issues on the continent have led the Institute to add a further frame of reference of agrifood systems to its actions, recognizing food as a complex system that goes beyond food production. In this context, the PDTAF focuses on family farming and on how it can contribute through its multifunctional capacities to the development of rural life and to attaining more sustainable and equitable agrifood systems.

The Program's actions are framed in a number of international agreements recognizing the importance of family farming for global food security, the sustainability of ecosystems and the revitalization of rural economies.

In this scenario, the PDTAF recognizes the existence of numerous challenges to the development of family farming, and a number of favorable conditions for the coming years on which to base its work strategy: the positioning of family farming as a relevant stakeholder to strengthen agrifood systems, the need for a new generation of policies to strengthen such systems, and the importance of fostering collective action among the hemisphere's countries. All this was put forward in IICA's 2022-2026 Medium-Term Plan (MTP), to which can be added the creation of associative strategies as an instrument to promote competitiveness in family farming and its inclusion in agrifood systems.

In this context, the goal of the PDTAF is to foster the formulation of public policies to boost family farming's systemic competitiveness, for which three work lines are established: 1) a new generation of family farming public policies that strengthen agrifood systems and develop rural territories; 2) family farming's social and economic inclusion in agrifood systems and rural territories; and 3) family farming's contribution to the sustainability and competitiveness of agrifood systems and rural territories.

The technical cooperation actions promoted in these work lines will be supported by collective operations fostered in coordination with family farming bodies with hemispheric and regional coverage, for which the Advisory Committee on Family Farming (CCAF) was formed as a space for dialogue and consultation with IICA's strategic partners in family farming. The Program will also have the support of the Leadership School for the Transformation of Agrifood Systems in the Americas (ELTSA) and the Public Policy Observatory for Agrifood Systems (OPSAa), two institutional systems designed to reinforce technical cooperation actions by strengthening capacities and fostering a new generation of public policies for agrifood systems.

1. Introduction

IICA seeks to contribute to the development and sustainability of rural territories and improve inhabitants' wellbeing through knowledge management and by mobilizing human and financial resources through the PDTAF.

The Program recognizes the heterogeneity and diversity of rural spaces and of family farming. It focuses on fostering and, above all, analyzing actions to harness the potential of family farming as a revitalizing player in the balanced development of rural territories from different perspectives: 1) in economic terms, by increasing production and productivity, adding value and creating jobs; 2) in social terms, by establishing social networks and support communities; and 3) in environmental terms, by guaranteeing diversified, clean and sustainable production, based on the organization of family farming systems in all farms and their associative ventures. However, States must formulate public policies to stimulate investment in public goods and services necessary to boost opportunities in the territories, and in innovation, modernization, associativity, access to markets, trade infrastructure, communications infrastructure and co-management of development.

This document presents the main action lines that the PDTAF fosters to attain this goal, grouped into the basic elements of the Program; the action strategy, organized along strategic lines and their respective actions; the description of the PDTAF's technical cooperation mechanisms and services; and the scope of the recently formed CCAF, on which detailed information is provided below.

2. Family farming, rural territories and agrifood systems

IICA defines territorial development as the process of productive and institutional transformation of the rural environment to stimulate economic growth; public investment in infrastructure and generation of public goods and services that are accessible for production and the territories' productive and economic units; socioeconomic inclusion, through the increased density of social networks; and the wellbeing of the inhabitants of the territory, all of which should generate the necessary conditions to reduce poverty and inequality, and boost the empowerment of the territory's stakeholders. Due to their nature, rural territories can present balanced multidimensional, multisectoral and intersectoral development. This definition refers to the territory, a specific space where socioeconomic relationships are established among diverse stakeholders.

Moreover, family farming is defined as a socioproductive category that refers to a way of producing in which the employment of family labor is directly involved in the production and management of the productive unit. It is by nature multifunctional, as in addition to representing an important source of food production in our societies and optimizing family work in rural areas, it plays a key role in revitalizing local economies and has great potential in the sustainable environmental management of the territories.

This broad, heterogeneous concept represents and recognizes a diverse set of people, groups, organizations and companies, whose way of life is based on agricultural and forestry work. It is inclusive, as it includes population groups of different ethnic origins in diverse situations, and it is political, as it reflects not only social, economic, cultural and civic situations and connections, but also individual and collective behaviors. However, it is above all a concept that is constantly evolving, gradually adapting to particular contexts. Finally, family farming is an activity potentially favored by a number of differentiated public policies, that is, policies that aim to generate human, social and economic-productive development and which respond to its particularities.

Family farming has an important influence in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), due to the significant number of productive units operating in all its countries, with particular and not necessarily homogenous denominations. It is a socio-productive category with growing importance in the region's political agendas.

Family farming is positioned as a relevant player in strengthening agrifood systems.

The multifunctionality of family farming makes this segment of producers a vital piece in strengthening agrifood systems, due to its diverse contributions to the countries, including in food security, the sustainability of ecosystems and the revitalization of the rural economy.

This is confirmed in a technical document based on three dialogs with ICA Member State representatives, presented at the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit, particularly message 14, which states that “agricultural producers are at the center of the agrifood systems of the Americas, with a great diversity of systems and productive proposals, including family farming. It is essential, therefore, that they participate in the debate and design of differentiated strategies to be implemented” (IICA 2021). The same document states that:

“Special mention and recognition of its undeniable role in agrifood systems goes deservedly to the approximately 17 million family farmers, whose production is closely tied to the food security of the Americas and to a large number of the achievements in the context of such systems. Special mention and attention also deservedly go to women, young people and the rural poor and indigenous, who form part of the diversity of the rural societies of the Americas” (IICA 2021).

These aspects, which reflect the recognition of the potential of family farming at the highest regional political level, create a very favorable environment to align will, capacity and resources around these stakeholders.

In some countries of LAC, family farming accounts for up to 60 percent of total agricultural production and generates 75 percent of sectoral employment (ECLAC et al. 2013). In the region, the approximately 17 million farms belonging to family farmers are home to a population of around 60 million people. These two figures give some idea of the size of this segment of stakeholders and their potential to drive rural development.

As part of the rural territories, family farming interacts with natural resources, economic activities, local stakeholders and networks, social and business organizations, institutions, infrastructure and services. Therefore, it is in these territories that family farming can articulate actions with public and private stakeholders and orient comprehensive, inclusive and sustainable strategies for their development.

In recent years, the crises generated by the COVID-19 pandemic and war in Europe have highlighted the need to focus efforts on food security, which means using agrifood systems as another frame of reference for the management of agricultural activity. This approach seeks to strengthen current agrifood systems so that agriculture is not only more equitable among its productive units and sustainable in terms of its relation to ecosystems, but also so that it provides nutritious, healthy foods for the population.

Consequently, to further boost the contributions of family farming, the PDTAF takes the rural territories and agrifood systems of which it is part as frames of reference, and through its analysis undertakes actions to benefit production, competitiveness and the inclusion of family farming in national and international value chains, through a sustainable use of natural resources.

3. PDTAF international framework

To improve the effectiveness of support strategies for family farming and the development of rural territories and to create favorable conditions for collective action, the operations to be implemented must be framed in the main international agreements and commitments in this area.

The following agreements frame the actions of the PDTAF and its main partners in the coming years. These guidelines and frames of reference are valuable for the design of strategies, collaboration and establishing partnerships between governmental institutions, rural society, the business sector, academia and cooperants.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (2030 Agenda)

The 2030 Agenda or the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is perhaps the most important global effort in recent decades to combat the threats facing humanity, and achieve equitable development in harmony with the environment. It is an action plan promoted by the UN since 2015, defining a number of goals and targets related to equality, equity, the economy, poverty, peace, food, climate change and the environment.

On an international scale, it is the institutional agreement with the greatest strategic reach, proposing a unified discourse on the future organization of relations between society, the economy and the environment, coordinating the economic development agenda with the environmental and human development agendas. It consists of 17 goals and 169 targets to orient sustainable development policies and initiatives. Rural territories and family farming play a decisive role in the fulfilment of this agenda. In the general overview of this agreement, around 80 percent of 169 targets are related to rural territories and over 60 percent involve family farming, directly or indirectly, demonstrating the need to formulate specific strategies and policies that contribute with these transformation processes. Actions in rural spaces are reflected in 20 percent of the targets and at least 11 of the 17 SDGs require the direct participation of family farming (Torrens 2022). The challenge lies in incorporating these goals and targets into countries' development policies and instruments.

The United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDF)

The UNDF is probably the most relevant international framework for family farming, as it is aimed exclusively at addressing this segment of farmers. This is global recognition of the role played by this type of agriculture in countries' sustainable development, through the sustainable management of natural resources, the revitalization of the rural economy, equity in access to resources, food security and resilient food systems. It was passed in 2017 by the UN General Assembly to be implemented between 2019 and 2028, in response

to demands from national governments, civil society and international organizations to strengthen actions begun in 2014 as part of the International Year of Family Farming. The proclamation of the DFF was accompanied by the Global Action Plan, which seeks to broaden the visibility and recognition of the role of family farming in countries' development. This agreement increases the opportunities to fulfil the 2030 Agenda, as it confers on this social stakeholder a strategic role to consolidate actions established in the SDGs.

The DFF establishes the following seven pillars for the implementation of policies and actions to benefit family farming: 1) Develop an enabling policy environment to strengthen family farming; 2) Support youth and ensure the generational sustainability of family farming; 3) Promote gender equity in family farming and the leadership role of rural women; 4) Strengthen family farmers' organizations and capacities to generate knowledge, represent farmers and provide inclusive services in the urban-rural continuum; 5) Improve socio-economic inclusion, resilience and well-being of family farmers, rural households and communities; 6) Promote sustainability of family farming for climate-resilient food systems; 7) Strengthen the multi-dimensionality of family farming to promote social innovations that contribute to territorial development and food systems that safeguard biodiversity, environment and culture (FAO and IFAD, 2019. United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028. Global Action Plan).

The Paris Agreement

Adopted in 2015 at the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to fight the effects of climate change, the Paris Agreement also constitutes an important framework for family farming. Unlike the 2030 Agenda and the DFF, the Paris Agreement does not make direct reference to rural territories or family farming. Although it is a generic declaration, it is possible to take from its considerations and proposals a number of indications on how agriculture in general, and family farming in particular, contribute to the implementation of its strategies. According to this framework reference, countries must coordinate measures to reduce the effects of climate change with broader actions to bring about sustainable development and eliminate poverty. Agriculture, particularly family farming, has great potential to contribute to the fulfilment of the definitions proposed in the Paris Agreement. These actions can be classed into two specific areas: climate change mitigation and adaptation. In both areas, family farming has developed a number of innovative initiatives and practices to reduce the impact of the climate crisis, increasing its recognition by other sectors of society. This agreement is presented as a milestone in the fight against climate change, and together with the UNFCCC meetings, strengthens countries to mobilize capacities and financial resources to address climate change.

The United Nations Food Systems Summit

The UN Food Systems Summit is another UN initiative, framed in the 2030 Agenda as a measure to contribute to the fulfilment of the SDGs related to world farming and food. It was held in 2021 with the goal of transforming global food systems to improve stakeholders' inclusion and to make food systems more sustainable and resilient. This event facilitated dialog and alignment between governments, rural inhabitants, the business sector and international organizations around global issues, such as poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition and climate change, and their solution through contributing to food systems.

At this summit, family farming was recognized as a key player to advance towards more sustainable and inclusive food systems, due to its role in food production, the sustainability of ecosystems and the revitalization of rural economies. Furthermore, its potential as a socioeconomic and productive sector is recognized, while acknowledging the difficulties and lags still faced by thousands of family farming associative production units. Governments must design and implement more and better differentiated public policies that improve conditions for accessing capital and investment resources and public goods and services. IICA played an active role at the summit, presenting the position of the countries of the Americas with 16 key messages (IICA 2021) approved by the region's agriculture ministers, regarding the central role of agriculture in food security, environmental protection, rural development and the elimination of poverty.

9th Summit of the Americas

In this space, the heads of state and government and leaders of the Americas meet to analyze the continent's situation, make commitments and propose action plans to advance towards a prosperous, inclusive region by strengthening hemispheric integration. The 9th Summit of the Americas: Building a Sustainable, Resilient and Equitable Future was held in June 2022 in Los Angeles, USA, with the participation of leaders from the public sector and civil society, business leaders and young people from the hemisphere, who addressed challenges and opportunities in the region in social inclusion, economic recovery, health, resilience, climate change, democracy, digital transformation and migration. At this event the member institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group, of which IICA was part, committed to supporting the Americas' recovery and fostering cooperation among participating States.

All these international frameworks, representing the political environment that defines the PDTAF's orientations and actions for the coming years, and which create the conditions that drive its efforts, stem from a multidimensional and interdependent vision of global issues and from the need to adapt strategies to tackle them, by maximizing stakeholders' capacities to respond in an integrated manner to the challenges raised. Consequently, family farming needs to be repositioned as a fundamental stakeholder in the different

dimensions of countries' development, and therefore, as a strategic solution to the challenges facing humanity.

4. Guiding elements in the PDTAF strategy

This section introduces some of the most important challenges facing family farming. Given the diversity of family farming and the limitations that these farmers have faced historically, the number of challenges for its development is considerable. The most significant challenges to consider in orienting a PDTAF support strategy are:

- **Productivity.** Productivity is a pillar of productive systems in this segment, and consequently of the rural economy. Low productivity reflects limited access to productive services and assets, leading to lower profitability. Family farming, in general, is developed in traditional productive systems, whose yields are between 30 and 50 percent lower than those of large farms.
- **Innovation.** Innovation is essential for improving agriculture's competitiveness. However, family farming faces numerous barriers to the adoption of new technologies, including its incapacity to invest in them, low education levels, scarce access to technical assistance and insufficient public policies and stimulus to bring about and share the use of suitable technologies.
- **The digitalization of family farming and the rural environment.** Due to their recent and rapid growth, digital technologies will be decisive in improving the competitiveness of family farming and the inclusion of rural inhabitants. Consequently, reducing the digital gap is now a priority of governments and rural inhabitants.
- **The incorporation of women and rural youth.** It is estimated that women, who make up approximately 43 percent of the agricultural workforce in developing countries, have less access than men to productive services and assets, education and decision-making, among other aspects. Similarly, rural youths have fewer job and education opportunities in rural areas, and subsequently migrate to urban centers. Therefore, strengthening the participation of women and young people in family farming productive units will contribute to developing their territories, improving family incomes and the transition between generations.
- **Market connections.** The economic sustainability of family farming productive units depends on their sustained access to markets in competitive conditions and with fair payments that generate surplus; however, such access is one of the main challenges facing the different segments of family farming, due to their conditions of competitiveness, access to commercial services, market requirements, etc.

- **Strengthening human and social capacities.** The success of rural development processes depends on the participation of rural inhabitants, who must improve their capacities to innovate, make proposals and act collectively.
- **Associativity.** Especially in its most consolidated forms, such as cooperativism, associativity is a necessary path to increase the impact of family farming in rural life, as it improves the governance of family farming systems, their productive-commercial processes and equitable distribution of its benefits. Although the countries of the Americas have driven associative forms in agriculture, through the establishment of standards, institutions, policies and support services, the strengthening of these organizations is still a work in progress, especially in terms of the productive inclusion of those segments of family farming with the fewest capacities.
- **Mobilization of investments.** Family farming is a key sector of the Latin American economy; however, investments in this sector have not been enough to boost its development, so it is necessary to increase efforts to consolidate its insertion in public policies, strengthen its associative forms and implement financial instruments suited to its capacities, among other actions.
- **The articulation of public policies and institutions.** Family farming's potential to contribute to countries' development lies in its multifunctional capacities, through which it can make contributions to society beyond the provision of food. Harnessing such capacities involves the execution of multisectoral activities, hence it is necessary to promote institutional frameworks and policies that articulate sectoral actions (economic, social and environmental), and the different spheres of public management in the countries (national, regional, municipal, etc.) to bring about a more efficient provision of productive and social services.

5. PDTAF Strategy

During the 2023-2026 period, the Program focuses on family farming and its possible contribution to strengthening agrifood systems and developing rural territories. To drive these contributions in agreement with the 2022-2026 MTP, efforts will focus on analyzing public policies for family farming and promoting a new generation of policies to exceed the limitations of current ones and adapt better to the context of our countries. Furthermore, the Program fosters political dialog in different regional spaces for the purpose of analysis and advocacy and supports the design of new policies.

The Program also fosters actions to contribute to the sustainability and competitiveness of family farming production systems, by strengthening the capacities of its cooperatives and organizations. Lastly, with the intention of helping reduce asymmetries and inequalities between different types of family farmers, the Program fosters actions to favor stakeholders' social and economic inclusion. The Program plays special attention to the participation of women and young entrepreneurs, and to reducing the digital gap through cooperatives and the provision of technical assistance services.

Actions vary annually in this working framework, depending on the demands and conditions in a given context. Previous proposals are materialized through alliances with regional and hemispheric partners with whom the Program has made closer working ties, including public and private regional and hemispheric political agencies whose work focuses on family farming, leading cooperative organizations in the hemisphere, and academic institutions that analyze family farming, rural territories and the digitalization of agriculture and the rural environment.

Goal

To collaborate with governments and social, economic and business cooperatives in family farming to foster guidelines for public policies and instruments aimed at boosting its competitiveness to improve its insertion and strengthen agrifood systems and the development of rural territories.

A new generation of agricultural policies is needed to strengthen agrifood systems.

Strengthening agrifood systems must start by recognizing the limiting factors in the agricultural production structure, and making adjustments that maximize agriculture's contributions, particularly from family farming. Differentiated public policies are a suitable instrument for fostering family farming capacities; however, after applying them for approximately two decades, although positive advances have been made in the recognition of their importance and fostering institutional frameworks, standards and policy instruments in many countries to boost its contributions, some specialists agree that challenges remain in their design and implementation, including the partial appropriation of this concept, the sectoral coverage of promoting agencies, the deficient coordination between sectoral policies, assignments of insufficient resources, etc. Therefore, the need arises for new public policies for family farming, to properly address its heterogeneity and multifunctionality. Conscious of this challenge, IICA's 2022-2026 MTP explains the need to: contribute tools and inputs that help formulate a new generation of public policies that recognize the contribution of agriculture to agrifood systems and to solving the climate crisis, and address science and innovation factors, placing farmers of all conditions and sizes at center stage (IICA 2022c).

Action lines

1. A new generation of public policies for family farming that contribute to strengthening agrifood systems and developing rural territories.

This action line is oriented at the design and application of a new generation of public policies for family farming, taking as a starting point the analysis of current policies, fostering dialog and the participation of stakeholders, for which the PDTAF proposes the following technical cooperation actions, to be executed closely with the OPSA:

- Generating information and knowledge on the situation of differentiated public policies for family farming, to identify advances, propose future actions and capitalize successful experiences.
- Contributing to the design and implementation of new regional and national public policies that facilitate investments for the socioeconomic development of rural

territories and a better participation of family farming in agrifood systems and in the development of rural territories.

- Strengthening political dialog among public and private stakeholders of family farming by fostering spaces for exchanging, proposing and managing family farming public policies.
2. Social and economic inclusion of family farming in agrifood systems and rural territories.

The actions in this line are aimed at family farming stakeholders facing limitations to be incorporated into agrifood systems and rural territories. The PDTAF provides support for productive ventures and activities by fostering its activities, and technological innovations, policies and services suited to their needs. Although the emphasis is placed on policies for productive inclusion, social protection policies are also considered, through the following technical cooperation actions:

- Carrying out affirmative actions to increase the participation of women and young people in family farming in decision-making and economic activities, with an emphasis on promoting rural entrepreneurialism. The implementation of these actions is done in coordination with the Gender Equality and Youth Program.
 - Generating tools and mechanisms to strengthen innovation systems, particularly in research and agricultural extension services and their impact on the productive inclusion of family farming in agrifood systems.
 - Fostering digital inclusion and connectivity to reduce digital gaps, by training human capital and through the assistance of agricultural organizations, especially cooperatives. The Digitalization of Agrifood Systems Program plays an important role in the execution of support and orientation actions promoted.
3. Contribution of family farming to the sustainability and competitiveness of agrifood systems and rural territories

With this line the PDTAF fosters the following actions to strengthen family farming ventures, especially in relation to the associative capacities of its organizations and fostering sustainable productive systems. The articulation of food security policies and climate policies are important here.

- Developing the associative and organizational capacities of family farming, with an emphasis on cooperativism as a means to generate economies of scale, strengthen negotiation capacities and facilitate ties with markets and agrifood systems.

- Strengthening family farming capacities to implement sustainable production systems in balance with ecosystems, in coordination with the Agricultural Climate Action and Sustainability Program.

6. PDTAF technical cooperation

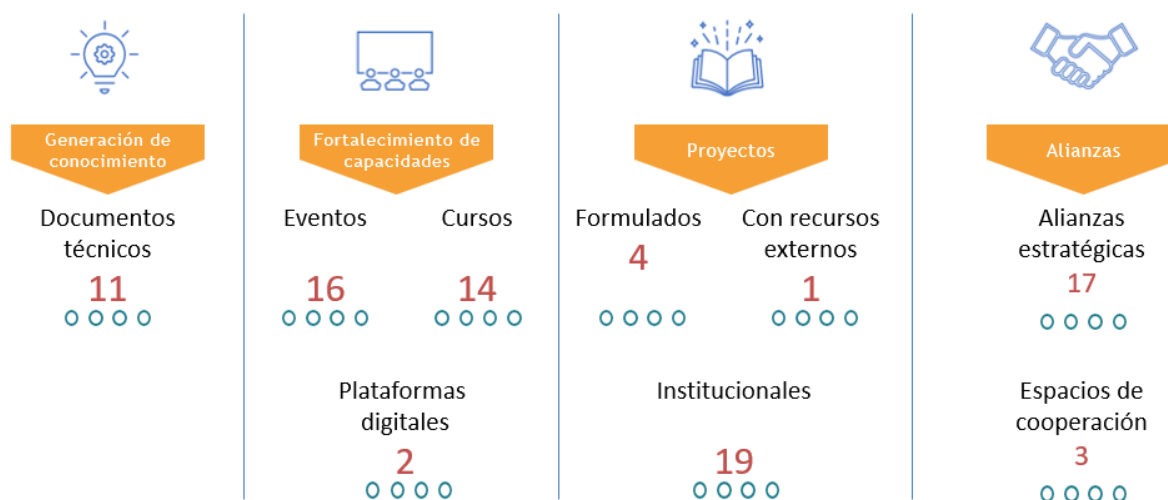
During the 2018-2023 period the Program based its operations on the MTP in force. Of the actions promoted at hemispheric, regional and national level, those of the countries were undertaken in coordination with IICA representations. Priority issues included the associativity and organization of family farming, with special attention to the cooperative movement in the Americas, innovation systems, technical assistance, the digitalization of family farming, access to markets, the economic revitalization of rural territories and more recent public policies for family farming.

These actions were implemented through research studies to generate knowledge that was set down in technical documents; in-person and online events to improve the visibility of the PDTAF; capacity-building, especially through online courses; the design and implementation of digital platforms to facilitate information management and interaction between stakeholders; and the formulation and execution of projects financed with external and institutional resources coordinated with the representations.

In line with the MTP, during this period work was done to consolidate and broaden the base of institutions with which the Program is related, by forming cooperation partnerships and ties with academic networks, regional and hemispheric organizations representing family farming, and regional integration mechanisms with agendas that support family farming.

The following graph summarizes the activities fostered during the period indicated.

Summary of technical cooperation actions fostered by the PDTAF in the period 2018–2023



At present the Program’s technical cooperation includes the following services:

- Studies and research into rurality and family farming that can be used as a basis for the design of public policies and development initiatives.
- Exchanging and capitalizing experiences to define lessons learned and best practices.
- Designing and implementing strategies for the comprehensive management of rural territories, with emphasis on the potential of the synergic relationship between family farming and the territories.
- Fostering associativity in family farming productive units or their inclusion in cooperative companies.
- Consolidating commercialization models that favor the incorporation of family farming into markets, including differentiated family farming seals.
- Strengthening family farming support institutions and services, including technical assistance, rural extension, financial, innovation and technology transfer, digital inclusion and market information.
- Designing and implementing intersectoral institutional frameworks and differentiated inclusive policies for rural territories and family farming.

- Developing and adapting methodologies and technical tools for their specific application with family farming associations and cooperatives, their production systems and the institutions that attend to them.
- Designing, negotiating, establishing and implementing new development projects in partnership with member countries and multilateral organizations interested in this field.
- Coordinating with the OPSAa and ELTSA, two IICA hemispheric initiatives that integrate the different programs and which constitute tools of knowledge exchange, socialization of information and fostering of innovative public policies to insert agriculture in the economy and society.
- Establishing a group of networks, allies and partners to boost the Program core team's capacities and manage knowledge to address the countries' cooperation demands, including three action levels:
 - Intra-IICA networks
 - The Advisory Group, made up by José Emilio Guerrero, of the Universidad de Córdoba, Spain; Carolina Trivelli, of the Peruvian Studies Institute; and Álvaro Ramos, International Consultant and Advisor of IICA General Management.
 - The internal Territorial Development and Family Farming network, consisting of 15 IICA specialists in family farming or rural territory management, located in 13 countries.
 - The network of consultants in territorial development and family farming, including over 25 professionals with experience and specialist knowledge in Program issues.
 - The agreements made with:
 - International cooperation organizations,
 - Regional integration mechanisms and
 - Private and cooperative sector and civil society organizations.
 - Partnerships and external networks
 - With centers of excellence, including universities, research centers, reflection groups and knowledge management networks, such as the Public Policy and Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean Network (PP-AL) and the territorial management networks of Mexico, Brazil and Colombia.

- The CCAF, made up by the Specialized Meeting on Family Farming and the Executive Secretariat of the Central American Agriculture Council, as mechanisms of regional integration; the Confederation of Organizations of Family Farmers of the Expanded MERCOSUR and the Regional Rural Dialog Program, in representation of farmers' organizations; Cooperatives of the Americas and the Network of Agricultural Cooperatives of the Americas, representing the continent's cooperative movement; the PP-AL as unifying academic body; and the World Rural Forum, as a global network of organizations supporting family farming.

The CCAF and its contribution to the Continental Alliance for Food Security and Sustainable Development

The Program team established the CCAF as a space of consultation, validation, dialog and exchange of experiences, knowledge and learning between the Institute and its strategic partners, to increase the PDTAF's capacity for analysis and interpretation of the situation and the needs of family farming in terms of policies, instruments, investments and access to public goods and services, and to adjust the focus of its cooperation actions to heterogeneous realities of family farming in different subregions.

The specific goals of the CCAF are: to permanently adjust the focus on technical cooperation in issues of family farming, food security and sustainable development for rural territories; 2) increase the visibility and capacity for advocacy of family farming organizations in regional and hemispheric dialog spaces on differentiated public policies for family farming; 3) improve the quality and effectiveness of public policies from a systemic vision of family farming and its individual productive units and associative companies, such as cooperatives; 4) insist on the need to articulate diverse differentiated public policies for family farming and its instruments, which are frequently applied without coordination by various State institutions at national and local level.

In addition, IICA seeks to establish a link between the CCAF and the Continental Alliance for Food Security and Sustainable Development to ensure that family farming stands out in collective actions promoted among countries and country blocs in the region, and so that family farming associated from the private sector contributes at national, regional and hemispheric level to food security and sustainable development.

The attractive and innovative aspect of the concepts "partnership" and "collective actions" is found in the search for articulation mechanisms between State institutions, and between them and private and social sectors, especially social economy companies such as cooperatives and public-public and public-private partnerships, which can effectively overcome bureaucratic barriers and establish mechanisms to apply standards and

policies with a systemic, territorial conception. Some collective actions fostered by the Program include: 1) the establishment of the Business Platform for Rural Entrepreneurial Women; 2) the modernization and digitalization of “cooperativized” family farming production services; 3) fostering a regional exchange program in health and safety matters in family farming production; fostering the Family Farming, Climate Change and Sustainability in Food Systems initiative; and 5) actions in the bioeconomy and its potential for developing cooperative agrifood systems.

Within the Continental Alliance for Food Security and Sustainable Development, “collective actions” include: 1) social and economic actions that governmental institutions and private-sector organizations undertake jointly in the same country to apply new instruments over a new generation of public policies and a renewed, modern public institutionality, in partnership with stakeholders in the economic-trade, social and academic sectors; and 2) joint cooperation actions, through which in regional and subregional integration spaces, States present in a coordinate manner on the international stage these new policies and a renewed approach that highlights the contribution of agrifood systems in LAC in the face of these two global challenges. Collective actions must strengthen the capacity of the States to generate public goods and services, essential for the competitive performance of agrifood systems of the Americas and to develop their full potential.

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