

THE YOUNG FAMILY FARMERS' TOOLKIT

Annotated outline

Introduction: Purpose, Objectives, Vision and Target of the Young Farmers' Toolkit

Purpose

The primary goal of this toolkit is to support young family farmers¹ by providing them with the necessary knowledge, resources, and guidance to overcome pressing challenges and enable generational turnover in family farming.²

Today, food systems face unprecedented challenges and opportunities, especially for the younger generation of farmers who are the ones most impacted by the future of the sector. This toolkit is specifically designed to address the needs of young family farmers from around the world, coming from diverse agricultural backgrounds, and to help them access both policy influence and technical skills. By focusing on their specific contexts and priorities, we aim to empower young family farmers to thrive in an evolving farming landscape increasingly shaped by change.

In creating this toolkit, we considered the diverse environments in which young farmers operate across various geographical regions. This was done through a consultative methodology that involved a core group of young farmers from the different networks that form the United Nations Decade on Family Farming (UNFFF) Steering Committee, namely the [International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty \(IPC\)](#), the [World Farmers' Organisation \(WFO\)](#), [La Via Campesina](#)

¹ As in the Global Action Plan (GAP) of the United Nations Decade on Family Farming (UNFFF), the notion of family farming in this document refers to all types of family-based production models in agriculture, fishery forestry, pastoralism and aquaculture. This includes peasants, indigenous peoples, traditional communities, fisher folks, mountain farmers, forest users and pastoralists.

² For the purpose of this document, we refer to the definition of "generational turnover" provided in the Global Action Plan (GAP) of the UNFFF, and namely "the capacity to retain young people on farms and in rural communities". Further reference to "generational sustainability", which is closely related to the previous concept, is provided by the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS). It defines generational sustainability as "inter-generational collaboration and the evolving, dynamic balance between generations – as an essential driving force of development (...). A carefully built and maintained inter-generational balance and multi-directional exchange of generation-specific knowledge, resources and livelihood strategies can enhance the role of young people in leading successful and endogenous innovation in food systems and contributing to sustainable agrarian, rural and urban transformations".

(LVC), and the [World Rural Forum \(WRF\)](#). This participatory approach ensures that the toolkit is relevant and practical, offering solutions that young family farmers can apply in their day-to-day activities. Whether navigating the complexities of agro-food policies or sharing effective farming techniques, this toolkit serves as a valuable resource for young farmers to elevate their skills and promote greater impact at different levels, from local to global, and across various spheres, including family, community, farmers' organizations, and policy-making.

Objectives

We aim to provide resources and support to young family farmers by offering practical tools and information that they can use to enhance their farming practices and overcome challenges that hinder generational turnover. This includes access to technical skills, learning stories, methodologies, and financial planning resources tailored to the needs of young farmers.

We aim to enhance policy influence by empowering young family farmers and the farmers organizations' youth to actively participate in policy dialogue and advocacy, and to build political and technical capacity through structured training and resources. This involves creating platforms for young family farmers to voice their concerns and participate in decision-making processes, as well as providing training programs on agricultural practices, innovations, and political and leadership skills. By strengthening their skills and knowledge, young farmers can become more effective advocates for their needs and the needs of their communities.

Moreover, we also aim to foster community and knowledge sharing by encouraging the creation of platforms where young family farmers can connect, share experiences, and learn from each other, fostering a sense of community and collective growth. This includes online forums, social media groups, and in-person networking events and training initiatives where young farmers can exchange ideas, collaborate on projects, and build supportive relationships among themselves, their older peers, and other food system stakeholders. We believe that by fostering a strong community, we can create a network of young family farmers who support each other and enable transformative societal change and drive collective progress.

Vision

Our vision for this toolkit is to enhance the role of young family farmers in food systems, within their organizations and rural areas, ensuring that farming sustains their livelihoods and well-being, and that the family farming model endures in the long term. This involves not only guaranteeing their economic stability but also upholding their human, social, and civil rights, including the right to a healthy environment, participation, inclusiveness, decent working conditions, and overall well-being.

We recognize the numerous barriers that young family farmers face, which contribute to rural youth migration, as identified through extensive questionnaires and stakeholder consultations and comprehensively addressed in the [2021 High-Level Panel of Experts \(HLPE\) report on youth](#). These barriers include limited access to land and other natural resources, financial constraints, succession barriers, lack of technical knowledge (including about climate change adaptation), low remuneration for rural workers, socio-cultural prejudices surrounding family farming, and insufficient representation in policy-making processes. These barriers cut across gender issues and the political situation in various countries, and they differ depending on whether generational turnover occurs within the same family and/or community.

Another key element of our vision is the increased participation of youth in family farmers' organizations. As suggested in the UNDRR [Global Action Plan \(GAP\)](#), it is essential to foster young farmers' capacities as agents of change and enhance family farmers' meaningful participation in decision-making processes at all levels. However, the lack of adequate knowledge and skills, combined with the limited opportunities for young family farmers' inclusion in decision-making, along

with the barriers mentioned above, has left many family farmers' organizations facing low youth membership and a lack of generational renewal.

By focusing on the diverse contexts, visions, and needs of young family farmers, we emphasize the necessity of equitable access to resources and opportunities, fostering an environment where young family farmers can flourish and support generational turnover in the farming sector. Our vision also includes advocating for policies that support sustainable farming, protect the environment, and enhance the resilience of rural communities. Young family farmers can and must play a key role in achieving this vision when adequately empowered. Through this toolkit, we hope to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for young family farmers worldwide, enabling them to meaningfully contribute to global food security, food sovereignty, and rural development.

We aspire to build a future where young farmers are recognized as key stakeholders in the food systems and the agricultural sector, actively shaping policies and innovations that make farming a desirable sector and lifepath. By empowering young farmers, we not only secure a better future for farming but also ensure the sustainability and resilience of our food systems.

Target Audience

This toolkit is specifically designed for young family farmers, to provide them with the tools, knowledge, and confidence necessary to act as agents of change in successful food systems. Young farmers are at the forefront of agricultural innovation; however, a solid transition path will only occur through the empowerment and exchange of young family farmers with other actors, including older farmers and policymakers. For this reason, the target audience for this toolkit must be extended especially to:

- **Family Farmer Organizations:** To provide them with guidelines on supporting their young members through advocacy and policy development, and in reaching out to new young farmers. These organizations play a crucial role in representing farmers' interests and facilitating their access to resources and networks.
- **National Governments and Policymakers:** To offer insights and data that can shape effective food policies. Policymakers can leverage the information and recommendations in this toolkit to develop policies that truly support young family farmers and generational turnover in family farming, thus pursuing the objectives of the UNDIFF and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.
- **Stakeholders in Agricultural and Rural Development:** To facilitate collaboration and resource sharing. Stakeholders, including international organizations, local NGOs, and private sector entities, can use this toolkit to better tailor and enhance their support for young family farmers, and to foster partnerships that drive meaningful participation, innovation, and development in food systems.

The Young Farmers' Toolkit Development: Process and Steps to come

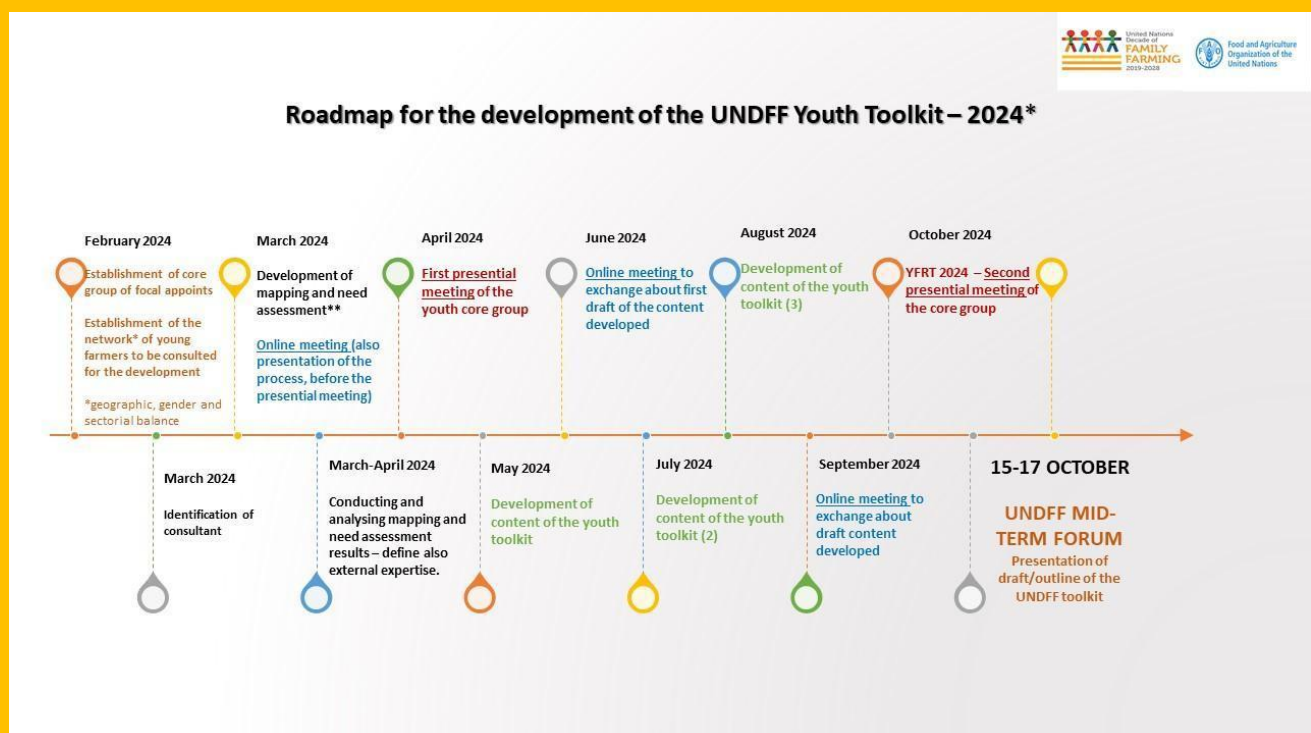
First Phase: Outline of the Toolkit

The second Young Farmers Round Table 2023, organized by the UNDFE within the World Food Forum (WFF) on 20 October 2023, resulted in the establishment of the '[UNDFE Young Farmers Working Group](#)'. Among the goals this working group aimed to achieve was the development of a toolkit to support young farmers and the generational sustainability of family farming, particularly in the context of the implementation of the UNDFE GAP – with special attention to Transversal Pillar 2 on youth.

During this meeting, the working group planned the first phase of the project, as shown in the following timeline with the goal of developing this annotated outline.

Between February and April 2024, the working group prepared and distributed the questionnaire *Needs and visions for generational turnover in family farming*, which was completed by young farmer delegates from different constituencies representing 18 family farmers' organizations. The data collected – focused on existing barriers and tools for generational turnover in family farming – contributed to the dialogues and agenda-setting of a face-to-face meeting.

The in-person meeting took place in April 2024 at FAO headquarters and was attended by staff from the five farmers' organizations involved, staff from FAO's PSUF and other FAO divisions related to the UNDFE, the consultant selected by the organizations to coordinate the outline development process, and 10 young leaders from 10 different family farmers organizations. In selecting the delegation, efforts were made to ensure a balance in terms of gender representation, constituency, and geographical origin. During the two-day meeting, the goals, target audience, content, and format of the toolkit were discussed. These elements were then refined over the following months through participatory collaboration with staff and some delegates from the involved farmers' organizations, who contributed to drafting the contents of the outline.



Steps to Come: Contents and Actions to Develop the Toolkit from October 2024

The final version of the toolkit is intended to be a dynamic tool, featuring both text in multiple languages and artistic elements designed for young family farmers, contained within an interactive web platform. The goal is to develop the content within the given timeframe, depending on the availability of financial resources.

Three parts of this toolkit will be developed through different actions:

- The launch of an interactive web space that will host the Young Family Farmers' Toolkit. This space will be adaptable to future developments and will contain the three parts of the toolkit.

Part One: Policy Influence

- **Mapping Process and Report:** A mapping process will be carried out, followed by a report that captures practices and experiences. These will serve as testimonies of youth participation and leadership in the internal structures of the farmers' organizations, from working groups to governing bodies. The goal is to understand how family farmers' organizations support cultural change within their organizations. This mapping will initially focus on the experiences of 12 farmer's organizations selected by the UNDFY Young Farmers Working Group, with diverse constituencies and geographical origins. This exercise will continue in the future, accepting written inputs to expand the number of experiences, offering insights to those seeking to develop initiatives in the field of generational turnover.
- **Interactive Methodological Tool:** An interactive tool will be developed to help young farmers define and analyze the characteristics of legal frameworks that support generational turnover and sustainability. This tool will guide users in evaluating policies and programs at local, national, regional, and international levels. It will help young farmers build knowledge and skills useful in decision-making processes and in political processes for generational turnover in family farming. This methodological tool will be built in collaboration with the 4 international organizations involved.
- **Analytical Mapping of Policy Instruments:** An analytical mapping of international and national policy instruments, organized by region, will be developed to support generational turnover in family farming. This user-friendly tool will provide insights into specific instruments, experiences with their use, and how they can be applied. It will also analyze legal frameworks that address barriers and identify gaps that still need to be filled.

Part Two: Knowledge sharing:

- The development of a training module for capacity building on public policy, policy dialogue, and advocacy of family farmers' organizations will support efforts at national, regional, and international levels, specifically addressing young farmers. This module, created through consultation and collaboration among the four international organizations involved in the toolkit, will incorporate both content and methodological approaches. Drawing from the collected experiences, it will serve as a resource for farmers' organizations to organize training sessions aimed at enhancing the capacities of the younger generation in engaging with public policies and policy dialogues.

- Additionally, a video series will be produced to explain the methodologies and content of the training module for capacity building on public policy. This interactive content will enhance accessibility to the training materials.

Part Three: Learning stories

- **Collection of Training Experiences:** The toolkit will include the creation of a collection of 12 experiences in implementing technical and policy training modules in family farming by farmers' organizations. This collection, organized in a tabular mode and enriched with documentation and images, will highlight the methodological approaches, content, and contexts in which these trainings are applied, and how they address barriers to generational turnover in family farming. . This user-friendly collection is intended to serve as a practical reference for developing effective training programs for generational turnover. The 12 experiences from farmers' organizations will be selected by the UNDIFF Young Farmers' Working Group, ensuring diversity in terms of constituencies and geographical origins. This collection will enrich the mapping exercise outlined in Part One and will be incorporated into an interactive map. As for the mapping exercise in Part One, this collection will allow for additional experiences to be submitted through an online tool, enabling continuous updates.
- **Podcast Series on Leadership Experiences:** A podcast series will accompany this collection, sharing the voices of young farmers, along with other farmers and members of family farming organizations, as they discuss leadership methods and decision-making experiences. The podcast will relate directly to the experiences collected.
- **Collection of Generational Turnover Experiences:** Additionally, a separate collection of 16 experiences of generational turnover in family farming will be compiled. These experiences, chosen by the UNDIFF Youth Working Group, will be selected based on criteria that ensure gender, constituency, and geographical balance. This collection, organized in a fact-sheet format and enriched with documentation and images, will showcase the diversity of family farming. It will highlight the contextual barriers, opportunities, and strategies involved. These experiences will further enrich the mapping process.
- **Podcast Series on Generational Turnover:** Another podcast series will tell the stories of generational turnover in family farming, featuring the voices of family farmers and members of farming organizations. This series will relate to the experiences collected and provide insights into the methods used by different organizations to foster generational renewal.

The toolkit, developed in alignment with the second pillar of the GAP, is intended to be an accessible and effective tool for different target audiences. It aims to increase the participation and representation of young people in policy and decision-making within the agri-food system, contributing to the generational sustainability of family farming.

To achieve this, financial and human resources are required to produce research output, organize online and in-person meetings (with interpretation), and create web, visual and audio formats.

Part One: Policy Influence

Introduction: Young Family Farmers: Struggles, Opportunities and Rights

In today's society, protracted crises such as climate change, pandemics, and armed conflicts generate global shockwaves that impact world food security in unprecedented ways and aggravate social injustice worldwide. As suggested by the [High-Level Panel of Experts \(HLPE\)](#) of the [United Nations Committee on World Food Security \(CFS\)](#) in the [2021 Report on Youth Engagement and Employment in Food Systems](#), a paradigm shift away from "business as usual" is urgently needed to address the social, political, economic, health, and ecological crises that we are facing because the solutions adopted until now have failed to deliver their promised outcomes. Today's crises are rooted in the historical inequalities of our economic system. Real change will only be possible through a significant redistribution of power and resources as part of broader transformation processes toward economies of well-being. This redistribution must also occur between older and young generations as young people and the next generations will bear the impact of decisions and actions made today, including in the farming sector. More active participation of youth in decision-making is crucial, and yet young people –especially young family farmers– remain mostly excluded from decision-making formal spaces and processes.

In fact, as addressed by the [Report on Youth and Human Rights of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#), youth face specific discrimination that intersects with other issues of equitable access to rights experienced by people, populations, and communities in positions of vulnerability (such as gender, class, ethnicity, religion, etc.). Specifically, youth's main discrimination fields have been listed as follows: conscientious objection to military service; access to health, including Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights; school-to-work transition; and underrepresentation in political institutions. Moreover, the CFS-HLPE youth report, building on previous HLPE findings and broader scientific literature highlights key messages: young people are crucial in shaping future food systems but face significant challenges from climate change, social and economic inequalities, and political exclusion. While food systems offer numerous opportunities for youth involvement and employment across different global settings, these roles do not always guarantee decent work, sufficient income, and a dignified life. Therefore, for real change to happen, policies and initiatives aimed at enhancing youth engagement and employment in food systems should be grounded in principles of rights, equity, empowerment, and recognition. Redistributing ecological and financial resources, productive assets, knowledge, and opportunities for youth participation and innovation can help create jobs and promote the transition to sustainable, resilient, and more just food systems. In this transition, we must ensure that the categories that currently have less or no voice are acknowledged and taken on board in decision-making.

Family farmers, including pastoralists, fishers, foresters, peasants, smallholders, and Indigenous People, are the first affected by the ongoing crises because their livelihoods closely depend on the ecological resources that are being depleted and that they require to produce food for them and their communities. As recognized by United Nations institutions like the FAO, family farmers provide the large majority of the world's food and are the backbone of rural economies. However, as mentioned by the United Nations Decade on Family Farming ([UNDAFF](#)) [Global Action Plan](#) (GAP), their societal role goes beyond food production: "*Family farmers have proven their capacity to develop new*

strategies and provide innovative responses to emerging social, environmental, and economic challenges. [...] They simultaneously fulfill environmental, social, and cultural functions, and are custodians of biodiversity, preserving the landscape and maintaining community and cultural heritage. Further, they have the knowledge to produce nutritious and culturally appropriate food as part of local traditions". Appropriate legal frameworks and public policies are therefore urgent to safeguard the family farming model and put family farmers in the conditions to enable more socially and ecologically just food systems. This requires centering family farmers and youth family farmers in decision-making to ensure that future policies and regulations are effectively meeting their needs.

The 2019-2028 UNDFP was launched in May 2019 by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Its objective is to provide a framework to stimulate national governments to develop public policies, legal frameworks, and investments in favor of family farming as well as to implement existing ones. The UN General Assembly designated FAO and IFAD to lead the implementation of the Decade together with a range of other actors, including the National Committees for Family Farming (NCFF) and Family Farming Organizations (FFOs). The implementation of the UNDFP is oriented by the UNDFP GAP, a practical tool containing clear elements for developing, monitoring, and improving public policies including specific outcomes, outputs, actions, and indicators that can be adapted to different contexts. The GAP is, therefore, a practical tool that must be used by governments at different levels in collaboration with FFOs and with the support of FAO and IFAD.

An important characteristic of the UNDFP is that it devotes special attention to the issue of youth and generational renewal in family farming, hence the generational sustainability of the family farming model in the long run. Pillar 2 of the GAP is dedicated to young family farmers and looks at intergenerational aspects through a relational perspective, valuing the role of a balanced exchange of knowledge and skills—both technical and political—across younger and older generations of family farmers. Sustainable food systems involve *"assemblages of old and new systems of knowledge and practice, with more democratic and inclusive governance and organizational models"*. Despite the importance of young farmers for the very existence of family farming in the future, currently, food systems *"do not provide them with decent and meaningful work and adequate livelihood opportunities, nor maintain a balance between the needs and rights of different generations"*. Too many barriers to their participation in both food production and food governance still exist, and young family farmers bear more than other youth categories the risks of climate change, socio-economic inequalities, and political marginalization.

Youth will be the majority age share in poor-income countries. At the same time, youth are more subjected to unemployment than other age shares in the world, and *"this is particularly true for rural youth, that are have also a bigger propensity to be in vulnerable employments, lower literacy rates, or lower relative return to education"*.³ According to [IFAD's 2019 Report on Youth](#), it is essential to work on three elements: productivity (or access to income); agency, and connectivity.

Globally, young people are opting out of farming, and those who can afford it are moving away from rural areas in search of more or different opportunities, as family farming does not represent in the majority of cases an appealing opportunity. Poor access to land, ecological resources, infrastructure, appropriate finance, tenure systems, technology, fair markets, as well as to knowledge and decent remuneration, are among the causes of this trend.

As previously mentioned, the HLPE reminds us that young people are important political actors and their engagement in political institutions, FFOs, social movements, advocacy, and activism is necessary for the realization of food justice, ecological sustainability, and democratic food systems.

³ FAO, 2024, The Status of Rural Youth in Agro-food system, Concept summary, page 2.

In fact, according to the [HLPE 2021 Report](#), young people's political engagement makes the difference between the concept of "youth participation" and that of "youth agency". Strengthening the political participation of young family farmers is also among the objectives of Pillar 2 of the UNDRR GAP. This includes their engagement in dedicated National Committees for Family Farming (NFFCs) towards the development of National Action Plans (NAPs). Additionally, the HLPE Report suggests that all policies and initiatives aimed at facilitating the participation of young people in food systems must be based on the pillars of rights, equity, agency, and recognition including acknowledging "*the diversity, intersectionality, and context-specificity of youth aspirations and experience across the globe*". The same document underlines that these four pillars are necessary not only for better engaging young people in food systems but also to construct "*economies of well-being, which are defined by food sovereignty, dignified livelihoods, and healthy environments*".

One of the priorities of the Toolkit is to address the lack of participation of young family farmers in decision-making spaces, aiming to contribute to overcoming related knowledge barriers and the limited representation of young family farmers' needs in agro-food policy.

In this section, we will explore three important aspects of young family farmers' active engagement in food systems namely:

- (1) Capacity-building on Public Policy, Dialogue, and Advocacy: This involves developing skills for young farmers within FFOs at different levels (national, regional, and international). It also focuses on existing models of participation and leadership within FFOs and national policy processes. ;
- (2) Legal Frameworks for Generational Sustainability in Farming: We will examine the characteristics of legal frameworks that support the long-term sustainability of family farming across generations and provide a methodology for mapping these frameworks.
- (3) Existing Policies and Legal Frameworks Supporting Family Farming: This point will address the current policies and legal instruments designed to promote and protect family farming, especially in relation to young farmers.

Before diving into these aspects, it is important to clarify that the policy instruments and processes that will be introduced in this chapter are the results of many long-standing struggles from family farmers' movements and organizations. For decades, these groups have been defending their rights inside food institutions at all levels, from local to global.

It is only through the close and continuous collaboration between international institutions, national governments, and family farmers' organizations that public policies and legal instruments are not only adopted but also implemented. Here it is key to remember that their existence "on paper" does not necessarily translate into their implementation on the ground. There is still much work to be done to turn public policies, laws, and regulations into tangible "products" to reshape food systems in different cultural and geographical contexts.

The relationship between international and local advocacy efforts is bidirectional.. Family farmers' organizations that engage in advocacy at the international level help create favorable conditions for national organizations to push forward public policies at home. . At the same time, public policy proposals developed in the territories generate the conditions and provide FFOs with concrete elements and results for viable frameworks, contributing to their agency in advocacy on a broader scale.

Models of Participation and Capacity-building within Farmers' Organizations

Farming can sustain the livelihoods and well-being of the people working in the family farming model, but for this to endure long-term, and to achieve a greater quality of life for farmers, there needs to be enhanced support for young family farmers in food systems and rural areas. Young farmers are essential to the future of family farming and rural areas. Therefore, it is a shared responsibility to build capacities for young small-scale food producers to be able to participate effectively in public policy, policy dialogue, and advocacy for family farming.

Young farmers need to engage with national public policies that directly affect their livelihoods. This requires them to develop the capacity to defend their rights, understand limitations in the existing legal frameworks, and identify the challenges they face. By doing so, they can propose effective measures to improve their livelihoods.

To effectively participate in policy dialogue, young family farmers must understand their rights and be able to interact with a variety of actors (academia, NGOs, governments, etc.) on a par. This capacity enables them to effectively participate in discussions, ensuring that their voices are heard in the spaces they have access to.

Lastly, effective advocacy requires young farmers to receive support from other actors, such as academia and NGOs, in the form of statistics, policy analysis, and explanatory documents. These resources help young farmers advocacy work with institutions and governments, opening doors for dialogue and participation at various levels.

Farmers' organizations play a crucial role in developing these capacities for young farmers by implementing practices, shifting the organizational culture, and delegating responsibilities to young farmers, not just older members.

Since the late 1990s, the participation of social movements and civil society organizations (CSOs) in the spaces of global institutions like FAO has grown, and they have become critical to the creation and implementation of global governance tools. However, the political leaders who helped establish these collaborations between the FAO and CSOs are now retiring, creating a generational turnover issue in leadership. This is where the Young Farmers Toolkit comes in—it aims to address this challenge by supporting the development of future leaders.

This specific part of the toolkit aims to: 1) share ongoing practices within FFOs that support young farmers' capacities to effectively participate in policy influence; and 2) Highlight models of participation and leadership within organizations, especially focusing on capacity-building related to public policy (analysis and design), policy dialogue, and advocacy.

This section of the toolkit will include:

- a collection of practices to enhance youth participation and leadership in the organization's internal structures; from working groups and governing bodies, to practices that support cultural change within their organizations.

- a module for capacity-building on public policy, policy dialogue, and advocacy for FFOs that support the work at national, regional, and international levels, specifically addressing the needs of young family farmers.

What Policy Framework for Generational Turnover?

Family farming stands at a pivotal juncture, facing the dual challenges of aging farming populations and the urgent need for sustainable practices to ensure long-term food security. Policy frameworks for young farmers and the generational sustainability of family farming are crucial in addressing these challenges.

The policy frameworks for intergenerational turnover are designed to attract, support, and retain young women and men in agriculture and rural areas, ensuring the continuity and resilience of family farms. These farms have traditionally been the backbone of rural economies and communities that are now recognized as an essential element of food system sustainability and resilience.

Young women and men farmers bring innovation, energy, and new perspectives to agriculture, making them vital for the sector's future. However, they often face significant barriers, including limited access to land, capital, and training. The main barriers identified by literature and consultations are access to land, ecological resources, infrastructure, appropriate finance, tenure systems, technology, fair markets, knowledge, and decent remuneration. Effective policy frameworks can mitigate these barriers through targeted measures such as financial incentives and tools, educational and training programs, access to resources, and legal support. These policies not only support young farmers but also promote sustainable agricultural practices that are essential for environmental conservation and the long-term viability of farming. These policies not only support young farmers but also promote sustainable agricultural practices that are essential for environmental conservation and the long-term viability of farming.

Generational sustainability in family farming is equally critical. It involves ensuring that farming remains a viable and attractive profession and lifestyle for future generations. This requires a holistic approach, integrating economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Policies aimed at generational sustainability focus on succession planning, intergenerational knowledge transfer, and the creation of favorable conditions for the economic stability of family farms.

In essence, policy frameworks for young farmers and generational sustainability are intertwined goals that address both immediate needs and long-term aspirations of the agricultural sector and of rural areas. By fostering an environment where young farmers can thrive and family farms can be sustained across generations, these policies contribute to a resilient and sustainable food system landscape.

Why Mapping Policy Framework?

Mapping policy frameworks, both at the national and international levels, is a crucial exercise for several reasons:

1. Identifying Gaps and Opportunities

Mapping existing policies helps identify gaps where current frameworks might be lacking and where additional support or new initiatives are needed. This insight is vital for developing comprehensive strategies that address all aspects of family farming sustainability and support young family farmers.

2. Enhancing Policy Coherence and Coordination

Policy framework mapping facilitates better coordination among different policies and programs. At the national level, it ensures that various government departments and agencies work in harmony rather than at cross purposes. Internationally, it helps align national policies with global standards and commitments, promoting coherence across borders.

3. Benchmarking and Best Practices

By examining international policy frameworks, countries can benchmark their efforts against global best practices. This comparative analysis allows for the adoption of successful strategies and the avoidance of known pitfalls, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of national policies.

4. Supporting Evidence-Based Policy Making and Advocacy

Mapping provides a comprehensive overview of existing policies and their impacts, which is essential for evidence-based policymaking and advocacy. It enables policymakers to make informed decisions grounded in data and real-world outcomes, ensuring that new policies are both relevant and effective. Additionally, it enables farmers' organizations to conduct informed political campaigns grounded in data and real-world outcomes, ensuring that new proposals are both relevant and effective.

5. Facilitating Stakeholder Engagement

Policy framework mapping involves engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, including young farmers, farmers' and agricultural organizations, youth organizations, academic institutions, and international bodies. This inclusive approach ensures that policies are well-rounded and address the needs and concerns of all relevant parties.

6. Promoting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

International policy mapping helps countries align their agricultural policies with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Pillar 2 of the UNDFP GAP: "Support youth and ensure the generational sustainability of family farming". This alignment is crucial for promoting sustainable agricultural practices, reducing poverty, and ensuring food security globally.

7. Ensuring Long-Term Viability and Resilience

Mapping national and international policies allows for the identification of long-term trends and challenges that youth are facing in agriculture. This foresight is essential for creating resilient agricultural systems that can withstand economic, environmental, and social pressures.

8. Social, technical, and environmental innovation

By understanding the global landscape of food system policies, nations can adopt, with proper context-based analysis, innovative approaches and appropriate technologies that have proven successful elsewhere. This adoption can enhance sustainability and the overall appeal of family farming as a profession and an attractive lifestyle for new generations.

9. Leveraging International Support and Collaboration

International policy mapping highlights opportunities for collaboration and support from global organizations and other countries. This support can come in the form of funding, technical assistance, and knowledge exchange, which are invaluable for the sustainable development of local and national food systems.

In summary, policy framework mapping of generational turnover at both national and international levels is essential for developing robust, coherent, and effective strategies to support young farmers and ensure the generational sustainability of family farming. It provides a clear picture of the current landscape, facilitates coordination and coherence, and promotes the adoption of successful practices and innovative solutions, ultimately contributing to a sustainable and resilient food system future.

his part of the toolkit will include:

- A methodological proposal on how to conduct a mapping and analysis of legal frameworks concerning the topic of generational turnover in family farming.

Public Policies and Young Farmer's Political Participation: International and National Available Frameworks

Public policies are essential not only for safeguarding the survival of family farming worldwide but also for positioning family farming as a “game-changer” in transforming food systems into ones that are socially just and ecologically sustainable for all. The good news is that family farmers, particularly young family farmers, already have access to existing tools, guidelines and governance spaces to defend their rights as food producers as well as human beings.

Today, there are global, regional and national legal frameworks that defend the rights of family farmers and ensure that the family farming model can continue to providing food. This is thanks to the efforts of small-scale food producers and Indigenous Peoples movements, who have fought and participated at various levels to make their voices heard. . Farmers, fisherfolk, pastoralists, Indigenous Peoples, consumers, and urban poor, all contributed to creating global tools that can now be used at the national and regional levels to push for policy changes, thus creating an enabling environment for family farmers. So, what's cooking in the pan of family farmers' rights?

his part of the toolkit will include:

- An examination of international frameworks that may be useful in building advocacy processes and struggles related to generational turnover in family farming.
- An examination of policy and program initiatives at the national level (divided by regions) that may be useful in building advocacy processes and struggles related to generational turnover and generational sustainability in family farming.

Both analyses will cover the history, function and operation of the framework as well as the reasons why young family farmers might be particularly interested.

Part two: Knowledge Sharing for Generational Turnover

Introduction

For young generations to innovate in family farming, it is crucial to build on the knowledge of their elders while integrating innovative, sustainable practices, especially those that address climate change adaptation. Technical skills are important for strengthening the capacity of young farmers, but equally important is the transfer of knowledge from farmer to farmer. We believe that the best methodology for the small-scale food producers gathered in farmers' organizations at the global level is to generate farmer-to-farmer exchanges: this approach puts together farmers from different areas (at the global level, but also at the national level) to share the challenges and possible solutions. This approach explores the challenges and possibilities that contribute to overcoming the gaps in family farming based on the specific contexts of each territory, bringing farmers together at the global, national, and territorial levels.

This approach is rooted in agroecological innovation systems—the various forms of innovation communities have developed to sustainably manage common goods like biodiversity, water, soil, and local agricultural knowledge. Agroecological production, along with fair and solidarity markets, should be viewed as essential tools for young farmers to enhance and transfer their know-how. In this context, other actors (scientists, technicians, etc.) can act as facilitators of knowledge exchange, applying the principle of epistemic justice to the knowledge of farmers and farmers' organizations. In this sense, the toolkit also aims to explore how these other knowledge actors can contribute positively to the exchange and innovation processes in family farming.

Special attention is given to the intra- and intergenerational aspects of knowledge exchange and to the ways different knowledge systems can interact when they come together. Knowledge-sharing spaces are diverse and may include theoretical, practical, and praxis-based methods. In addition, knowledge spaces are conceived as diverse and hybrid spaces, thus these spaces may vary in formality, combining traditional pedagogical practices with more informal or experiential learning. Lastly, distance learning, through online organized knowledge spaces, can be helpful where the digital divide can be managed.

This approach supports innovation, which is at the heart of agroecological production. The farmer-to-farmer methodology is based on the peer-to-peer exchange of knowledge, with the aim of disseminating experience in a horizontal, flexible, dynamic, and participatory manner, whilst constantly innovating. In this process, everyone teaches and learns. This model achieves better results in terms of involvement and recovery of traditional knowledge, promoting agroecology as a set of techniques but also as a social and political dimension for societal transformation.

Technical knowledge related to peasant agriculture is vast and diverse. Some examples include: production, reproduction and exchange systems of seeds and animal species; management and regeneration of soil biodiversity; water conservation and management; agroecology; specific ecosystems and production systems; waste management systems; solidarity agro-food networks; gender and ethnic equity in family farming; participatory action research methodology; etc.

Peasant communities have always had small-scale food producers with the capacity to solve practical problems based on their specific contexts. Today's challenges are increasingly complex and structural, but farmers' organizations can help share solutions across the Global South and North. Farmer-to-farmer exchanges support innovations in farming practices, organizational structures, distribution methods, and relationships with consumers. In this way, peasants are innovators themselves.

This part of the toolkit will include:

- Guidelines on how to organize technical capacity-building, with an inter- and intra-generational farmer-to-farmer exchange approach, and how to involve other stakeholders in training and capacity-building.

Part three: Learning stories

Introduction

As noted in the definition of family farming from the International Year of Family Agriculture, *the family and the farm are linked, co-evolve and combine economic, environmental, social and cultural functions.*⁴ Family histories, skills, resources, and the opportunities and barriers to generational renewal reflect global economic and social dynamics that both support and challenge family farming. Experiences of generational turnover in farming are rich with diverse contextual elements, shaped by the unique circumstances of each farm, family, and community.

It is this invaluable diversity that highlights the importance of understanding and sharing the solutions pioneered by farmers' organizations, families, communities, and policymakers to support generational turnover. Behind the numbers lie stories of struggles and experiences that can serve as an inspiration for other young farmers, families, communities, organizations, and policy makers in similar of different regions of the world.

This part of the toolkit collects stories that touch on two key aspects of generational turnover in family farming:

First, we share the experiences of technical and policy training by farmer organizations. These organizations are part of the international coalitions that contributed to the creation of this toolkit. Through detailed fact sheets based on interviews with delegates from the respective organizations who have firsthand experience of these knowledge exchange pathways, we explore the objectives, challenges, and methodological approaches that are pursued in these experiences in depth.

Second, we tell personal stories of generational renewal in family farming. These stories, collected through interviews with young farmers, explore how the barriers and solutions to generational turnover manifest in different contexts. By sharing tools and strategies deployed by policymakers, organizations, and direct stakeholders, these stories can inspire others to tackle issues related to generational sustainability and turnover.

his part of the toolkit will include:

- A collection of stories in fact sheet format with relevant images constructed through interviews with organizers and documentary material, detailing the technical and policy training programs on family farming. These include resources and insights from different organizations involved in training initiatives.;
- A collection of personal stories of generational turnover of young family farmers who are members of farmers' organizations from different constituencies and regions of the world. These stories, collected through interviews with those directly involved and informed by their local contexts, will be presented in fact sheet format and accompanied by relevant images.
- Two series of podcasts summarizing, stories of training and generational turnover from different testimonies.

⁴ FAO, 2012, The State of Food and Agriculture. Investing in agriculture for a better future. Rome. FAO

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