

HLPF 2021 EGM Session on SDG2

Thank you Chair. Hello to everyone.

I am Esther Penunia, from the Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development, with 22 member organizations in 16 countries, comprising 13 M small-scale women and men family farmers. Much of what I will say has been pointed out, so this may be a strong affirmation of what has resonated with us.

Globally and in the Asia Pacific region, family farmers - fishers, livestock keepers, forest users and dwellers, herders, pastoralists - produce 70-80% of the world's food, but majority of the hungry in the world are those that rely on agriculture for a living. The covid 19 pandemic has exacerbated the many inequities that exist in our countries, in terms of access to health, education, infrastructure, digital technologies, information, financing and markets.

However, agriculture has been one of the few sectors that have been more or less resilient, and in our observation , those who showed more resilience were family farmers who had rights to their natural resources especially lands and forests , as they were able to adjust production and marketing , those who relied on local markets and have proper storage facilities, as well as those farmers who belong to groups, associations and cooperatives who were able to consolidate their produce , facilities, skills, assets , even social capital to negotiate with other stakeholders , such as negotiate with their local governments to procure their products, direct marketing or establishing farmers' markets with urban poor and homeowners associations or labor unions .

As hunger is multi- dimensional, To accelerate achievement of SDG 2, we recommend the transformation of the food system into such that it will be sustainable, equitable, just, resilient, empowering. We have three recommendations for this transformation to happen.

First, coherent policies and programs that ensure:

1. rights of farmers on securing rights to natural resources, particularly lands, waters, forests, and seeds.
2. climate resilient, integrated, diversified, organic , agro-ecological approaches to farms, fisheries and forests, including promotion of the traditional local crops which are nutritious and locally available
3. strengthening farmers' cooperatives and their enterprises to increase family farmers' market power and deliver full value chain services to our members, and be more strongly involved in the governance of value chains, including incentives for financing, credit, equipments, technical assistance.
4. equal rights and equitable opportunities for women farmers
5. attracting the youth to agriculture by making farming provide decent incomes and providing incentives for them to go to agriculture or be agripreneurs.

Second, The UN has declared 2019-2028 as the UN Decade of Family Farming. Its global action plan provides substantial contributions to the achievement of all the SDGs and to sustainable food systems. One of our key recommendation then for governments to facilitate the design and implementation of national and regional action plans for the UNDF, through multistakeholder processes, with family farmers as equal partners, not only beneficiaries .

The **third** recommendation is to support the Agency of family farmers by providing longer term, direct financing to family farming organizations so that we can engage effectively in policy work and strengthen initiatives and partnerships with other stakeholders. If we do this, we unleash the potentials of millions of family farmers to contribute to the work of ending hunger and poverty in the world as partners, as solution providers.#

