

ANNUAL
MEMBERS
FORUM
MEETING 2025



Agroecology and
Safe Food System
Transitions

The Value of Farmers' Agency in Agroecology Research and Innovation

esther penunia, secretary general

Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA)

March 31, 2025

2. Agency

❖ Agency

> is the capacity of individuals to have the power and resources to fulfill their potential.

>The capacity, condition, or state of **acting** or of **exerting power**.

>The capacity of **individuals** to **act independently** and to make their own **free choices**.

❖ The Family Farmers

—Family farming is “a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family capital and labour, including both women’s and men’s. The family and the farm are linked, co-evolve and combine economic, environmental, social and cultural functions.”

Account for 90% of all farms Small scale family farmers :

- *84% of total family farmers, majority of them in Asia Pacific,*
- *producing 35% of world’s food in just 12% of agricultural lands. But in Asia Pacific, family farmers produce 80% of the region’s food.*

Farmers contribute to

- Improving nutrition, global food security
- Ending hunger and poverty
- promoting biodiversity, land restoration, environmental sustainability , climate resiliency with mitigation benefits

SOLUTION PROVIDERS

Yet

NEGLECTED

MARGINALIZED

UNRECOGNIZED

MOST VULNERABLE



2. Farmers' Agency

- ❖ An establishment engaged in doing business for another;
- ❖ A medium through which power is exerted or an end is achieved
- ❖ Farmers' Organizations (FOs) depending on national legal context, can be registered as an association, federation, trade union, non-government organization, non-stock corporation, limited company, cooperative.
- ❖ can be organized at local(village), sub national, national, regional, global levels.

Eg. AFA

Family Farmers for Climate
Action
World Rural Forum

24 national FOs in 16 countries
in Asia, in 3 sub regions

4,294 sub national FOs

13M small scale
women, men and young **family
farmers** (crops, livestock, fisheries,
forestry, herding, pastoralism)

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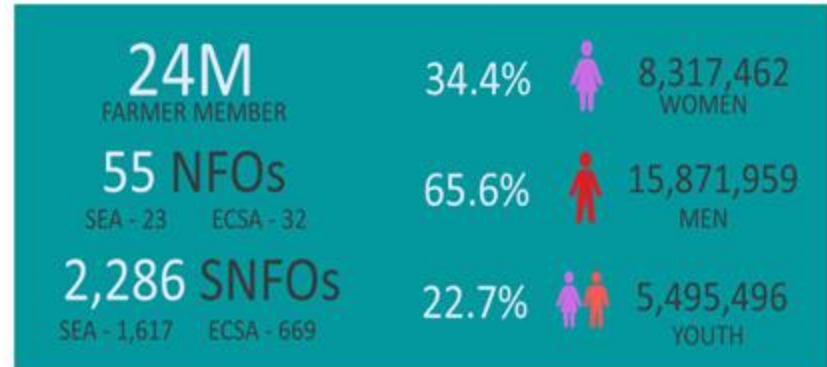


ASIA-PACIFIC FARMERS' PROGRAM
FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS FOR ASIA

APFP-FO4A

BANGLADESH, INDIA, NEPAL, MONGOLIA, [SRI LANKA](#), [PAKISTAN](#), KYRGYZTAN, CHINA
PHILIPPINES, VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, INDONESIA, LAOS, MYANMAR, [THAILAND](#), [PACIFIC](#)

FO REACH



Eg. AFA



Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development -- www.asianfarmers.org

*Our Programs

MULTI STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS

Women
Empower
ment

Youth in
Agri

FO
Governance

Rights to
Natural
Resources

Sustainable
Resilient
Agri

Cooperative
Devt and
Strengthening

*Movement Bldg *Advocacy *Capacity Building
*Business Devt Servicing *Internal Governance *MEALC

FOs as Agency of Farmers

Innovating for Healthy and Sustainable Future through Family-Farmer Led Solution for Resilient Food System

Centrality of the Role of Farmers Organization in Resilient Food systems

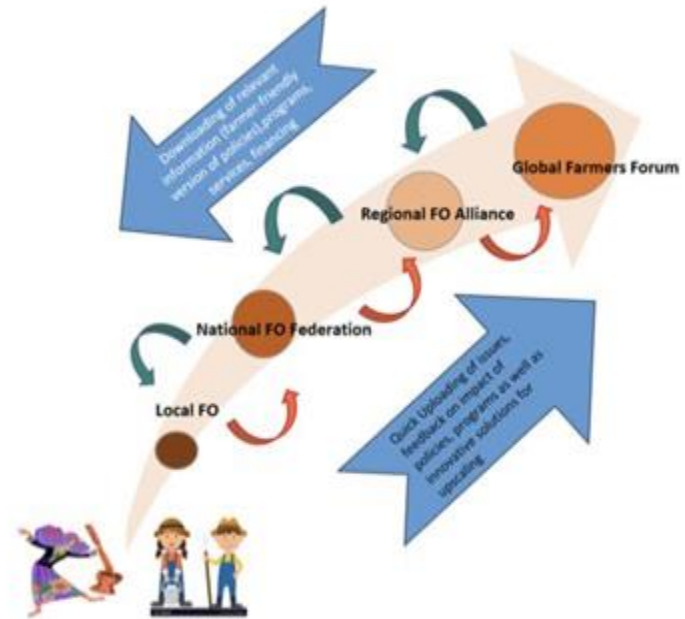


Why Partner with FOs for Research and Innovation and Service Delivery? - 4S

- **SCOPE:** wider area coverage (different levels-provincial, national, regional, multi-country, etc)
- **SCALE:** membership base ensures outreach to individual farmers
- **SPEED:** proximity to local situation
- **SUSTAINABILITY:** natural exit/phase-out strategy

Strong and credible FOs are effective transmission channel/scaling actors for science and innovation

LESS COST WITH SOLID RESULT AND GREATER OUTREACH



Way Forward: **Equal Partnership with FOs in Research and Innovation ; strengthening FOs'**

- ❖ **S**-kills (with knowledge, desire/motivation)
- ❖ **A**-ccountability
- ❖ **L**-earning and Knowledge Management
- ❖ **T**-rust (with friendship, solidarity, understanding)

**to do
research
and
innovation
differently**

**Accelerate
Agro ecology
(4 S of FOs)**

**sustainable
agriculture
and food
systems**

😊 thank you for your attention 😊
~~~ have a delicious lunch ~~~