



Food and Agriculture Organization  
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# FAO approach on integrating land consolidation with local rural development

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## Background

- Farm structures in most of the 18 FAO programme countries in the region are dominated by smallholders and family farms.
- Support to smallholders and family farms is one of four regional priorities for FAO in Europe and Central Asia.
- Support is provided through the programmatic umbrella of the “Regional Initiative on Empowering Smallholders and Family Farms for Improved Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction”.
- The Regional Initiative has two main components:
  1. Support policy development and increased sustainable agricultural production
  2. Support improvement of rural livelihood and reduction of rural poverty



## FAO support to implementation of UN Decade of Family Farming (UNDFF) 2019-2028 in Europe and Central Asia

- Global launch of UNDFF in Rome in May 2019.
- The Decade builds on the success of the International Year of Family Farming of 2014.
- UNDFF is an excellent opportunity to further enhance support to small farms in partnerships with civil society, governments, international organizations and donors.
- The FAO support to implementation of UNDFF is being integrated with the Regional Initiative work programme.
- Need for new and enhanced partnerships with governments, civil society, academia and also the private sector.

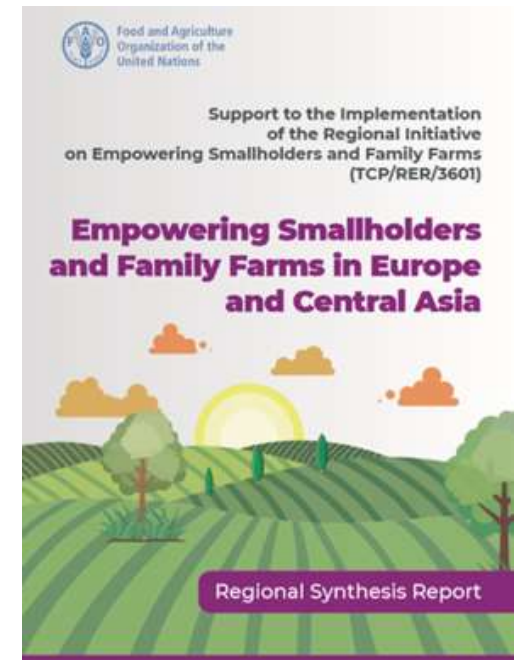


## Smallholders and family farms are key to achieve several of the Sustainable Development Goals

- Family farming produces more than 80 percent of the world's food.
- Family farming is – both globally and in Europe and Central Asia – essential for achieving several of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- SDG Target 2.3 on doubling the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers by 2030 is key.
- To guarantee the success of the UNDFF as well as of the SDGs, action must be supported by coherent, integrated and cross-sectoral policies, concurrently addressing the environmental, economic and social dimensions of agriculture and rural development.

## FAO smallholder country studies in eight countries

- FAO conducted in 2018 country studies of needs and constraints of smallholders and family farms in eight countries in Europe and Central Asia (Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia and Tajikistan).
- Country Reports and Regional Synthesis Report will be published in the second semester this year.
- The reports provide policy recommendations on supporting the development of small farms.



## Smallholders and small family farms are not a homogeneous group of farms

Need to differentiate support to different groups of small farms

1. Development of commercial family farms (agricultural path)
2. Diversification of the rural economy (e.g. creation of new jobs in processing, agro tourism etc.).
3. Support to vulnerable groups – Leaving no one behind (e.g. social protection measures)







## Starting point for community development planning in land consolidation projects

- Most rural communities in transition countries have many more development needs than a poor agricultural structure dominated by land fragmentation and small holding and farm sizes.
- The full benefit from the land consolidation project is only achieved if other development needs are addressed in the same integrated process.
- A wide range of possible integration from improved agricultural infrastructure to complete village renewal.
- New informal regional network on integrated community development established – regional workshop held 23-24 October 2019 in Budapest.



## Need for integration

- Development needs are often bigger than what can be solved alone by re-allotment of parcels.
- Small semi-subsistence family farms will not become competitive alone by consolidation and reduction of fragmentation.
- Rural communities often suffer from a variety of problems including access roads, field roads, irrigation, drainage, erosion, access to markets, access to credit, poor extension service etc.
- Preparation of a Community Development Plan / Action Plan can be a way to integrate broader local development needs in the land consolidation project.
- FAO has in land consolidation pilots aimed at integrating re-allotment planning in a broader local rural development context.



## Integrated community development planning

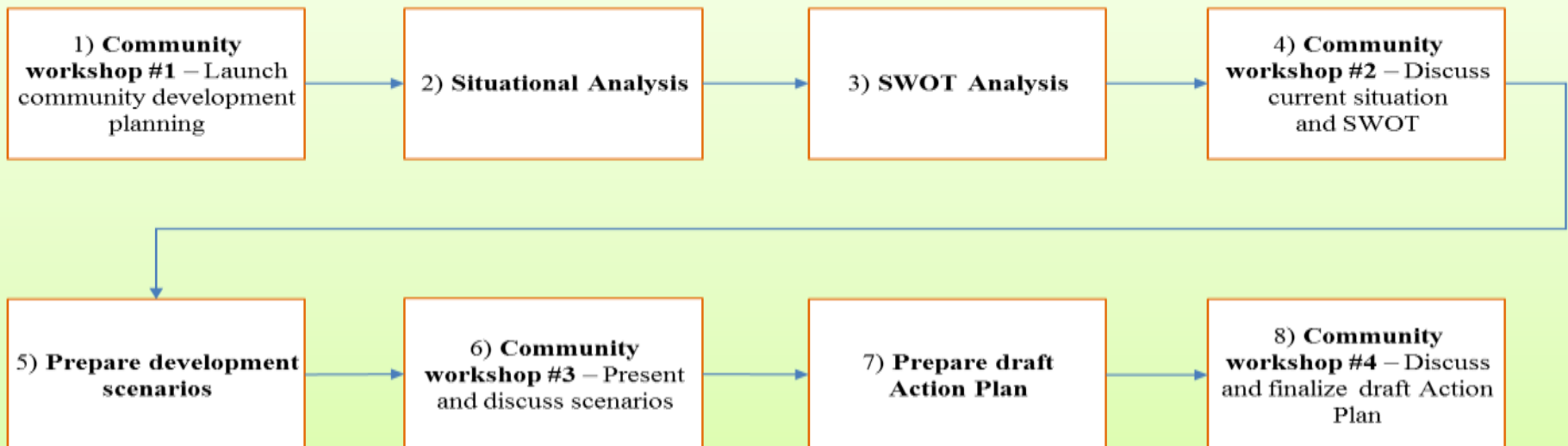
- Should be coordinated with existing development plans for the community (including municipality and regional plans).
- Active involvement and ownership of the community is key.
- A series of community workshops can facilitate the planning process (should be integrated with workshops organized for the land consolidation project).
- Interviews with landowners/farmers in land consolidation process is a way to involve the individual stakeholders also in broader community development planning.





# The community development planning process

1. Analysis of the current situation in the community.
2. SWOT analysis.
3. Preparation of scenarios for development (e.g. trend, optimistic and pessimistic scenario).
4. Action Plan with identified local development projects.



# Majority-based Land Consolidation Pilot Project in Egri, North Macedonia



- Reduction of the number of parcels by almost a factor 4.
- Integrated infrastructure measures (new field roads, drainage canals, rehabilitation of existing irrigation system).
- Project website (MAINLAND project): <http://www.fao.org/in-action/mainstreaming-national-land-consolidation-programme/en/>



**Pilot on integrated  
community development  
in Bitola Municipality  
(Optichari, Egri and  
Zabeni) 2019-21**

**At the same time ongoing  
land consolidation  
projects under  
MAINLAND project (2017-  
21)**



## Shorsulu land consolidation pilot in Azerbaijan

- Land consolidation Re-allotment Plan and Community Development Plan prepared in Parallel.
- Example of small-scale investment planned in Community Development Plan: new crossing of main collector channel.





# Facilitation of the implementation of the Action Plan

- Need to facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan.
- Establish overview of funding opportunities (from donor grants, RDP and other support schemes).
- Practical help to local stakeholders to fill in applications (private investments).
- Help community to link up with donor programmes (public investments).
- To organize trainings / capacity development on specific prioritized topics.
- To provide technical assistance to specific priority areas.





## FAO Links:

- FAO Regional office for Europe and Central Asia:  
<http://www.fao.org/europe/en/>
- Proceedings from LANDNET workshops 2002 – 2019:  
<http://www.fao.org/europe/resources/land-tenure-workshops/en/>
- VGGT and Governance of Tenure:  
<http://www.fao.org/nr/tenure/en/>
- FAO REU Smallholder Regional Initiative Website:  
<http://www.fao.org/europe/regional-initiatives/smallholders-family-farms/en/>
- FAO Family Farming Knowledge Platform:  
<http://www.fao.org/family-farming/en/>
- UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028:  
<http://www.fao.org/family-farming-decade/en/>