

UNDF Regional Awareness Radio Campaign 2021
“Family farming at the heart of sustainable food systems”.

Radio program information sheet

Title of program:	State of Family Farming in South Asia
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Reporter:	Sarah Rai, Kathmandu

Program synopsis:

South Asia has a special place in the food map of the world. The eight countries making up the region are home to 1.7 billion people, which is one quarter of the world’s population. Approximately 65% of South Asians live in rural areas and are, in one way or the other, involved in family farming and 70% of South Asia's food demand is fulfilled by them. Demand for food is growing with a rapidly growing population. The only way hunger can be fought back is by taking heads-on the challenges facing family farmers. This program discusses some of the most pertinent challenges confronted by family farmers in the sub region.

South Asia is also home to a Regional Action Plan for systematically addressing the development of the family farming sector at policy and program levels. Countries such as Nepal have already launched a National Action Plan for this purpose. This program sheds light on the various programs and activities that are being carried forward for the family farmers in the region.

Guests in the program:

1. Balasubramanian Iyer, Regional Director of the International Cooperative Alliance - Asia Pacific, India
2. Dr. Md. Baktear Hossain, Director, SAARC Agriculture Center, Dhaka, Bangladesh
3. Esther Penunia, Chair, Asian farmer’s Association (AFA), Philippines
4. Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Director ARD & SDF, SAARC secretariat, Nepal
5. Meena Pokhrel, Dy. General Manager, Nepal Agricultural Co-operative Central Federation Ltd. (NACCFL), Nepal
6. Pierre Ferrand, Pierre Ferrand, Agricultural Officer (Agro-ecology), UN-FAO Regional Office, Bangkok, Thailand