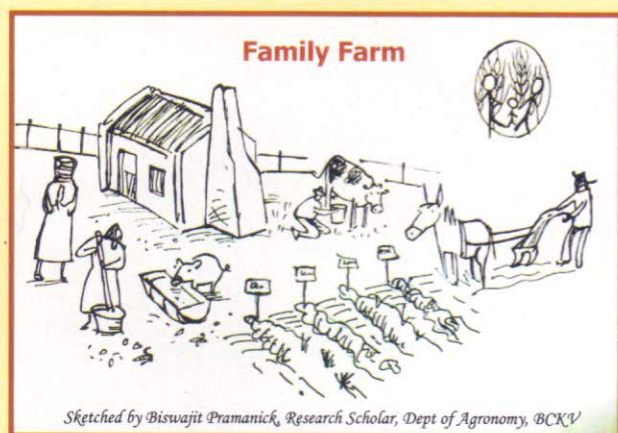


## Family Farming : The Way of Life and Livelihood

India, with an alarming population of more than a billion, is now passing through a critical crisis owing to growing inequities, throttling rural poverty, oppressive hunger and malnutrition. As maximum portion of our population depend mainly on farming for their livelihood, family farming can play a very important role in the rescue of the nation and the world as a whole from this critical food crisis. Several independent studies have



revealed the fact that food crisis is knocking at the door and industrial agriculture models are either stagnating or failing. They suggest that small holders and ecological agriculture play a key role in achieving multiple objective : food and nutritional security, better rural livelihood and ecological stability. This is reflected in the observance of 2014 as International Year of Family Farming by the United Nations with the support of several countries. The International Year of Family Farming 2014 is an initiative promoted by the World Rural Forum and supported by over 360 civil societies and farmers' organizations from 60 countries across five continents. This worldwide celebration, declared by the United Nations General Assembly, aims at becoming a tool to stimulate active policies for sustainable development of agricultural system- based farmer families, communities, indigenous groups, cooperatives and fishing families.

All this work is being made from the perspective of effectively combating poverty and hunger and search for a rural development based on the respect for environment and bio-diversity.

Strengthening Family Farming is the most efficient means to combat hunger and poverty. Seventy percent of the food consumed in the world is produced by Family Farming, in all its diversity and 40% of the families in the world lives on this activity.

The assumed trickle down effect of benefit through prevalent economic growth strategies is not

happening enough, while increasing inflation and accentuated climate changes are pointing out that future challenges are tougher to tackle. There is a belief that corporatisation is the *mantra* with choices, control and access to resources shifting away from farmers' hands. Besides, doles and subsidies are being highlighted as solutions. While they do provide some relief, to a limited extent, they are in fact a short term measure, a 'band-aid' strategy.

In India, traditionally, farming has been family based and majority of them are small holders. The success of family farming lies not in 'specialisation' but in practising farming to meet diverse household needs rather than market opportunities alone.

Family farming is not just about the size of farm , it is more about the way people farm and live. Thus "Family farming is a way of live and livelihood" – there are unique advantages – the security of access and control over resources, meeting multiple needs of the family – food and income, the relationships with nature, the bonding with the past, present and future; ensuring freedom from external exploitation as well as freedom for doing in our own way.

– Editors

## The CWSS IXth Annual Conference 2013



The graceful presence of Prof C R Kole, Vice chancellor, BCKV; Prof B Mondal, Pro-vice chancellor, BCKV; Mr P Mazumdar, Advisor, Agriculture and Allied Sectors to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt of West Bengal; Dr D S Rana, Principal Scientist, ICAR and Secretary, ISA, Pusa, New Delhi; Dr B S Mahapatra, Former Director, CRIJAF, ICAR and Professor of Agronomy, GBPUAT; Dr B Gangwar, Project Director, DFSR, ICAR, Modipuram; Dr A V Dhuri, Vice-President-Business Development, Excel Crop Care Ltd, Mumbai; Dr R Kumar, Assistant Director General (Co-ordination), ICAR, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi; Prof A Bhattacharyya, President, CWSS; Prof R K Ghosh, Secretary, CWSS in the CWSS IXth Annual Conference held on 30 September 2013 at the Human Resource Development Centre (Farmers' Training Centre), BCKV, Kalyani.



