Examples of previous committees for International years/decades

**1. International Year of Family Farming (2014)**

The IYFF was designated as a result of the IYFF Campaign started in 2008, coordinated by the World Rural Forum (WRF) and supported by hundreds of civil society organisations that formed a World Coordinating/ Consultation Committee (WCC) to ensure comprehensive and global representation of civil society’s programme for the IYFF. In addition, National Committees formed before, during or after the IYFF engage in policy dialogue with their national governments around family farming issues and raised awareness about the IYFF and do so now about the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-28). Regional farming federations are doing similar work at regional level.

The International Steering Committee (ISC) provided guidance and support for implementing the IYFF activities. It fostered dialogue and promoted partnerships among relevant stakeholders including family farmer organisations, NGOs, research centres and private-sector representatives. It also promoted the integration of issues related to family farming in policymaking processes at national, regional and global levels. The ISC was composed of representatives from 12 member states (Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, France, Kuwait, Philippines, Slovakia and South Africa), plus the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Food Programme (WFP), Bioversity International, FAO, World Rural Forum (WRF), European Union and World Farmers’ Organization (WFO).

FAO was responsible for facilitating the development of strategic alliances to enhance achievement of the IYFF objectives. These included other UN agencies, CFS (Committee on World Food Security), CPF (Country Programming Framework), NGOs, farmer organizations, CGIAR, international financing institutions / development banks, foundations and the private sector. In some countries or groups of countries, focal points were appointed to support country-level activities and link with the global development priorities.

**2. UN Decade of Family Farming International Steering Committee**

FAO and IFAD are jointly leading the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming. See the resolution from the UNGA dated 19 December 2017: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1479766/files/A_RES_72_239-EN.pdf> , in which it is stated *"Calls upon the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development to lead the implementation of the Decade, in collaboration with other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, …”*

In IFAD’s briefing for its Executive Board in Sept 2018 (<https://webapps.ifad.org/members/eb/124/docs/EB-2018-124-R-40.pdf>), this is what was written about establishing a steering committee for the Decade:

*In order to ensure an inclusive and structured approach to the Decade of Family Farming, consultations are currently underway with a view to constituting an international steering committee for the Decade of Family Farming. Although the terms of reference and governance structure of the steering committee are still being conceptualized, the broad purpose of the committee will be to participate in the development and implementation of the Decade, monitor the corresponding activities and provide guidance for any adjustments needed along the way. FAO and IFAD will jointly serve as the secretariat of the steering committee. The committee’s members will include representatives from FAO and IFAD, from a regionally representative group of Member States and from global and regional farmers' organizations. The World Food Programme will also be invited to join. In order to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the committee’s work, it will have a maximum of approximately 20 members.*

*In order to formally launch the Decade, FAO and IFAD are jointly planning, together with other partners, to hold a high-level conference in Rome on the Decade of Family Farming in the early part of 2019. This conference will build on related processes, including the outcomes of the International Symposium on Agricultural Innovation for Family Farming, which is to be held in November 2018.*

**3. International Year of Plant Health (2020)**

This event has established an inter-governmental Steering Committee consisting of 15 members, each representing a region (as defined by FAO). The chair rotates between countries every 6 months. FAO is the Secretariat of the Steering Committee.

**4. International Year of Pulses (2016)**

The Global Pulse Confederation (an industry group) advocated for this IY. It had a Global Steering Committee that was appointed by FAO, and had members from industry and government. FAO also appointed 6 ‘Special Ambassadors’ who were all eminent personalities from a variety of backgrounds (pulse scientists, doctors and nutritionists, cooks, etc.).

**5. International Year of the Camelid (2024)**

No structure as yet has been established for this IY. There is a website. Bolivia was the lead country that pushed it in FAO’s processes.

**6. International Year of Soils (2015)**

The Global Soil Partnership, FAO and UNCCD led this process. It had 2 Special Ambassadors, one was a French professor, and the other was an Ethiopian advisor to the Ministry of Agriculture. The original resolution was submitted to FAO in April 2013 by the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand. The proposal was promoted within the framework of the FAO-led Global Soil Partnership (GSP). The celebration of an International Year of Soils (IYS) “Healthy soils for a healthy life”, was proposed as a theme for raising awareness of the importance of sustainable soil management as the basis for food systems, fuel and fibre production, essential ecosystem functions and better adaptation to climate change for present and future generations. Resolution <http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/GSP/docs/Soil_2015/CL_146_7_A_IYSoils_final.pdf>

**7. International Year of Indigenous Languages (2019)**

In 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages and requested the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ([UNESCO](https://en.unesco.org/)) to serve as the lead organization. UNESCO worked with governments, indigenous peoples’ organizations, researchers and other stakeholders to elaborate an action plan which sets out the path to achieving the objectives of the International Year. This multi-stakeholder partnership is made up of a Steering Committee to oversee implementation, ad hoc groups to provide relevant advice, and contributing partners.

Steering Committee is made up of 18 members including

* Member States: Australia, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Gambia and Saudi Arabia (6)
* Leaders and representatives of indigenous peoples and institutions from the seven sociocultural regions (7)
* Designated members: Representatives from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (3)
* A representative each from the Knowledge Societies Division, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDESA (2)

<https://en.iyil2019.org/about/>