

## Invitation to the FAO - GFRAS SIDE EVENT

### **"Rural Advisory Services for Family Farms"**

Global Dialogue at FAO Rome (IYFF)

27 October 2014, 18.00 - 19.30 hrs, German Room C 229

We would like to invite and welcome you to the side event on Rural Advisory Services (RAS) for Family Farms (FF).

#### **Background**

At the 66th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, 2014 was formally declared to be the ["International Year of Family Farming"](#). Family farming is important for food security, agro-biodiversity, economic development, and social protection and well-being. Small-scale family farms comprise the large majority of agriculture worldwide. They are especially important in developing countries and play a key role in any attempt to alleviate poverty. RAS are pivotal in supporting family farming.

#### **Objectives of the side event**

The objectives and expected outcomes of the side event are

- create a common understanding of the importance of Rural Advisory Services (RAS) for family farming,
- identify particularities of RAS for family farming,
- deepen areas that need to be strengthened to achieve quality RAS for family farms,
- make policy recommendations for RAS to have a significant positive impact on the future of family farmers and rural development, and
- bring together work done during the IYFF on RAS for family farms.

#### **Agenda items of the side event**

The side event will:

- present the work done on RAS for FF (SOFA, stakeholder consultations);
- present the results of the FAO-GFRAS side event on RAS for FF at the GFRAS Annual Meeting in Buenos Aires (Sept. 2014);
- discuss the particularities and recommendations on RAS for FF;

We are looking forward to welcoming you at the side event.

The FAO Research and Extension Unit and the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services