Implementing agencies
Each participating country has established a national implementation platform for existing FOs, which will be supported by the following regional implementation agency and three subregional implementation agencies selected through a competitive process:

- Regional: Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development and La Via Campesina, working in partnership
- Subregional: South Asia, All Nepal Peasants Federation; South East Asia and China AFA/LVC; and for the Pacific region, Pacific Islands Farmer Organization Network

Expected outcomes
With their improved institutional and operational capacities, FOs will have the potential to become important players in the development arena, representing and promoting the interests of farmers in policy processes at the national, subregional and regional levels.

Estimated programme cost: US$14.2 million
IFAD grant financing: US$2.0 million
Cofinancing:
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation: US$3.0 million
Subregional financing South Asia: US$3.2 million
Subregional financing South East Asia: US$4.0 million
Subregional financing Pacific: US$2.0 million
Start date: September 2013

Medium-term Cooperation Programme (MTCP) with Farmers’ Organizations in Asia and the Pacific Region: Phase 2 (2013-2017)
Background
The first phase of the IFAD-funded Medium-term Cooperation Programme (MTCP 1) was a pilot grant implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) from 2009 to 2012. It promoted the inclusion of smallholder farmers and their organizations in policy dialogues at various levels and strengthened regional, subregional and national farmer organization (FO) platforms in Asia.

Strategy and approach of MTCP 2
Phase 2 of the programme, MTCP 2, will build on experiences and lessons learned from the first phase and scale up the development of FOs in Asia and the Pacific region. It will enhance the integration of poor smallholders, especially women and young people, through improved and inclusive services for FO members. MTCP 2 will respond directly to IFAD’s engagement with FOs through the Farmers’ Forum. The Farmers’ Forum meets every two years in Rome during the IFAD Governing Council.

What will MTCP 2 achieve?
MTCP 2 aims at supporting poverty reduction in the region through strengthened capacity of rural farmers and their organizations to influence policies impacting on the livelihoods of rural poor producers. To achieve this, it will pursue three objectives:
• Strengthening the roles and functions of FOs in policy processes and services to members.
• Promoting the interests of rural smallholders and addressing their concerns in policy processes.
• Providing effective pro-poor services through FOs and actively participating in agriculture and rural development.

Programme components
MTCP 2 is composed of the following four components:
• Strengthen FOs and their networks by improving the organizational competences required to form an effective platform for policy dialogue and representation, and by ensuring that FOs become sustainable and credible actors in agribusiness development.
• Support participation of FOs in policy processes by promoting the creation of an enabling environment that will allow farmers and their organizations to realize their full potential to influence local and national agriculture-related policies and to participate in regional and subregional platforms.
• Scale up FO services and their involvement in agricultural development programmes by ensuring FOs deliver effective services to their members (training, production and transformation, value chains) and participate in existing agriculture projects.
• Strengthen programme management and coordination by building on the operational management set up by MTCP 1 and establishing a liaison unit in a regional FO to ensure overall coordination at the regional level.