

2015 YOUTH AG-SUMMIT

SUMMARY REPORT AND CANBERRA YOUTH AG- DECLARATION



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Preamble

Every day the world's population increases by 233,000 people. Combined with water shortages, a lack of arable land and increased agricultural pests, weeds and diseases it is clear we've got a global food supply that's under incredible pressure.

To meet this challenging future head-on, we need to inspire the next generation of agricultural visionaries: Our young people. Only by inspiring our youth to pursue careers in science and agriculture can we continue to advance sustainable and innovative agricultural practices and ensure the security of our food future.

From August 24-28, 100 young leaders from 33 countries gathered at the Youth Ag-Summit in Canberra, Australia, to collaborate, share perspectives and find answers to the question "**How do we feed a hungry planet?**"

The delegates debated solutions that were grouped under 15 themes based on essays they had submitted prior to the Summit.

Through group work, discussion and voting, delegates selected **five priority themes** where they believe **young people can have the maximum immediate impact** in feeding a hungry planet.

The delegates then proposed solutions and actions for each of the five priority themes.

The five themes and the solutions form the **Canberra Youth Ag-Declaration**.

This document is a summary of the 2015 Youth Ag-Summit and its outcomes. It serves as a reference document for the 2015 Youth Ag-Summit delegates, Bayer and Future Farmers Network representatives and aims to assist them with:

- advocacy efforts at the country level;
- further engagement with stakeholders such as at the UN Committee on Food Security;
- influencing key opinion leaders and policy makers across the world who have the ability to take these ideas and outcomes and drive them further;
- attracting ongoing partners and supporters to the Youth Ag-Summit.

The Canberra Youth Ag-Declaration

We, the delegates of the 2015 Youth Ag-Summit declare that young leaders and supporting entities can have the maximum, immediate impact on feeding a hungry planet by focusing on the following five key themes and solutions:

Boost education and skills building

Develop a fair and open multi-channel platform for formal and informal educators in the agricultural industry to build greater skills through ongoing education.

Communicate the value of agriculture careers and farming

Globally promote the importance of agriculture and enhance the image of farmers and the breadth of opportunities in the agricultural industry.

Promote socially acceptable and responsible consumption

Empower consumers to directly improve the sustainability of supply chains by developing educational platforms and resources which promote the responsible use of current resources and drive social change.

Innovate for sustainable intensification and new production systems

Create a global network that links young innovators to agricultural needs to drive knowledge, information sharing and the funding of solutions.

Foster personal and organisational leadership

Boost youth impact and leadership skills through membership of relevant youth ag organisations to provide experience, mentorship and support for youth vision.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Youth Ag-Summit – Past and future

Bayer CropScience Canada and 4-H Canada held the inaugural Youth Ag-Summit in Calgary, Alberta on August 19-25, 2013. Themed “Feeding a Hungry Planet”, the event idea stemmed from the United Nations’ prediction that, by 2050, the planet’s population will exceed nine billion people placing pressure on sustainable food supply amidst limited resources and arable land.

The week-long event brought together nearly 120 young adults aged 18-25 from 24 countries to share their ideas and develop a plan of action on how to feed a hungry planet. Delegates enthusiastically took up the challenge and, under the rally cry “I Act!”, pledged 543 individual actions aimed at increasing global food security and defined a common overall vision: To increase sustainable access to nutrient dense foods for women and children worldwide to alleviate global hunger.

The inaugural Youth Ag-Summit showed the potential of bringing young leaders together to discuss global food security, and there was a clear demand to keep the momentum going after the Summit. Bayer CropScience intends to keep the momentum going by working in partnership with leading youth groups in different host countries to deliver the Youth Ag-Summit bi-annually.

The 2015 Youth Ag-Summit took place in Canberra, Australia from August 24-28. One hundred young leaders and 39 mentors from 33 countries came together to collaborate, share perspectives and find answers to the question “How do we feed a hungry planet?” To select the 2015 delegates, we invited young adults aged 18-25 to apply by entering an essay competition. With around 2000 entries, the response was overwhelming.

Bayer CropScience partnered with Australian agricultural youth organisation, Future Farmers Network (FFN), to co-host this event. Delegates at the Youth Ag-Summit participated in a full schedule of keynote speakers, peer-presentations, debates, discussions, group work, field tours and networking opportunities with global peers, business leaders, elected officials and scientists.

1.2 Outcomes of the Youth Ag-Summit 2015

The long-term goal is to inspire these delegates to not just think, but to act, becoming instruments of global societal change. At the Summit in 2015, the three main outcomes were:

1. **Starting a movement through “3 little things”:** Each delegate developed “3 little things” which are individual challenges that delegates will action in their local communities. These will be tracked and discussed online via social media and the Youth Ag-Network.
2. **Development of the “Canberra Youth Ag-Declaration” and tabling it with key influencers and opinion leaders:** Five key outcomes/recommendations of the Summit are summarized in this document which are to be presented at the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in Rome, 12-15 October. Two delegates,

Laura Grubb from Australia and Samba Ouma Zablon from Kenya, will represent all the delegates at the 42nd CFS Conference and present the “Canberra Youth Ag-Declaration”. The delegates will also participate in a side event titled “Empowering youth to pursue careers in agriculture: A public-private approach” hosted by Bayer, a member of the Private Sector Mechanism of the CFS.

3. **Creating sustainable connections through the Youth Ag-Network:** During the Youth Ag-Summit, Bayer launched an online network to connect and inspire the next generation, a place where delegates can share the progress of their “3 little things” and connect with other like-minded individuals.

1.3 The Youth Ag-Summit and the Bayer Agricultural Education Program

The Youth Ag-Summit forms part of the Bayer CropScience Agricultural Education Program. It follows a holistic approach to encourage young people aged 14 to 28 to learn more about sustainable agriculture and food supply. The Program includes the following elements: visiting opportunities to Bayer labs and facilities, the Youth Ag-Summit, agricultural science scholarships and community networking opportunities.

Bayer has created this program to address the critical skills shortage facing world agriculture, which starts with a generally poor understanding of science in the community. The program seeks to boost science at every level of the formal education journey.

2.0 Rationale and objectives of the “Canberra Youth Ag-Declaration”

According to the recent UN Department of Economics and Social Affairs report¹, the population will grow to 9.7 billion in 2050. While China and India will still see a growth in population, it is Africa which accounts to the highest growth rate and is responsible for more than half of the world’s population growth to 2050. Addressing this dilemma, the second of the 17 United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)² is to end hunger, achieve food security, improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

The solutions to the food supply challenge are debated across society, driven by disputes over the sharing of land and water between urban users and agriculture, the desire of the developed world to consume more protein, food waste and the impact of agriculture itself on the environment. At the same time, there is a lack of young people interested in entering science and agriculture³. These issues combined make the program of feeding a hungry planet a globally inter-connected ‘wicked’ program.

Taking place at the time the world community will confirm the 2030 SDGs, the 2015 Youth Ag-Summit provides valuable input to how young people can help achieve the SDG goals. The results and recommendations of the Youth Ag-Summit will be presented at the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in Rome in October 2015.

The Canberra Youth Ag-Declaration is a detailed and action-oriented plan developed by 100 bright young minds from various backgrounds and who are dedicated to drive change on a global and local level. Hailing from 33 countries and many different educational backgrounds, they bring unique, diverse perspectives and a common interest in feeding a hungry planet.

The delegates signed a pledge committing to act as ag-ambassadors (“AGvocates”) in their communities by: delivering their individual “3 little things” commitments; supporting the implementation of the “Canberra Youth Ag-Declaration”; and taking leadership roles in feeding a hungry planet.

Bayer strongly believes that broadly based private-public partnerships involving civil society groups and like-minded companies, can deliver long-term benefits for society, and is committed to supporting the Youth Ag-Summit program in the future.

1 UN 2015 Revision of World Population Prospects: <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/>

2 UN 2015, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

3 Recognised and addressed by SDG # 4 “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”.

3.0 Developing the “Canberra Youth Ag-Declaration”

The Declaration is a key outcome of the 2015 Summit. This call for action includes precise recommendations which were developed by the delegates during the Summit. The starting point for the Declaration was the essays submitted by the delegates prior to the Summit.

3.1 Essay question

All delegates were asked to provide a 1,500 word essay addressing the following question:

“In the next 40 years, it is projected that the world population will grow from 7 to about 9 billion, yet for many different reasons; 1 billion people today still do not have enough safe and nutritious food to eat. Demand is rising while resources are dwindling. Solutions are strongly debated across rural, urban and international communities.

Using your own village, town, city or country as your point of reference, tell us what you think are the underlying causes of food insecurity, and the effect it can have on a population, both at a local and global level.

Based on this, explain what changes to agricultural or food chain practices, or personal and community behaviours could help solve these issues to create a more sustainable local and global society.”

3.2 15 input themes

The 100 essays were summarised into 15 themes:

- 1. Communication about the value of agriculture careers and farming:** Communicate to improve the image of agriculture to attract resources, finance, and people, and improve the image of farmers.
- 2. R&D and innovation to reduce impact and adapt to resource loss:** Implement R&D and Innovation to reduce external impacts on agriculture and adapt to resource limitations and climate change and address public objections to current practices.
- 3. R&D and innovation to intensify or develop new production systems:** Implement R&D and Innovation to intensify agriculture (for the same resource input) or to develop new production systems.
- 4. Education and skills building:** Address the skills shortage in agriculture and supporting industries by improving educational outcomes.
- 5. Personal and organisational leadership:** Enhance leadership of the agricultural community by mentoring leaders and promoting better farmer organisation and representation.
- 6. International development and aid:** Enhance production by reducing the production and skills gap between the developed and developing nations by skills transfer and targeted foreign aid.
- 7. Regulation and policy solutions:** Deal directly with food security issues by specific regulatory interventions.

8. **Enabling free and fair trade:** Improve farmer access to markets by identifying and dealing with trade barriers, commercial hurdles and inequalities.
9. **Increasing production capacity and security:** Activities that increase food production capacity and security.
10. **Future proofing the agricultural resource base:** Taking steps designed to protect the long-term production base against population pressures and climate threats.
11. **Digital enhancement of agriculture:** Focusing on digital information platforms as a means to create value and efficiency.
12. **Addressing social and ethical issues:** Addressing basic social and ethical contradictions underpinning food supply inefficiencies and attractiveness of rural living and farming.
13. **Socially acceptable & responsible consumption:** Managing demand by changing consumer behaviour to be more sustainable.
14. **Reduction of food waste caused by distribution and storage problems:** Address inefficiencies and losses in the food distribution system.
15. **Addressing gender related issues:** Address gender inequalities, rights and fairness issues to increase productivity and wellbeing of farming communities.

3.3 Voting

On a daily basis during the Summit, the delegates were asked to individually rank the 15 themes to the top five priority themes in terms of *where they believe youth can have the biggest immediate impact in feeding a hungry planet*. In making this choice the delegates considered key note speakers and panel discussions, and their own discussion of the topics in breakout sessions.

3.4 Five priority themes

Following three rounds of voting, the delegates selected the following five themes:

1. Education and skills building
2. Communication about the value of agriculture careers and farming
3. R&D and innovation to intensify or develop new production systems
4. Personal and organisational leadership
5. Socially acceptable & responsible consumption

3.5 Solutions and actions

Finally, the delegates worked on each of the five themes to agree on a specific solution (“what”), explain its significance (“why”) and define precise actions to make the solution a reality (“how”).

4.0 Five key themes of the “Canberra Youth Ag-Declaration”

4.1 Theme 1 – Education and skills building

WHAT:

Develop a fair and open multi-channel platform for formal and informal educators in the agricultural industry to build greater skills through ongoing education.

WHY:

“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a life time.”

Unequal distribution of information results in ineffective farm practices. The platform will democratize innovation allowing farmers access to scalable technology and information, leading to enhanced productivity and food production for everyone.

SUPPORTING DATA⁴:

The following data demonstrates the growth of web connectivity and the unequal access to information:

- 40% of farm performance is due to management decisions
- 40% of world population has an internet connection
 - In 1995 this number was less than 1%
 - Ten-fold increase between 1999 and 2013
- Users by region:
 - Asia - 48.4%
 - America (North & South) – 21.8%
 - Europe – 19%
 - Africa – 9.8%
 - Oceania – rest of users

Rationale: If we increase access to open information, farm decisions will be better informed and supported.

HOW:

ACTION 1: Open Source Web Platform

2015 Youth Ag-Summit delegates believe the first action is to develop an open source web platform to democratise innovation. The three-year plan to develop this platform is as follows:

Year 1:

- Secure financial backers (public, private, crowd source)
- Recruit technical support to set up the domain/platform

⁴ Delegate estimates

Year 2:

- Source information (for example blueprints, education lessons, videos) via delegates in home countries who can link inputs to items already in platform
- Develop a filter and peer/professional moderation system to ensure continuity of the platform

Year 3

- Market the platform in order to have people use the information
- Get new users to add new information

Note: This platform should be free and open to everyone interested in modern agriculture and food security and safety.

ACTION 2: Development of networks of ‘AGvocates’

Develop a network of ‘AGvocates’ who can provide practical skills to young farmers and school children.

Step 1: Pilot demonstration (2016) based on crop, season, country determined

- Secure partners
- Show success (communicate results from 2017 onwards)
- Repeat and expand (from 2017 onwards)

Step 2: Preparation of the future ‘AGvocates’ (2015 onwards)

ACTION 3: AGCONNECT

AgConnect is a type of professional development network that links community leaders with local hands-on agricultural information and content on the information platform with the intent to share information further.

Step 1: Develop a manual for the AgConnect program

Step 2: AgConnect will be piloted in New Zealand, Philippines, Canada and the United States by 2018

WHO:

DELEGATES	
1. Wilbri Vorster, South Africa 2. Beverley Flatt, United States 3. Katelyn Mann, United States 4. Julia Müller, Germany 5. Helen Magdalena Schiller, Germany 6. Vigne Sridharan, United States 7. Azwar Annas, Indonesia 8. Madison Roland-Evans, Australia	9. Oliver Cassels, United Kingdom 10. Bollen Raja Kumar, India 11. Koh Shao Cong, Singapore 12. Kirsty McBryde, Australia 13. Eva Layagan, Philippines 14. Sarah Tait, New Zealand 15. Nicola Theron, South Africa
MENTORS	
16. Mike Abram, United Kingdom 17. Georgie Aley, Australia 18. Erika Oakes, Australia 19. Rick Horbury, Australia	20. Pamela Maria Lucia, Indonesia 21. Jan van Vuuren, South Africa 22. Biswajit Chowdhuri, India 23. Rachael Rodney, Australia

4.2 Theme 2 – Communicate the value of agriculture careers and farming

WHAT:

Globally promote the importance of agriculture and enhance the image of farmers and the breadth of opportunities in the agricultural industry.

WHY:

Society no longer fully appreciates the value of agriculture and its role in feeding a hungry planet. If the value of agriculture and its role in addressing food security challenges is more widely recognised, society will be more likely to lobby governments to support the industry and food security domestically and internationally.

SUPPORTING DATA:

- Society is rapidly urbanising and agriculture is being abandoned: 68% of Indonesian people⁵ will move from rural areas to urban areas in 2025. The European and Australian rates of urbanisation were 72% and 90% respectively in 2014.
- There are over 150 new mouths to feed every minute meaning that by 2050 there will be over 9 billion people to feed. Communicating this early is key to seeking solutions.
- The Youth Ag-Summit reached 7th highest trending topic globally within the FFN Twitter network during the Summit.
- The following two initiatives have raised awareness for their cause yet only started with a small group of people and no financial backing
 - Earth Hour has 1 million Facebook likes
 - 40 Hour Famine has 300,000 Australian Facebook likes

HOW:

ACTION 1: Make food security a global security issue

- Ask the CFS and/or UN to provide recommendations / general frameworks to countries regarding the promotion of agriculture
- Create global food and agriculture ambassadors

ACTION 2: Global agriculture awareness day

- Skip a meal
- Every delegate shares ideas on social media
- Unite programs around the world under one banner for example, #agawarenessday
- Grow movements from small to big e.g. Earth Hour
- Increase awareness for ag & ag careers and influence government policy

⁵ Indonesian Statistic Center

ACTION 3: One, simple, unified social online platform (website) to share value of agriculture and ag-related careers

- Integrated with Facebook and Twitter – the “Instagram for Ag”
- Recognisable, simple logo and effective marketing
- Blogs, videos, photos, short sentences
- Potentially lists of events and other information
- Initiate through Youth Ag-Network and face-to-face contacts

WHO:

DELEGATES	
1. Samba Zablon, Kenya 2. Zachary Mounsey, New Zealand 3. Lydia Jeffs-Joory, UK 4. Phatarapong Phromdontree, Thailand 5. Devon Hamley, Australia 6. James Robertson, New Zealand 7. Jade Killoran, Australia 8. Rozzie O'Reilly, Australia 9. Erin Pope, Australia 10. Sharna Holman, Australia 11. Amrina Alhumaira, Indonesia 12. Febri Arista, Indonesia	13. Muhummad Iqbal, Indonesia 14. Dendy Primanandi Rudi Rifani, Indonesia 15. Vinh Bao Nguyen, Vietnam 16. Stuart Tait, Australia 17. Tin Gumba, Philippines 18. Jimae Faith B. Magnaye, Philippines 19. Rastgul Kongarsa, Thailand 20. Timothy Lefroy, Australia 21. Aimee Snowden, Australia 22. Camilla Ponte, Italy 23. Amanda Kharisma, Indonesia
MENTORS	
24. Fleur Wilkins, Australia 25. Torsten Velden, Vietnam 26. Angus MacLennan, Australia	27. Daniele Figueiredo, Brazil 28. Greta Pignata, Italy 29. Sophia Wang, China

4.3 THEME 3 – Socially acceptable and responsible consumption

WHAT:

Empower consumers to directly improve the sustainability of supply chains by developing educational platforms and resources which promote the responsible use of current resources and drive social change.

WHY:

There is enough food for everyone on the planet, but through inequitable distribution and a lack of knowledge and understanding, food wastage continues while people suffer from under- over- and mal-nutrition.

SUPPORTING DATA:

- 1/3 of edible food is wasted⁶
- 2 billion people are micronutrient deficient and 13% of people are obese⁶
- The “Bullwhip” supply chain effect: poor information leads to larger swings in inventory to match demand, resulting in an inefficient supply chain.

HOW:

ACTION 1: Selling imperfect food at discounts and saving any waste created

ACTION 2: Implementing Nutritional Education Programs in communities

ACTION 3: Creating a media platform to support responsible consumption through local leaders and public figures, such as hashtag campaigns. (Media program ideally should be integrated with other agriculture advocacy programs, as suggestions in Section 4.2, Action 3)

ACTION 4: Initiatives to support transparency of information such as labelling, food tracking apps and programs connecting consumers and farmers including co-ops.

WHO:

DELEGATES	
1. Elyse Collat – USA	14. Takuya Nagasawa - Japan
2. Victoria Pilbeam - Australia	15. Thomas Rochford - Australia
3. Min Woo Kim – South Korea	16. Sun Chin Oh - Singapore
4. Daniel Kasprowicz - Poland	17. See Pei Ling - Malaysia
5. Isha Jog - USA	18. Avni Mete Baydar - Turkey
6. Marcus Görlich - Germany	19. Maria Florencia Carzon - Argentina
7. Annelise Bissett - Australia	20. Maria Gloria Sáenz Romo - Spain
8. Bridgette Byrne - Australia	21. Sally Stead - Australia
9. Courtney O’Neill - Canada	22. Brittany Dahl - Australia
10. Mitra Kiani - France	23. Gabrielle Ho - Australia
11. Pauline Rattet - France	24. Annie Tiong -Malaysia
12. Andrea Zorzetto – Italy	25. Ikuho Takao - Japan

⁶ FAO/WHO Declaration on Nutrition, 2014

13. Rosario Monzales- New Zealand	
MENTORS	
26. Ashley Holland – USA 27. Mike Burgess - Australia 28. Claudia Sagenmüller - Argentina	29. Michal Krysiak - Poland 30. Cassandra Chornoboy - Canada 31. Jonathan Tiong – Singapore

4.4 Theme 4 – Innovation for sustainable intensification and new production systems

WHAT:

Create a global network that links young innovators to agricultural needs to drive knowledge, information sharing and the funding of solutions.

WHY:

- The world faces serious challenges in terms of the production, distribution and consumption of food. Solutions often exist, but are inefficiently shared and are often too small and local to represent commercial development opportunities.
- At the same time, young innovators are an under-utilized resource of creativity. They are eager to start their careers, demonstrate their value and contribute to society.
- Fully harness the potential of young innovative minds to address global food supply and utilization issues.
- Leverage the fact that young innovators are eager to have an impact, need opportunities to contribute and can use new and low cost approaches to solve problems, for the benefit of their careers, and the global community.
- Our solution is global, collaborative and gives young people access to the funds and support they need to feed a hungry planet.

SUPPORTING DATA:

842 million people are in hunger today. Key constraints include:

- Crop yield gaps between potential and actual⁷:
 - Africa – 80%
 - India – 80%
 - Europe – 5 to 15%
- Technology utilization gap⁸
 - India - 85% manual labour (estimate)
 - China - 80% (estimate)
 - Kenya - 60-70% (estimate)
 - Netherlands <5% (estimate)
- Storage and supply chain losses are reduced with increased technology and investment in infrastructure.
- Efficiency of resource use in countries with big yield gaps is lower
- Human nutrition is linked to economic, social and physical availability of food
- Land availability is steadily dropping:
 - 1961 – 1.4 ha/capita globally
 - 2009 – 0.7 ha/capita
 - 2050 – 0.577 ha/capita⁹

⁷ CSIRO

⁸ Delegates estimates

⁹ FAO

HOW:

ACTION 1: Young Innovator Network

Create a network to connect young innovators, share experience and knowledge, build capacity and training and provide mutual support.

ACTION 2: Problem Solution Portal

Establish a problem and solution portal for young innovators to share and solve common issues by farmers worldwide. Investigate digital and mobile means to deliver outcomes globally.

ACTION 3: “Agri-vator” Crowd Funding

Establish an “Agricultural Innovators without borders” style crowd-funding platform to provide seed funding for small-scale research and technology scaling projects for young innovators (Agriculture + Innovators = “Agri-Vators”)

ACTION 4: Organising Committee

Establish an organizing committee to propose the path forward.

WHO:

DELEGATES	
1. Belinda Boshammer, Australia 2. Guillermo Zub Lysak, Paraguay 3. Laura Grubb, Australia 4. Shan Youxia, China 5. Justin Wittle, Australia 6. Magdalena Rojek, Poland 7. Rohit Fenn, India 8. Nikhil Autar, Australia 9. Shaun Snoxell, New Zealand 10. Guillaume Flandin, France 11. Chris Verweij, Netherlands 12. Mary Appophia Kamua, Kenya	13. Edward Silva, USA 14. Zhang Wenxie, China 15. Brennah McKirdy, Canada 16. Laura Checa Garcia, Spain 17. Bénédicte Suybeng, France 18. Marion Pitz, Germany 19. Lucia Luijben, Netherlands 20. Tibor A. Marton, Hungary 21. Rodrigo Suzacq, Uruguay 22. Jaime Garcia, Chile 23. Claude Coleoni, Brazil
MENTORS	
1. Indra Faturahman, Indonesia 2. Valerie Puetz, Germany 3. Michel Jansen, Netherlands	4. Nick Gemoets, Belgium 5. Richard Dickmann, Australia

4.5 Theme 5 – Personal and organisational leadership

WHAT:

Boost youth impact and leadership skills through membership of relevant youth ag organisations to provide experience, mentorship and support for youth vision.

WHY:

- Agriculture needs young leaders today with a shared vision to create positive actions to the question “How do we feed a hungry planet?”
- This is an overarching question which needs to be addressed broadly – and it will not be a “one-size-fits-all solution”. Utilize the theory of change:
 - Food security is not an individual problem
 - Food security cannot be solved locally
 - It is a very complex issue and requires a diverse range of solutions including creativity, collaboration and innovation
 - Young minds are more likely to evoke change
- Youth needs to get engaged actively through various associations and committees:
 - Locally in their communities and regions
 - Globally via the United Nations FAO
- To build a movement, youth need a global youth platform that provides:
 - Commitment
 - Inspiration
 - Quality assurance
 - High quality standards
 - Assessment and feedback
- Youth leaders need to be developed through mentorship and education provided via various youth groups such as 4-H, FFN and the Youth Ag-Summit itself.

Other considerations include:

- Utilize online and social connections and maximize technology
- Build a brand and create a voice
- Invite other young leaders outside agriculture to engage them in helping creating new solutions to break old paradigms
- Remove barriers such as:
 - Financial support
 - Access to key organizations and governments
 - Simplify via a common platform
 - Continue to challenge thinking

SUPPORTING DATA:

- The farming community around the world is aging and is currently estimated to be around 60 years old.¹⁰
- By 2050 the world population will grow to more than 9 billion people. The conference delegates will be directly impacted, as will their children.

¹⁰ FAO, 2014

- In some countries, agriculture is entrenched as a way of life, resistant to change via technology or practice change. In developed countries, agriculture is changing at a rate sometimes questioned by the community.
- Agriculture is in dire need of new perspectives.
- History has demonstrated that youth are the most creative and are ready and willing to break paradigms.
- Youth are more emphatic to cultural diversity and are highly connected, across the city/country divide, and globally
 - This is our issue and we need to take ownership
 - We have the best chance to create cutting edge solutions via fresh minds and unbiased thinking

HOW:

ACTION 1: Fully utilize the “Youth Ag-Network”

Fully utilize the Global Youth Ag-Network to derive maximum benefit for delegates from the Youth Ag-Summit experience.

ACTION 2: Develop a network for global youth development

- Develop a global network focused on youth leadership and education
- Partners with existing rural youth movements
- Create linkages between organisations to maximise leadership learning opportunities

ACTION 3: Encourage the creation of Youth Ambassador roles at all levels

Lobby for the widespread creation of ambassador positions for youth to get involved locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Target all levels

- Small scale e.g. local breed association
- Large scale e.g. creating a youth position on the UN’s CFS.

We want to see the potential and fresh ideas that youth can bring to the table be fully utilized.

WHO:

DELEGATES	
1. Boglárka Ruzs, Hungary	7. Bram van Hecke, Belgium
2. Emma McIlveen, UK	8. Diego Moscoso Balanza, Bolivia
3. Henriette Keuffel, Estonia	9. Andrea Soesbergen, Canada
4. Sam Gunther, Australia	10. Hamish Clarke, New Zealand
5. Sarah Crofoot, New Zealand	11. Edward Perrett, Australia
6. Hu Pu, China	12. Filipp Peresadilo, Netherland
MENTORS	
13. Nicholas Kouyan, Australia	17. Karen Yah Hui Koh, Malaysia
14. Komie Hossini, Canada	18. Stephanie Goutorbe, France
15. Kristen Kilby, Australia	19. Derrick Rozdeba, Canada
16. Samantha Anderson, Australia	

5.0 Conclusion

The population will grow to more than 9.7 billion by 2050 placing major strains on world resources. The UN has therefore defined “ending hunger, achieve food security, improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” as a key SDG goal.

The solutions to the food supply challenge are debated across society. Tackling global food challenges will require manifold solutions. There are no “one-size-fits-all” actions – every nation has different demands for consideration.

Taking place at the time the world community will define the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goal’s, the 2015 Youth Ag-Summit provides valuable input on how young people can help achieve these goals. The “Canberra Youth Ag-Declaration” delivers five action-oriented recommendations on how youth can have the maximum impact on feeding a hungry planet.

Only by inspiring the next generation of visionaries to address the challenges of tomorrow and providing a platform where they can be heard can we continue to advance sustainable and innovative agricultural practices and ensure the security of our food future.

The 2015 Canberra Youth Ag-Summit provided such a platform, and has helped inspire 100 young leaders to take up the challenge of feeding a hungry planet.

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6.0 Acknowledgements

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PARTNERS



Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture • John Deere •
Meat & Livestock Australia • The Crawford Fund • Fertilizer Australia
Australian Organic Ltd • Youth Food Movement • School for Life Foundation Australia