

Private Sector Side Event

Empowering Youth to Pursue Careers in Agriculture: A Public Private Approach

HOSTED BY:

Bayer CropScience, Future Farmers Network Australia, 4-H Canada

DATE, LOCATION :

October 13, 2015 – UN FAO, Rome, Italy

SPEAKERS :

Matthew Worrell, Minister Counsellor of Agriculture

Richard Dickmann, Head of New Business Development, Bayer CropScience

Samba Ouma Zablon, Youth Representative from Kenya, Youth Ag-Summit

Laura Grubb, Youth Representative from Australia, Youth Ag-Summit

Shannon Benner, Chief Executive Officer, 4H Canada

Ingemar Buehler, Head of Strategic Messaging and Executive Communication, Bayer CropScience

MODERATOR:

Richard Dickmann, Head of New Business Development, Bayer CropScience

MEETING SUMMARY (250 WORDS)

Youth are the future of farming, and therefore are some of the most important groups to ensure a sustainable and successful future in agriculture. During the 20th century, the quantity of farmers has declined in every part of the world—from 35 to only 4% in developed nations between 1950 and 2010, and from 81 to 48% in developing countries. The average age of farmers is now in the range of late-50s to early 60s in parts of Africa, the United States, Europe and Australia.

This side event attracted an audience of 40, and focused on different ways that public/private and civil society groups can collaborate to increase societal understanding and awareness of the challenges facing modern agriculture and their respective roles in sustainably feeding a hungry planet. The side event aimed to stress the need to empower youth to build networks and advocate on behalf of agriculture as a career.

KEY THEMES & DISCUSSION POINTS, INCLUDING NEW PROJECTS OR PARTNERSHIPS

Richard Dickmann, Head of New Business Development, Bayer CropScience

- We need the youngest and mightiest minds to create the innovative technologies for the future of farming.

- Young people are needed to achieve the 2013 Sustainable Development Goals.

Samba Ouma Zablon, Youth Representative, Youth Ag-Summit

- Stakeholders involved in the industry need to contribute to improve agricultural education.
- Better education and leadership will inspire young minds and introduce them to the agricultural industry.

Laura Grubb, Youth Representative, Youth Ag-Summit

- Adult-Youth connections are essential for youth to share their ideas and help implement them into innovative and substantial projects.
- At the Youth Ag Summit, they were asked to create a list of 3 things that they can take action on in their communities. This was a great call to action to show youth how they can become involved.

Shannon Benner, Chief Executive Officer, 4-H Canada

- For every graduate with an agricultural degree, there are 6 job opportunities.
- In particular, young people interested in agriculture will have the opportunity to find their voice in something they are passionate about. Adult-youth partnerships or collaborations can help achieve that.
- The [Canberra Youth Declaration](#) demonstrates that youth have important contributions to make.

Ingemar Buehler, Head of Strategic Messaging and Executive Communication, Bayer CropScience

- Most people underestimate how big and complex the agricultural industry is.
- There are so many different jobs and different areas where youth can contribute.

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

- We need to empower youth to build networks and advocate on behalf of agriculture as a career.
- We need the youngest and mightiest minds to create the innovative technologies for the future of farming.
- Young people are needed to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
- Adult-Youth connections are essential for youth to share their ideas and help implement them into innovative and substantial projects.