On July 13, the International Agri-Food Network partnered with a number of leading organizations to host “Agriculture and Food Day” to celebrate, discuss, negotiate, analyze, and brainstorm around the role of Agriculture and Food in relation to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The day included a thematically-focused plenary session with high-level speakers including high-ranking UN diplomats, a series of roundtable discussions on inter-linkages in SDGs, and dynamic luncheon featuring youth in agriculture with the goal to raise awareness of the critical need for investment in Goal 2.

There is a critical need to attract and train a new generation of farmers, farm leaders, agribusiness workers and managers. To transform agriculture into a more productive, sustainable, competitive, and efficient sector, we must attract and develop new talent in agriculture through youth engagement. Key insights were shared and discussed throughout the luncheon held during Agriculture and Food Day, such as: access to asset and investments; modernisation of the rural world; incorporating agriculture into school curriculum; access to markets; and empowering young women farmers. Youth are engaged in agriculture when it is made accessible at an early age and when they have mentors. Agriculture should be incorporated into secondary – and at some level – primary school education.

On July 13, 2017, high-level delegates attended Agriculture and Food Day at the Yale Club in New York City to discuss, negotiate, analyze, and brainstorm around the role of Agriculture and Food in relation to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

CO-HOSTED BY: 

Follow the conversation on social media using: #Ag4SDGs
A panel of young farmers outlined a series of challenges youth face today in agriculture along with a list of suggestions to help engage youth in agriculture more. These suggestions include:

- Improve access to credit for financial investment in assets.
- Improve educational outreach programs dealing with fisheries management and other aspects of commercial fishing.
- Create international scholarships, which allow youth in fishing to travel to different parts of the world to understand diverse and alternative management systems.
- Encourage youth in fishing organizations, which allow members to meet and work together.
- Create mentorship programs which help bridge the gap between active or experienced fishers and youth.
- Create opportunities for youth entrepreneurship programs (education, finance investing, and knowledge).
- Improve technical assistance to help farmers and youth to produce more and better (SDG2).
- Address the pervasive patriarchal values of farming and empower young women’s status in decision making and leadership.
- Careers can be aligned to the food revolution and promoted through social media as cool, trendy, and sexy.
- More jobs across the whole spectrum of the agri-food value chain need to be visible to young people.
- Help develop youth’s strategic and financial acumen for starting a new business.
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

The #Ag4SDGs hashtag was used to discuss the event on social media. UN twitter accounts, organisations, speakers, and delegated shared articles and comments throughout the day regarding food security, SDGs, and agriculture’s impact.

Engagement was high on social media, with countries participating around the world. The level of engagement of #Ag4SDGs in each country includes:

SOCIAL REACH

The online participation for #Ag4SDGs was a great success and attracted many contributors online. With the high volume of posts, and the popularity of the hashtag, the potential reach for #Ag4SDGs surpassed 1.5 million.

What do we need to do to attract more youth in agriculture?

A number of puzzle pieces were left blank for the audience to incorporate their own ideas. Once they had written their ideas on the remaining blank puzzle pieces, they took a picture and shared it on social media with the hashtags #Ag4SDGs and #youth.
Photos and videos were shared through social media using #Ag4SDGS

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