



The farmers pictured above are joining the Global Farmer Network after completing their Roundtable & Communication Training program, held in conjunction with *Mobilizing the GFN in Support of a Resilient Agri-Food System*, February 5-11, 2023. At the in-person portion of the program in Buenos Aires and Rosario, Argentina, along with communication training, the group participated in roundtable discussions focusing on today's agriculture issues.

The cohort will continue to engage through virtual sessions held after the meeting in Argentina. Both the online and the in-person training is led by farmers in the Network.



January 2023 results: raising visibility, increasing influence, driving impact



**GFN Uniting Farmers in Support of Knowledge Transfer**



**The Purpose of the GFN Mobilizing in Argentina**

Making and developing personal connections is important and foundational to who the Global Farmer Network is and what we do. All Global Farmer Network members are farmers. When invited to join the GFN, farmers first participate in sessions that not only provide communication and leadership development training, but also connects that farmer to the other global farmers in that cohort and ultimately be connected to the full GFN cadre of farmers from 64 countries around the world.

In order to support that connection to each other and a shared mission to engage to amplify the farmers voice and expertise, the purpose of meeting in Argentina – *Mobilizing the GFN in Support of a Resilient Agri-Food System*, February 5-11, 2023 – with farmers from around the world present is to learn from each other, share expertise and ideas, and identify areas of solution and forward-focused work that can be well accomplished and/or supported by the farmers who are the GFN.

**Amplifying the Farmers' Voice**



**GFN Member Panelist at GFFA**

At the Global Forum for Food & Agriculture (GFFA) held in Berlin, Ruramiso Mashumba, Zimbabwe represented young farmers as an expert panelist for "[Crisis-proof nutrition through sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture – the private sector as actor](#)". [Ruramiso is second from the left in the photo.]



**GFN Award Recipient Tells Farming Story**

Motlatsi Musi, South Africa was interviewed by radio station LESEDIfm. During the interview, Motlatsi explained how the Global Farmer Network empowered him to amplify his voice. He has shared his farming story and the benefits of GM technology with audiences around the world. Because of this work, Motlatsi was the recipient of the 2017 [Kleckner Global Farm Leader Award](#). Motlatsi shared with listeners how the award continues to motivate him to tell the farmer's story so that farmers can have access to the technology and tools that they need.



**Opinion Pieces Shared by Bonus Eventus**

The article "[Knowledge Transfer is Foundational to Resilient Agriculture](#)" authored by Rosalie Ellasus, Philippines, describing the GFN-led program held for small holder farmers from Southeast Asia, and the article by John Rigolizzo, Jr, United States, with a perspective on the genetically modified American chestnut tree, "[Let's Save the American Chestnut Tree with Technology](#)", were picked-up and shared through direct links by Bonus Eventus. Bonus Eventus is a global distribution service to individuals and institutions who are interested in and watching biotechnology activity around the world.

These 2023 YTD results show the topics and the spaces where GFN members are amplifying the farmers' voice:

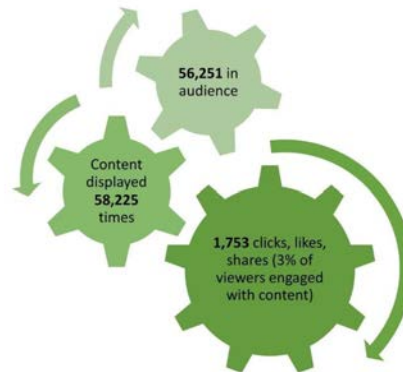


n=47

GFN farmers from these countries have been making their voices heard this year—in 27 different media outlets: Argentina, **Canada**, **India**, Ireland, Jordan, **Kenya**, Liberia, New Zealand, Philippines, Rwanda, **Ukraine**, Uruguay, UK, USA (bold indicates top 4 active countries).

### INCREASING AG VISIBILITY, AG AWARENESS

Our strong presence on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube is focused on growing engagement with non-farmers and farmers alike. Here's what engagement looked like for the month of January.



#### Global Farmer Network Focus Themes

##### February

Technology in Ag  
One year anniversary of Russia aggression in Ukraine – food security at risk

##### March

Water – Weather

#### Nominate a Farmer to Join the GFN

The next Roundtable and Communication Training program will be held September 10-16, 2023 in Washington, DC. We are actively looking for more farmers who are interested in the advocacy work of the GFN and have an interest to join the Network.

To nominate a farmer, please complete an [on-line nomination form](#).

The section process will take place, and invitations to become a GFN member will be sent in the second quarter of 2023.

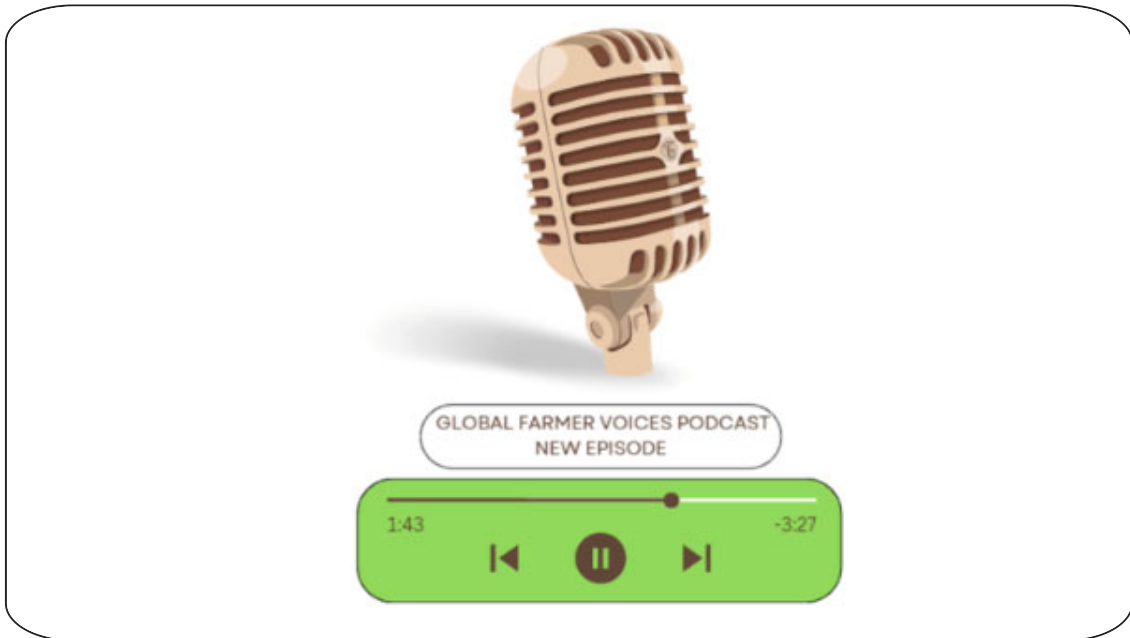


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## Introducing Global Farmer Voices Podcast

**Global Farmer Voices**, a podcast by the Global Farmer Network is now live. Every month, the podcast series will introduce a new episode, featuring interviews with GFN members discussing topics of relevance to both them and the agriculture industry.

You can now find the series on popular platforms such as [Spotify](#), Google Play, Amazon Music, Apple, IHeart Radio, Stitcher, and Pandora. To access the podcasts, simply click on the green icon located on the right side of the GFN website homepage.

In the very early days of GFN and even earlier days of podcast technology, the GFN recorded every weekly column and made them available as a podcast. It was discontinued when listener numbers dropped as video quickly replaced 'audio only'. We're so pleased to share that our podcasts are back!

## GFN Farmers Shaping the Narrative & Inspiring Change

### Temple elected UNEP leader



Congratulations to Paul Temple, UK who is elected to serve as a co-chair, providing leadership to the Major Farmer Group – United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP). The GFN has been a recognized NGO member of the UNEP since 2019. Serving as co-chair with Paul is AG Kawamara, representing Solutions From the Land.



### **Giraud, Holtkoetter, Lenzi, Pasti amplify ag voices at IAFN, FAO**

Pilu Giraud, Argentina; Marcus Holtkoetter, Germany; Diana Lenzi, Italy; Marco Pasti, Italy actively engaged and represented farmers at the International Agri-Food Network (IAFN) Climate, Science and Innovation Event in Rome, which included a high-level FAO audience. They contributed to the Partnering 4 Betters Forum.

The FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 has created the 'Four Betters'; better production, better nutrition, better environment, and better life, leaving no one behind, to guide the work of the organization towards the SDGs. IAFN fosters collaboration among members and engages international organizations in the global agri-food chain. Pictured above are Pasti, Giraud, Holtkoetter.



### **Cetin shares farming challenges as OECD panelist**

Business at OECD (BIAC), together with the OECD Istanbul Centre organized a high-level Roundtable to discuss opportunities to promote more sustainable, productive, and resilient food systems. Mesut Cetin, Turkey shared his farming experiences and challenges as a roundtable panelist for the event in Istanbul.

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### **Koku, Mashumba support women entrepreneurs**

Through IAFN and in conjunction with FAO, Patience Koku, Nigeria and Ruramiso Mashumba, Zimbabwe were selected to serve as mentors to African women who are interested in, or have begun a small or medium sized business. They participated in one-on-one mentoring: a mentee was paired with each global woman business leader and received personal guidance and consultation.



**de Vor: Give farmers what they need, but don't forget to ask them!**

Judith de Vor, Netherlands traveled to Rome to participate in a forum of the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart agriculture. The GACSA is part of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. During the meeting many great examples from all over the world showed that farmers can be resilient, decisive and progressive.

"Farmers are and remain extremely important for food security and can contribute a lot to climate improvement. That is why the call came to talk with farmers and listen to them in order to be able to develop feasible projects, for and with farmers. Put the farmer first! And that was exactly my plea on both days," said Judith.

- "Listen to farmers, use the knowledge that is available, organize conversations and expand. Let them have a say, make sure they really think along and use all the experiences that are available. Involve farmers in all the areas and don't forget the young famers as well. Farmers are not the problem for many food and climate challenges, but the solution!" -Judith de Vor



### Ojepat speaks at CA Specialty Crops Council

Okisegere Ojepat, Kenya was an international presenter at the 2023 MRL Harmonization Workshop. His presentation topic, *Impact of Changing MRLs Landscape on African Growers*, focused on international trade trends, global registrations, pesticide residue monitoring, and MRL strategies for growers.

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### Boote, Borlaug attend Aim for Climate Summit; WFP announcement

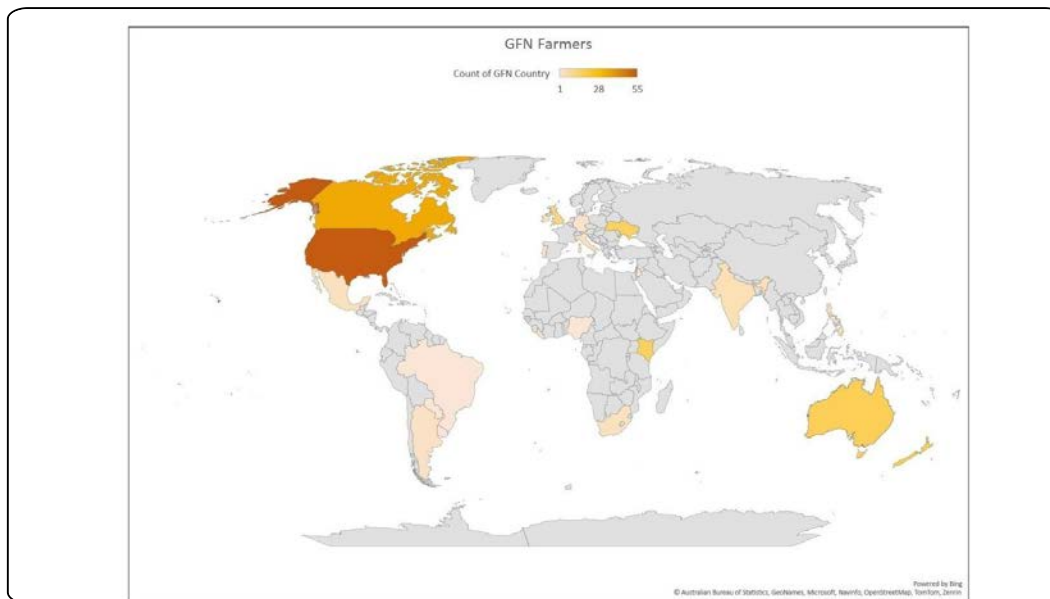
Mary Boote, GFN CEO, USA and Julie Borlaug, GFN Director of Development, USA participated in the Aim for Climate Summit in Washington, D.C. They also were in attendance for the World Food Prize 2023 Laureate Announcement.



### Reynolds leads ag mental health awareness foundation

Megz Reynolds, Canada is executive director for the [Do More Agriculture Foundation](#), where she leads efforts to increase mental health awareness in ag. The "Talk It Out" campaign addresses the stressors those in agriculture face, such as weather uncertainty, market instability, and financial pressures. These stressors can take a toll on our mental health, leading to chronic stress, burnout and other mental health challenges. The campaign encourages farmers to start conversations about mental health. It all starts with a conversation.

## Farmers address top-of-mind issues

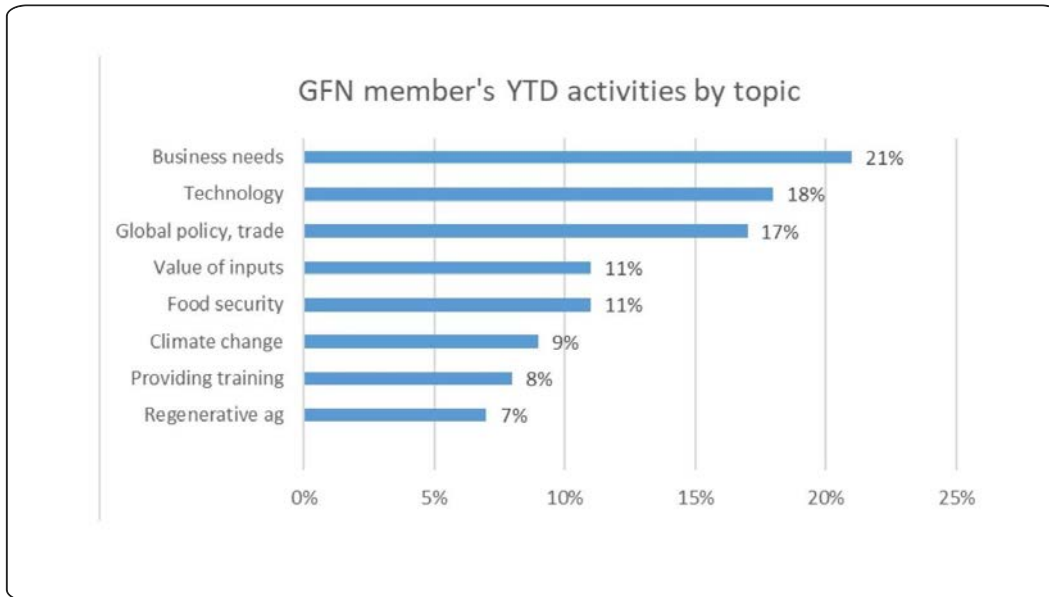


### GFN members making their voices heard

To date in 2023, over 65 GFN farmers from the countries highlighted in the map above have been making their voices heard in 176+ media sources.

Those countries are: Argentina, **Australia**, Brazil, **Canada**, India, Ireland, Jordan, **Kenya**, Liberia, Mexico, Netherlands, **New Zealand**, Philippines, Rwanda, UK, **Ukraine**, Uruguay, **USA** (bold indicates countries where members have been most active).

### YTD results show the topics GFN members are addressing:



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### Increasing visibility, awareness through social media

Our strong presence on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube is focused on growing engagement with non-farmers and farmers alike. Here's what engagement looked like for the months of January through May.



410,631 impressions  
4.1% engagement rate

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## What are the next Global Farmer Network Focus Themes?

### **June**

Global Dairy Spotlight

### **July**

The power of Collaboration – Cooperatives, Cooperation



*The Global Farmer Network amplifies the farmers' voice in promoting trade, technology, sustainable farming, economic growth, and food security.*

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The Global Farmer Network (GFN) is proud to announce the expansion of staff roles and leadership efforts in Africa, underscoring the organization's commitment to amplifying the voices of farmers promoting trade, technology, sustainable farming practices, economic growth, and importance of food security.

Africa, with its immense agricultural potential, has become a key focus for GFN. Recognizing the importance of serving farmers in this region, GFN has selected two GFN members as Regional Lead: Africa, **Onyaole 'Patience' Koku**, Nigeria and **Ruramiso Mashumba**, Zimbabwe. Each Regional Lead brings a strong knowledge of issues impacting farmers in the region to their roles. Using their understanding of those challenges and opportunities, Koku and Mashumba will continue engagement specific to Africa to provide accountability, connection, and leadership to elevate farmers' voices.

**GFN Farmers Recognized for Achievements, Leadership, Innovation**



**Leguee receives Saskatchewan Outstanding Young Farmer award**

Saskatchewan's Outstanding Young Farmer for 2023, announced at Canada's Farm Show in Regina is Jake Leguee. The 15,000 acre Leguee Farms is managed by Jake Leguee, his sister Sarah, and their brother-in-law Erik Nikolejsin. Jake notes, "It takes a team to achieve something like this. We have the very best here on our farm, from our employees to our advisors and partners."

In addition to managing the operation, Jake is the author of a popular blog called [Year in the Life of a Farmer](#).



**de Vor, Jolly-Nagel, Reynolds, Temple amplify farmer's voices at Canada's Farm Show**

Judith de Vor, Netherlands, Cheryl Jolly-Nagel, Canada, Megz Reynolds, Canada and Paul Temple, United Kingdom participated in Canada's Farm Show, June 20, 2023. Judith and Paul shared global perspectives on fertilizer mandates in a panel moderated by Cheryl. In a separate presentation, Megz, the executive director of the Do More Ag Foundation shared details on the launch of a new app for farmers' mental health. In the left photo are Jolly-Nagel, de Vor, Temple (*Gerrid Gust photo*). Right photo: Reynolds (*Eugenie Officer/Submitted*).



**Ciasnocha leads dialogue on soil health**

Mateusz Ciasnocha, Poland and the European Carbon Farmers met with the Parliamentary Committee for the Development of Family Farms of the Sejm [the Lower Chamber of Parliament] of the Republic of Poland under the name: Soil health as critical for the health of farms, the health of the society and the health of the homeland.

Soil health is the key success factor enabling a bright future for individual farms, as well as critically important for Poland's food and national security, as well as public health. In other words, an area of absolutely strategic importance to Poland, the European Union and the world. The purpose of the meeting was not only to conduct an interesting conversation, but primarily to raise the level of ambition of strategic policy-making concerning soil health in Poland simultaneously to supporting land managers in soil health action through the EU Soil Health Mission.

**Mashumba lends voice to International Seed Federation Congress**

Ruramiso Mashumba, Zimbabwe spoke to the Minister of Ag and several other dignitaries on 'Innovation for Africa' at the World Seed Conference, an event hosted by the International Seed Federation, in Cape Town.

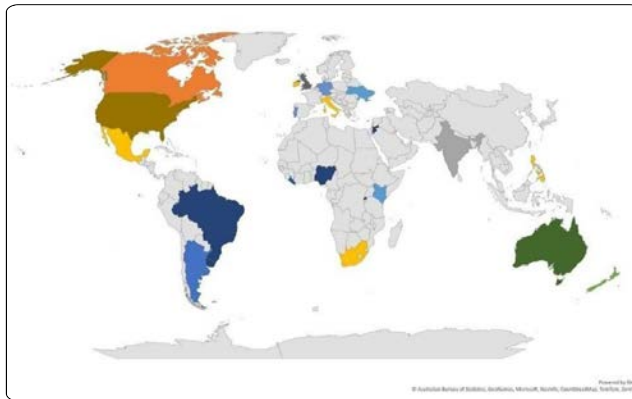


**Roberts leads planning for farmer training**

Semeh Roberts, Liberia led a joint workshop with Welthungerlife and Universal Farmers Association (UFA), discussing and planning procurement of project resources and training of UFA senior staff. The workshop, shown above, was held at UFA office in Schiefflin Town, Lower Margibi County, Liberia. The Welthungerlife grant will be used by UFA to train farmers.

Semeh is CEO of the UFA. The organization is building capacity of its more than 15,000 farmers through workshops on sustainable land use, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation with an eye toward making Liberia food secure by 2030.

**Farmers address top-of-mind issues**

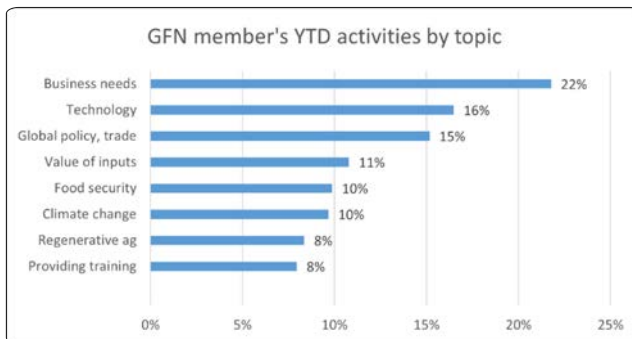


**GFN members making their voices heard**

To date in 2023, over 72 GFN farmers from the countries highlighted in the map above have been making their voices heard in 186+ media sources.

Those countries are: Argentina, **Australia**, Brazil, **Canada**, India, Ireland, Jordan, **Kenya**, Liberia, Mexico, Netherlands, **New Zealand**, Philippines, Rwanda, UK, **Ukraine**, Uruguay, **USA** (bold indicates countries where members have been most active).

**YTD results show the topics GFN members are addressing:**



Increasing visibility, awareness through social media

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493,105 impressions  
4.1% engagement rate

What are the next Global Farmer Network Focus Themes?

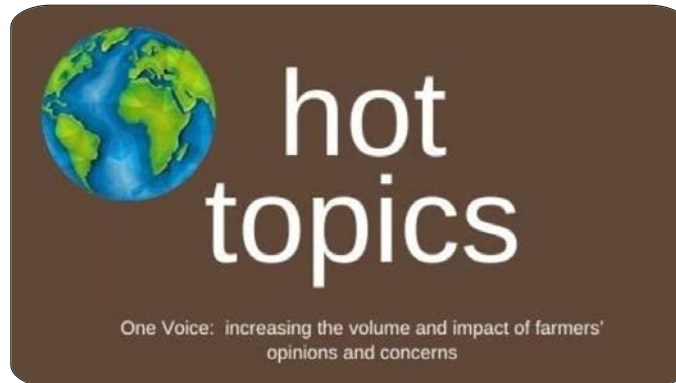
**July**  
The power of Collaboration – Cooperatives, Cooperation

**August**  
Agriculture as career of choice for next generation leaders



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#### GFN farmers are talking about these trending topics

Farming is different everywhere. Farmers understand the intrinsic value of sharing information and exporting knowledge. Do you need to know what's happening in the real world of farming? Each day we are listening to what GFN members are talking about. Believing in the power of ideas, here's a July recap:

- **Nitrogen** use, management and penalizations – Argentina, Denmark, Germany, India, Uruguay
- **Canola** production – Canada
- **Lime/lemon** production – Colombia, Mali
- Challenges of **harvesting** after heavy rains following dryer months – Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands
- **Sugar beet** production in Romania – Ireland
- **Rugby and farming** – United Kingdom
- **Instability** – South Africa
- **Block of ports** and impact on Ukrainian **farmers** in the short term; on the **world** in med-long term – Ukraine, All
- **Resilience** in agriculture – Uruguay

Unlocking farmer insights and understanding local experiences in fields and seeing what is happening globally is powerful. Farmers' voices are important insight! If you'd like to learn more about what is top-of-mind to our farmers contact Mary Boote, [mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org](mailto:mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org).

#### GFN Farmers are Conversation Leaders

- **Tim Durham**, USA served on the farmer perspectives panel at the US State Department Biotechnology program for FAS, Washington, DC
- **Mary Boote**, USA participated in the annual general meeting of the International AgriFood Network (IAFN) in Rome
- **Mark Heckman**, USA spoke at the Colombian sugar industry conference, presenting on the use of digital technology in agriculture
- **Paul Temple**, UK participated virtually at the UN Major Groups and Stakeholders Consultations program held in Rabat, Morocco. He attended this UNEP program on behalf of the Global Farmer Network and as Co-Chair for the Major Farmers Group.



**Koku at Rome Stocktaking event**

Patience Koku, Nigeria represented the GFN at the UNFSS Stocktaking 2 event in Rome. She reported on GFNs expansion of GFN leadership into Africa and on plans for the GFN's Leadership Summit and Action Hub, which the GFN is planning for 2024. (Contact Mary Boote for more details on this mobilization.)

Patience and Dr. Ratan Lal pose for a photo at the event.

*"Cheaper food does not necessarily mean affordable food. If we lower the price of food and agriculture products, the ones affected are the farmers. A realistic food affordability is if we empower and enrich our farmers. A strong agriculture sector will lead to a better economy and food affordability."*

-- AD Alvarez, Philippines  
representing the GFN at the APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Ag Biotechnology held in Seattle, WA



**Dairy sustainability addressed by Gutierrez**

At an event organized by Mexico's Holstein association, Gina Gutierrez, Mexico was the sole farmer on the agenda. She talked about the importance of sustainability.



Chairman Punjab state Farmers & Farm Workers Commission invited two GFN members from Punjab, India: M.S.Malhi and PPS Pangli for a special discussion regarding new state agricultural policy, held at Mohali Chandigarh. This new policy will enrich farmer income and sustainable growth in India.



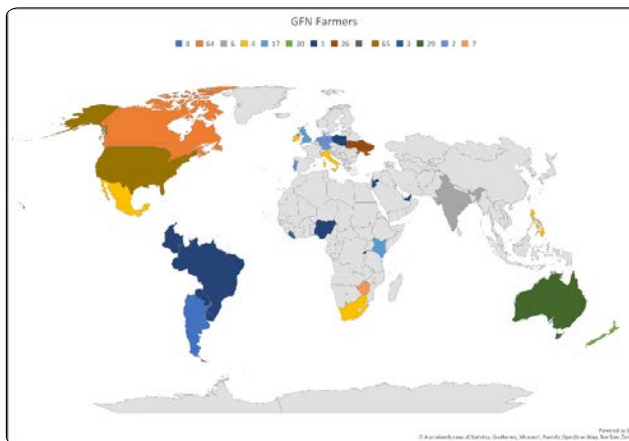
**GFN provides training to help farmers' amplify their voices**

Pilu Girardo, Argentina, Guillermo Breton, Mexico and Gina Gutierrez, Mexico led a "bootcamp" for ag farmers from North Latam. Especially in Mexico, farmers are facing increasing non-science based regulations. The GFN team led training to help farmers improve their abilities to position their reality, opportunities and threats.

The event opened with a session led by Luis Ventura from US Grains Council on biotechnology, innovation, and myth-busting and discussion. Over the course of two days, the GFN team led participants through a guided discovery of their personal stories and provided tools to make farmers confident when sharing their needs, opportunities and threats. After time to practice, each farmer told amazing stories of food production.

Also in attendance were GFN members Ricardo Charles, Mexico and Jose Luis Quintana, Mexico.

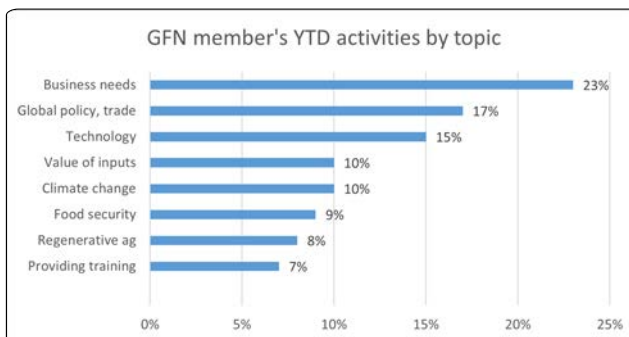
**Farmers address top-of-mind issues**



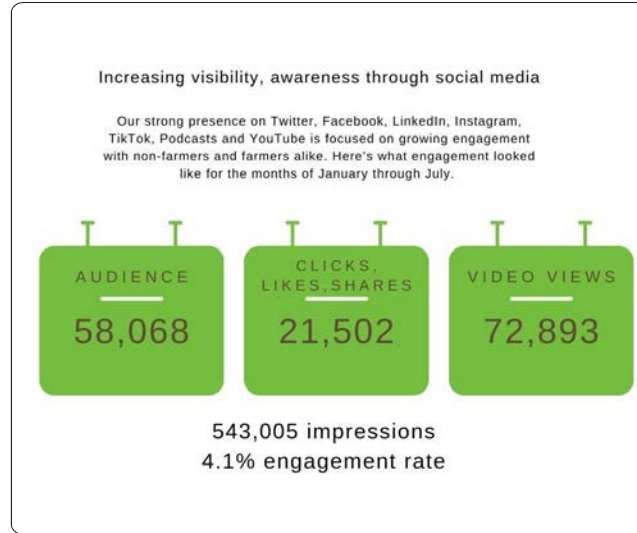
**GFN members making their voices heard**

To date in 2023, over 76 GFN farmers from the countries highlighted in the map above have been making their voices heard in 200+ media sources.

Those countries are: Argentina, **Australia**, Brazil, **Canada**, India, Ireland, Jordan, **Kenya**, Liberia, Mexico, Netherlands, **New Zealand**, Philippines, Rwanda, **UK**, **Ukraine**, Uruguay, **USA** (bold indicates countries where members have been most active).



YTD results show the topics GFN members are addressing:



**What are the next Global Farmer Network Focus Themes?**

**August**

Agriculture as career of choice for next generation leaders

**September**

Food Security for Peace



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**GFN's Newest Cohort Share Their Ag Story**

The 19 farmers who make up the newest GFN cohort prepared for the September 10-16, 2023 Global Farmer Network Roundtable and Communication Training program by creating a short introductory video. Click on each name to be introduced to each farmer:

- [Maria Emilia Macor](#), Argentina
- [David Statham](#), Australia
- [Martin Ziegelbaeck](#), Austria
- [Celestino Zanella](#), Brazil
- [Diane Masure](#), France
- [Adowarim Lugu-Zuri](#), Ghana
- [Chitra Nehra](#), India
- [Ravichandran Vanchinatha Iyer](#), India
- [Lucy Kaari](#), Kenya
- [Cesar Galaviz](#), Mexico
- [Muhammad Farooq](#), Pakistan
- [Mariel Corpuz](#), Philippines
- [David Danio](#), Philippines
- [Pacifique Nshimiimana](#), Rwanda
- [Saustine Lusanzu](#), Tanzania
- [Sukollapath Noppun](#), Thailand
- [Andrii Pastushenko](#), Ukraine
- [Rory Christie](#), United Kingdom
- [Jenny Holtermann](#), United States

If you'd like to learn more about our farmers, and the messages they can share, contact Mary Boote, [mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org](mailto:mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org).

**[GFN Farmers Connecting on Global Issues, Leadership](#)**

**Macor Elected President of Aapresid Youth**  
 Maria Emilia Macor, Argentina, is a member of the newest cohort. In August, Maria was elected as President of Aapresid Youth.  
 The GFN is identifying, training with purpose and engaging the future of agriculture. #JuventudRural, #AapresidJoven, #agro, #campo, #agrocordoba



**Ravichandran Speaks at Science Summit at United Nations General Assembly (UNGA78)**

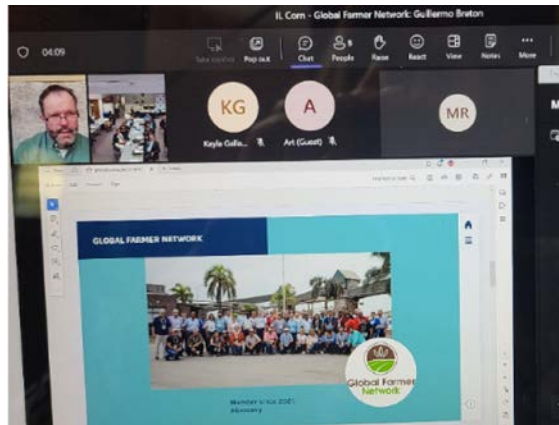
Also a member of the newest cohort is V. Ravichandran, the owner of a sixty-acre farm at Poongulam Village in Tamil Nadu, India, where he grows rice, sugar cane, cotton and pulses. During Science Summit at UNGA78, he spoke on the need to adapt technological advancements to the needs of the local society and on how to develop useful narratives

and initiatives that can foster the adoption of innovation among the local populations.

### Breton Updates Illinois Corn Marketing Association

Guillermo Breton, Mexico, provided the Illinois Corn Growers Corn Marketing Association an update on what is happening in Mexico agriculture. He discussed the impending bans on GM corn, glyphosate and more that are legislated by the current Mexican President. Nearly 40 Illinois corn grower farmers in the room were very interested in learning about this global issue and how farmers can work forward best when we work together!

Asking a farmer directly is the best way to ground-truth what is happening as well as gaining a perspective looking forward. The GFN looks forward to continuing these types of collaborations and partnerships.



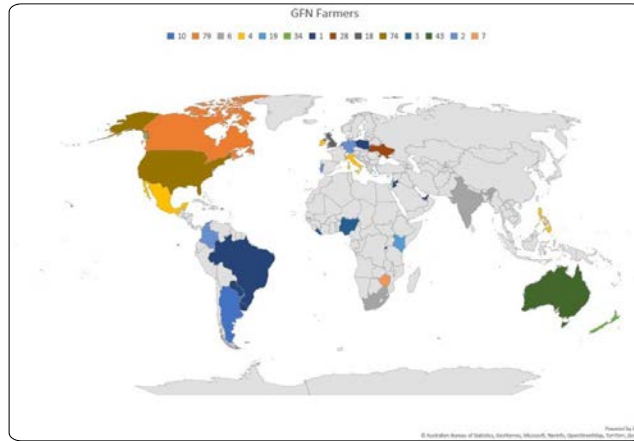
### Trending topics in August - What GFN farmers are talking about

Do you need to know what's happening in the real world of farming? Each day we are listening to what GFN members are talking about. Believing in the power of ideas, here's an August recap:

- **Rice** planting, tailored machinery, irrigation and hopes for more production to reduce imports - Mali
- Explaining the difference between **climate** and **weather** - Canada
- Excessive **rain** and the challenges it brings, including crop destruction - Honduras
- Planting **limes** - Colombia
- **Barley** yields, challenges for the next crop - Europe
- **Carbon** - Brazil
- **Insurance** policies - Germany, Denmark, Netherlands
- Harvesting **oats** and **wheat** after rainy weather - Denmark, Netherlands
- Using grain **driers**: **biogas** - Netherlands, **natural gas**, but at a higher price - Denmark
- H2 from **ethanol**: to start soon - Brazil; approved 2024 projects for **renewable energy** sources that producing 100% of Uruguay's requirements and exporting to Argentina - Uruguay
- **Landmines** - Ukraine
- **Planting** - Romania, Ukraine, Denmark
- **No-till** - Japan, Denmark, Uruguay, Argentina, Romania, Portugal, Brazil, Canada, Africa
- Planting **watermelon**, **lemons** to increase soil biomass - in Colombia
- Planting **rice** - India
- **Laws** to reduce emissions affect on farmers, especially livestock farmers - EU
- Petition to **supreme court** to plant more GM mustard - India
- Harvest most difficult in 50 years due to rain and grain loss; this opens doors to talk to government about **trade and technology** - Germany
- Despite bad harvest, **technology** is still a **taboo** - Italy
- Politicians also seem oblivious to **global food supply** issues - UK
- Planting **papaya**, working on collaboration with Mexican seed company - Mali
- **Harvest** difficulty, farmers are deciding not to plant OSR because of high risks - UK
- Harvesting **barley** and **wheat** - Canada

Unlocking farmer insights and understanding local experiences in fields and seeing what is happening globally is powerful. Farmers' voices are important insight! If you'd like to learn more about what is top-of-mind to our farmers contact Mary Boote, [mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org](mailto:mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org).

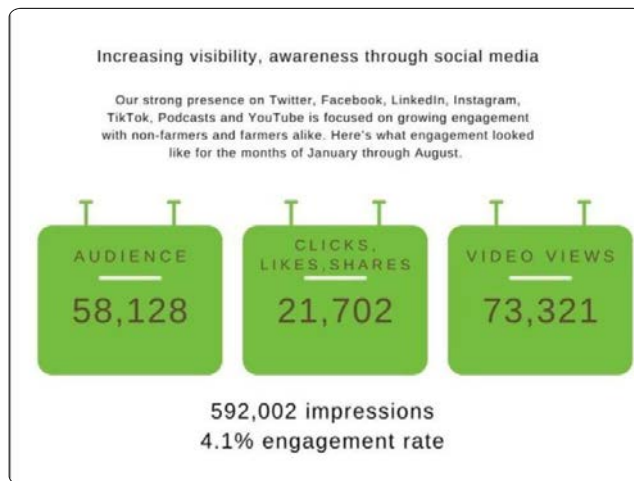
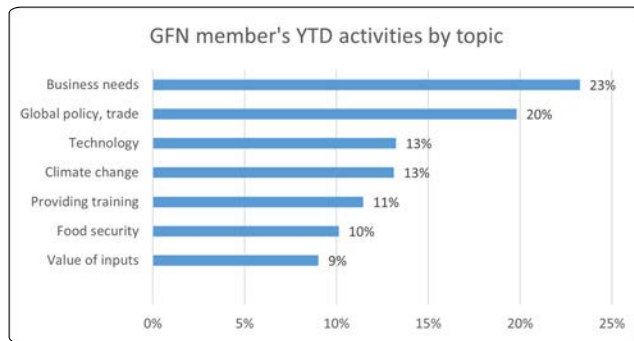
### Farmers address top-of-mind issues



#### GFN members making their voices heard

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**What are the next Global Farmer Network Focus Themes?**

September  
Food Security for Peace

**October**  
World Food Day



*The Global Farmer Network amplifies the farmers' voice in promoting trade, technology, sustainable farming, economic growth, and food security.*

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**Corpuz Elected to CORN Farmers Association Leadership**

With the help of the Department of Labor and Employment, together with Philippine National Police and Philippine Army and the Barangay Local Council, a group of Barangay farmers organized the Lapogan CORN Farmers Association.

Mariel Corpuz, Philippines is elected to be on the association's Board of Directors.

Mariel notes that she gained confidence to pursue this leadership opportunity from her experience at the GFN Roundtable and Communication training program, held in Washington, DC. "I practiced what I learned in DC and I can say that I'm no longer intimidated. Thank you for the help to boost my confidence. This is the new beginning of my journey."



**GFN Leadership Meets in DC**

The Global Farmer Network is led and governed by farmer board members and two councils comprised of agricultural industry leaders. This leadership team met September 15-17, 2023 for their annual meeting in Washington, DC. The meeting was held in conjunction with the final day of the Global Farmer Network Roundtable and Communication training program.

Establishing the organization to give farmers a voice in global agricultural discussions, the GFN provides a platform for farmers to engage in dialogue, share their knowledge, and advocate for policies and practices that can benefit farmers and contribute to global food security. It plays a significant role in promoting collaboration and understanding among farmers, consumers and policy makers worldwide.

To learn more about the leadership team: [Global Farmer Leadership](#)

To learn more about the roundtable: [Roundtable and Communication Training program](#)

**[GFN Farmers Connecting on Global Issues, Leadership](#)**



#### Gabert Speaks at Crop Protection Conference

Jana Gabert, Germany provided the farmer's voice at the German Crop Protection Conference in Göttingen. The audience consisted of scientists and politicians, and Jana's presentation focused on biodiversity in agriculture.

Jana's farm is enhanced through biodiversity and natural conservation; Learn more in this [virtual tour of her farm](#).

#### Diverse Voices, Unique Journeys: GFN Members Sharing Farmer's Stories

- **Gabriel Carballal**, Uruguay; **Pedro Vigneau**, Argentina; **Patience Koku**, Nigeria; **Rosalie Ellasus**, Philippines; **Jake Leguee**, Canada; **Bev Flatt**, USA attended FAO
- **Rory Christie**, UK attended International Leaders Alumni Conference (ILAC)
- **Bill Couser**, USA hosted veterinary students from Iowa State for a beef quality assurance session
- **Cesar Galaviz**, Mexico was interviewed for a fireside chat, *Taking a Farmer-Centric Approach to Boost Global Food Security*, on the side-lines of the UN General Assembly meetings in NYC. His participation was via Zoom.
- **Maria Emilia Macor**, Argentina who leads young Aapresid, attended the third annual Farm Day to learn about sustainability, robots and conservation of soil on a dairy farm
- **Malwinder Malhi**, India works with a project where farmers can meet with experts physically as well as virtually to get solutions for their agriculture problems
- **Dave Okech**, Kenya is recipient of the 2023 International Business Entrepreneurship Impact Award presented by the University of Iowa John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center
- **Ad van Velde**, Netherlands to attend World Dairy Expo in Wisconsin, USA

It is so critical to have farmer voices in these conversations.



#### GFN Members Participate in AGRF

Two GFN members participated in Africa's Food Systems Forum September 5-8, 2023, held in Dares Salaam, Tanzania and hosted by the government of Tanzania.

- Ruramiso Mashumba, soybean & horticulture farmer, Regional Lead, Africa, Global Farmer Network, Zimbabwe
  - On a panel focused on financing of climate smart agriculture, including challenges faced by farmers, the lively discussion centered on voices and experiences. The discussion touched on topics such as inclusivity, security, investment, and research.
- Chibuike Emmanuel, aquaculture & vegetable farmer, Nigeria
  - Spoke on "Innovative Technologies to reduce Post-harvest Loss" panel. Food safety and post-harvest practices are critical to Africa's food security. Through this engaging discussion, he discussed the challenges and opportunities in ensuring that food is safe and minimizing post-harvest losses.

As preparation for her engagement, Ruramiso reached out to her fellow GFN members via WhatsApp to gather additional perspective on the topic she was speaking on. This is another clear asset of a global farmer community like the GFN.



#### Trending topics in September - What GFN farmers are talking about

Do you need to know what's happening in the real world of farming? Each day we are listening to what GFN members are talking about. Believing in the power of ideas, here's a September recap:

- **Beef** cattle - Brazil and Mexico
- **Cover crops** - Iowa, USA; Argentina
- **Measuring carbon** discussion - Denmark, Argentina, Australia, Uruguay
- Visiting farms with **Borlaug Farmer Association** - India
- Lamenting death of Dr. MS **Swaminathan** - India
- **Tomato** crop, using **banana** fibers as staking - Kenya
- **Rice** harvest - Nepal
- New program: adopt an **almond tree** - California, USA
- Aapresid to start **no-till program** in the country - Nigeria
- Danish Environment Minister announces the **approval of glyphosate** use for 10 years, opening the road for more no-till farming. Discussion about safety, use, and benefits - Colombia, Denmark, Italy, Nigeria, Uruguay
- **No-till machinery** used for smaller farms - Honduras

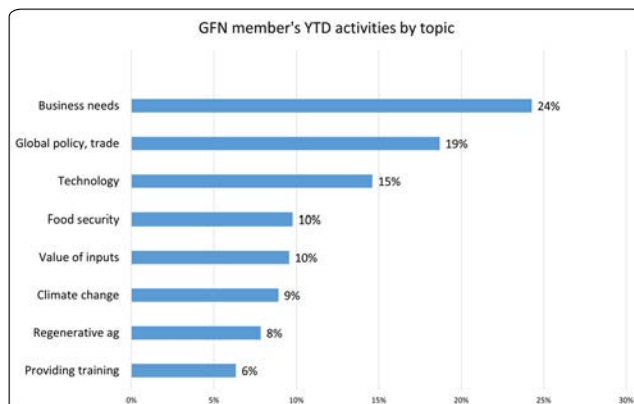
Unlocking farmer insights and understanding local experiences in fields and seeing what is happening globally is powerful. Farmers' voices are important insight! If you'd like to learn more about what is top-of-mind to our farmers contact Mary Boote, [mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org](mailto:mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org).

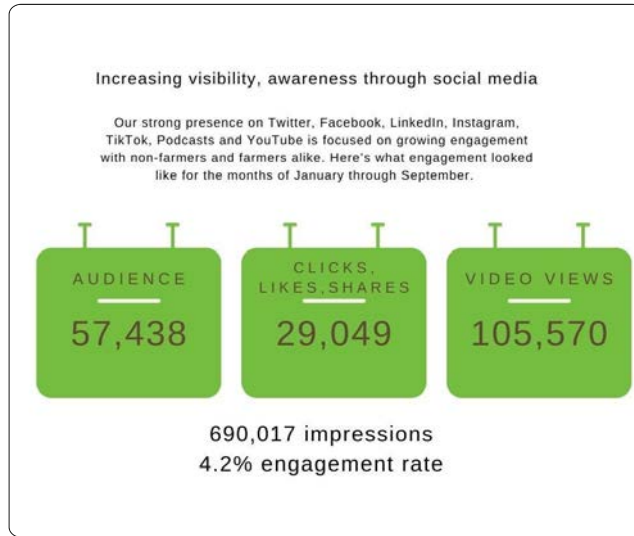
**Farmers address top-of-mind issues**



To date in 2023, nearly 100 GFN farmers from the countries highlighted in the map above have been making their voices heard in 200+ media sources.

Those countries are: Argentina, **Australia**, Brazil, **Canada**, India, Ireland, Jordan, **Kenya**, Liberia, Mexico, Netherlands, **New Zealand**, Philippines, Rwanda, **UK**, **Ukraine**, Uruguay, **USA** (bold indicates countries where members have been most active).





**What are the next Global Farmer Network Focus Themes?**

**October**  
World Food Day

**November**  
Farmers Leading the Way on Climate Change – sharing stories & expertise



*The Global Farmer Network amplifies the farmers' voice in promoting trade, technology, sustainable farming, economic growth, and food security.*

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#### Seven GFN Members Participate in World Food Prize "Take it to the Farmer"

The theme of this year's Borlaug Dialogue was "Harnessing Change" and honored WFP Laureate Heidi Kuhn and her program Roots of Peace: a farmer-focused development model that revitalizes farmland, food security, livelihoods and resilience after devastating conflict.

The World Food Prize Foundation committee set aside the afternoon of Tuesday, October 24 to be "Take it to the Farmer" afternoon. Two separate panels – voiced by farmers – discussed farmer-focused updates on the challenges post-conflict and crisis and the imperative of agriculture as a tool for environmental and economic healing.

The first panel that afternoon focused on agriculture as a tool of healing post conflict – with war, insurrection and more as the focus. **Kees Huizinga**, Ukraine, **Patience Koku**, Nigeria, and **Jose Luis González Chacón**, Colombia – brought a first-person perspective on living and working and farming in a war zone or region that is dealing with conflict with real-time results that are impacting food security today and looking forward. The second panel focused on agriculture as a tool of healing post climate crisis: **Marcus Holtkoetter**, Germany talked about his experience as a farmer in the EU experiencing drought when earlier this year there was too much rain. Moderating both panels was GFN's Director of Development, **Julie Borlaug**.

Delivering a keynote address on the "The Impact of conflict on food security and the role of technology and data in addressing these conflicts," was **Rotimi Williams**, Nigeria. **Pilu Giraudo**, Argentina and **Guillermo Bretón**, Mexico were panelists at the MasAgro: Taking it to the Farmer panel. **Patience Koku**, Nigeria spoke on "Using Virtual Reality for Product innovation." **Marcus Holtkoetter**, Germany spoke at the WFP Youth Institute - Resilience Panel.

Also on Tuesday, October 24th, the 2023 GFN Kleckner Global Farm Leader Award was presented to **Marcus Holtkoetter**, Germany. The Chairman of the Global Farmer Network board, **Reg Clause**, Iowa-USA made the presentation.





**Koku, Lopez, Mashumba Attend Vatican Event**

The first [Roundtable of African Farmers](#) was held at Vatican City. Three GFN members participated in the October 11 event, hosted by the Pontifical Science Academy: **Patience Koku**, Nigeria, **Jorge Lopez**, West Africa and **Ruramiso Mashumba**, Zimbabwe.

Be watching for a GFN column that amplifies the messages shared, feedback received and next steps needed following this very important and successful meeting with the Academy.

**GFN Members Take Action, Sharing Perspectives**

- **Celestino Zanella**, Brazil attended meeting of the International Cotton Association in Singapore
- **Ad van Velde**, Netherlands visited **Brad Clark's** farm in Wisconsin, USA
- **Judith de Vor**, Netherlands had brunch with Greenpeace at event organized by farmers
- **Malwinder Mahli**, India gave a lecture to students on pesticide safety, rice stubble management, nutritious food, and cyber security
- **Cesar Galaviz**, Mexico; GFN fellow **Margoth Hernandez**, Mexico; **Gina Gutierrez**, Mexico are part of a group launching a [campaign to elevate farmers' voices](#), mainly for the upcoming elections
- **V. Ravichandran (Ravi)**, India appeared on a BBC video on rice and how to use less water
- **Lydia Sasu**, Ghana celebrated [International Rural Women Day](#) at Kokrobite
- **Jenny Holtermann**, CA-USA elected president of Kern County Farm Bureau
- **Ruramiso Mashumba**, Zimbabwe spoke at OCP Group 'Cultivating Conversations'
- **Mary Boote**, IA-USA attended the World food Forum in Rome

Each of these voices empower agriculture, shaping conversations for a sustainable future.



**GFN Members Meet in Nairobi for Conference**

**Gilbert Bor**, Kenya and **Patience Koku**, Nigeria attended the African Conference on Agricultural Technologies. Koku spoke on Mainstreaming Biotechnology in African Agriculture.



#### Temple Represents GFN at CFS; Temple & Mashumba at 2023 GAP Report

**Paul Temple**, UK represented the GFN in Rome October 23-26 at CFS. He represented the GFN at the High Level Dinner. This dinner includes specific invitations to AMB of FAO member states and representatives from Private sector companies, and global NGOs. Paul's engagement at CFS provided him an opportunity to meet others who he will be interacting with through UNEP and the Major Farmers Group. Paul has been elected co-chair of the Major Farmers Group for the UN Environmental Program.

Temple and **Ruramiso Mashumba**, Zimbabwe served on [panels at the 2023 GAP Report](#).



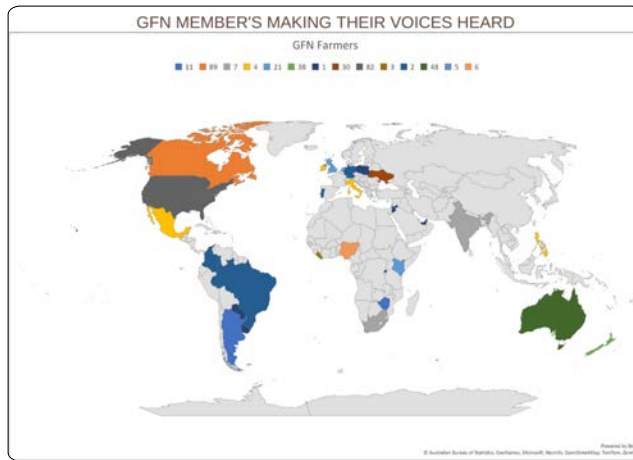
#### Trending topics in October - What GFN farmers are talking about

Do you need to know what's happening in the real world of farming? Each day we are listening to what GFN members are talking about. Believing in the power of ideas, here's an October recap:

- **Resilience/Risk Management** and **Barley** after a lost crop of corn; The barley is expected to be a great intercrop; Will harvest next month - Uruguay
- **Rice** harvest, Japan gives subsidies to grow rice for livestock feed, to prevent the price of rice (for people) to collapse - Japan
- **Peanut** harvest - Mexico
- CIPHET event (Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology) to foster **collaboration** between farming communities and ag processing, and **mushroom** training at Punjab Agricultural University - India
- **Cover crops** contrast: after very heavy rain, some local farmers experienced damages to the soil, but not the ones practicing no till - Denmark
- Harvest is over, yields were lower due to lack of rain, but thanks to good **regenerative** practices, there was moisture in the soil to produce a decent yield - Canada
- **Carbon**: will farmers be recognized as the ones that have been capturing it for ages?
- **Rain** that will allow for this crop and planting the next one to go well - Argentina
- **Tomato** importing - UAE
- **Drought** - South Africa
- **Rice** harvesting in India where price is fixed by central government for all rice varieties and providing post-harvest services - India
- Planting **soybeans** - Brazil

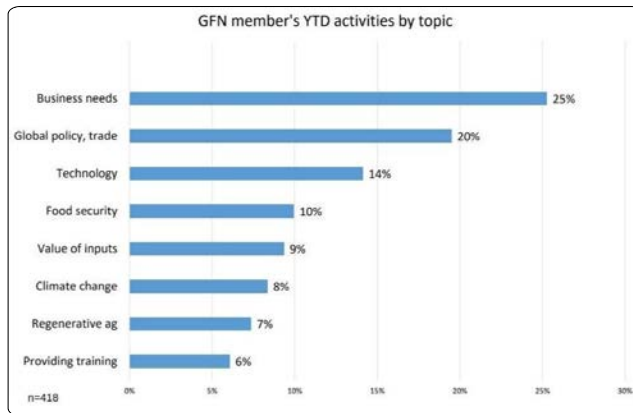
Farmers' voices offer important insight! If you'd like to learn more about what is top-of-mind to our farmers contact Mary Boote, [mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org](mailto:mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org).

#### Farmers address top-of-mind issues



To date in 2023, nearly 100 GFN farmers from the countries highlighted in the map above have been making their voices heard in 210+ media sources.

Those countries are: Argentina, **Australia**, Brazil, **Canada**, China, Colombia, Germany, Ghana, India, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, **Kenya**, Liberia, Mexico, Netherlands, **New Zealand**, Nigeria, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Rwanda, Scotland, South Africa, UAE, **UK**, **Ukraine**, Uruguay, **USA**, Zimbabwe (bold indicates countries where members have been most active).



**Increasing visibility, awareness through social media**

Our strong presence on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, TikTok, Podcasts and YouTube is focused on growing engagement with non-farmers and farmers alike. Here's what engagement looked like for the months of January through October.

AUDIENCE

**57,687**

CLICKS, LIKES, SHARES

**32,192**

VIDEO VIEWS

**114,442**

**761,787 impressions**  
**4.2% engagement rate**

**What are the next Global Farmer Network Focus Themes?**  
**November**  
 Farmers Leading the Way on Climate Change – sharing stories & expertise

**December**  
Farming for the Future



*The Global Farmer Network amplifies the farmers' voice in promoting trade, technology, sustainable farming, economic growth, and food security.*

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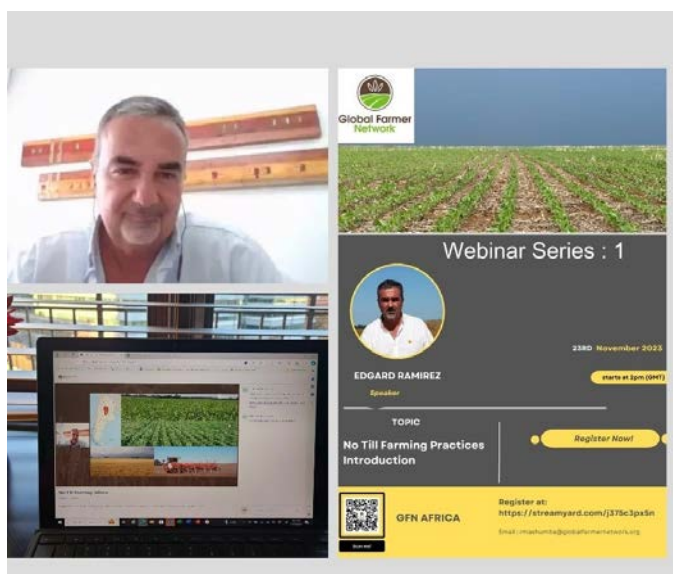
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**GFN Members Accept Political Appointments**

- **Roger Navarro**, Philippines is appointed Under Secretary for Operation of the Philippine Department of Agriculture
- Three GFN members from Argentina are announced as members of Argentina Secretary of Agriculture Fernando Vilella's team:
  - **Pedro Vigneau**, Chief of Staff
  - **Nicolas Bronzovich**, Plant Production Management
  - **Pilu Girardo**, INTA Vice President (National Agriculture Technology Institute)

Empowering agriculture, each of these voices is shaping conversations for a sustainable future.



**Now on Demand...No-till Knowledge Transfer Session**

Farmer-to-farmer peer knowledge transfer is a fundamental part of the Global Farmer Network. A series of peer-to-peer knowledge transfer webinars focusing on practical strategies will be hosted by GFN. In this [guided conversation](#), GFN member **Edgard Ramirez**, Argentina is the first to kick-start the no-till and conservation agriculture conversation. It is the first in the no-till series.



6:38 pm · 30 Nov 2023 · 1,268 Views

#### Moore Hosts FAO Leadership

**Aaron Moore**, UAE provided a tour of his farm to members of FAO leadership on the first day of COP28. The FAO Director-General tweets, "Achieving food security amid the #ClimateCrisis requires investments that leverage science & #AgInnovation. I was inspired by my visit to the world's largest vertical farm in UAE. We need to produce more, better food while efficiently using our natural resources. #COP28, #4Bettters." (More on COP28 will be reported in the GFN's December edition of this e-newsletter.)

#### GFN Members' November Activities

- **Gilbert Bor**, Kenya; **Patience Koku**, Nigeria attended African conference on agricultural technologies.
- **Knud Bay-Smidt**, Denmark entered a photo contest, title of his photo: 'Soil for Generations,' and Bay-Smidt explains, "The soil is our livelihood. A healthy soil is the foundation for new generations to come. This appreciation is one of the most valuable treasures one can pass on."
- **Aaron Moore**, UAE hosted a Brazilian parrot mascot from a TV morning show
- **AD Alvarez**, Philippines attended the EU ASEAN business council meeting; AD is recognized as a farmer biotech champion, and spoke at the regional crop biotechnology symposium
- **Mateusz Ciasnocha**, Poland met with the EU Commissioner Wojciechowski
- **Mark Heckman**, USA traveled to India with the US Grains Council, meeting with **Malwinder Mahli** while in India
- **Roberto Peiretti**, Argentina was interviewed by the Italian-Argentinian commerce chamber
- **Jana Gabert**, Germany spoke to dairy farmers, bankers and dairy business about the future for dairy farms in Germany. Topics include how to reduce carbon and increase biodiversity with productive cows.
- **Motlatsi Musi**, South Africa helped with a report on the benefits of GMOs for the Danish division of CARE; but support on recommending GMOs was denied due to public perception that may impact funding negatively.
- **Rosalie Ellasus**, Philippines welcomed STEM students at her farm to work on comparisons of corn, soil and sustainability. She was invited by the Provincial government to represent PHILMAIZE during the Demonstration of Rotary Corn Seeder Technical Briefing on Fall Army Worm.
- **Craige Mackenzie**, New Zealand visited the UN offices in Vienna
- **Mateusz Ciasnocha**, Poland and **Maria Virginia Solis Wahnish**, Argentina moderated the "Path Towards COP28" panel
- **Dave Okech**, Kenya received a grant to support small fisheries
- **Malwinder Mahli**, India was recognized during the International Conference on Recent Trends in Smart & Sustainable Agriculture for Food & Nutritional Security
- **Pilu Giraud**, Argentina is featured in an interview about her journey in a "man's world" to become the female face of no-till farming in Argentina
- **Paul Temple**, UK attended the UNEP European Regional Major Groups and Consultation
- **Motlatsi Musi**, South Africa discusses the loss of livestock from theft. Attacks have, sadly, become common.
- **Knud Bay-Smidt**, Denmark participated in an EU focus group meeting about regenerative agriculture, discussing pesticides, specifically glyphosate
- **Diane Masure**, France gave a presentation on "Soil in the Heart of the Climate, Economic, Environmental and Social Transition."
- **Brad Clark**, USA presented at the Wisconsin water and soil conference

To connect with, and learn directly from these or any of the GFN 265+ members, contact Mary Boote, [mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org](mailto:mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org).

### Farmers Learn Directly From GFN Members



#### Roberts Training Rural Farmers

**Semeh Roberts**, Liberia is teaching 500 rural farmers (75% female and 25% male) in River Gee county, located in Southeast Liberia. He's working with the Universal Farmers Association, which is creating sites in Chedepo and Gbeapo to construct farm stalls.



#### Speaker at Africa Connect Conference

**Stella Thomas**, Nigeria was a speaker at the Africa Connect Conference. Stella is a farmer who established the first female owned seed company in Nigeria called Tecni Seed. She works with over 3,000 farmers cultivating over 6,000 hectares annually.



#### GFN Members Speak at Agritechnia 2023, Win Awards

**Marcus Holtkoetter**, Germany hosted an ag tour for GFN members with Agritechnia as the anchor event. The German tour group clearly had an amazing time! Speakers on Agritechnia's stages included **Mary Boote**, USA; **Marcus Holtkoetter**, Germany; **Andrii Pastushenko**, Ukraine; **Edgard Ramirez**, Argentina; **Shuichi Tokumoto**, Japan.

*DLG awards presented to GFN members at Agritechnia*

- **Shuichi Tokumoto**, Japan recognized as Agritechnia DLG Agri influencer. The jury also chose to note Tokumoto's farmer's song: "I am a Farmer."
- **Patience Koku**, Nigeria; **Judith de Vor**, Netherlands recognized by Agritechnia with the Women in Ag Award 2023.



#### Nanote Receives Idol Farmer Honor

**Ganesh Nanote**, India was announced as the Idol Farmer of the Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Agricultural University Akola. Nanote has done work to preserve the soil, hosted experiments in cultured agriculture, and shown the productivity achieved through different cropping systems--all have proven that--'the soil is alive and the farmer is alive.' Scientists and students visited his farm and observed closely.



#### Trending topics in November - What GFN farmers are talking about

Do you need to know what's happening in the real world of farming? Each day we are listening to what GFN members are talking about. Believing in the power of ideas, here's a November recap:

- **Demonstration of how subsistence farmers** plant corn - South Africa
- **Heavy rains** affecting Brazil, there are several flooded farms. In Kenya rains affecting roads that make transportation of produce impossible for farmers; as well as in the UK, with winds reaching 102 mph in Jersey. Ireland also impacted by heavy rain, 145 mm in 36 hours, after 600 mm in the previous 4 months; annual average is 900 mm.
- **Harvest** continues in Iowa and India and Italy, while central Brazil plants soybeans.
- Discussing **machinery brands and operating**. Always fascinating learning about individual preferences and adoption of different brands in different circumstances. Talking about machinery purchases; price, cost of parts, maintenance, and service, who is the dealer, and the emotions involved in our preferences. Price increases in the last years have impacted farmers' purchase power. An analysis of the efficiency must take part in the decision - worldwide
- **Chile crop**, challenges like pests, weeds, fungi, weather, and labor are making it difficult to continue - Philippines
- Conversation about **glyphosate** use and how to take advantage of it - Denmark, Uruguay, Argentina, South Africa
- **EU approved** use of glyphosate for 10 years - EU
- Teaching the **sixth generation** to plant soybeans - South Africa
- **EU law** to decrease farmland and increase organic production, may affect Northern countries more – EU; With similar protection measures, the perception around the world is different and suggests Brazil doesn't do as much - Brazil
- A change in the government allowed to have **2 ministers with agricultural experience** - UK
- **Elections**; GFN members pleased with results - Argentina
- Discussing **integrated pest management** methods - Zimbabwe
- Post-pandemic **economy** is not good - Philippines, Zimbabwe
- Harvesting **Bt cotton** - India
- **Biosafety** bill passed allowing GM technology to be used - Rwanda
- Visiting a **black soldier fly** farm - Denmark
- Harvesting **wheat** with good yields after a couple of difficult years - Uruguay
- **Parliament** didn't come to an agreement on the use of NBT/NGT, have to wait a couple of years to vote again - EU

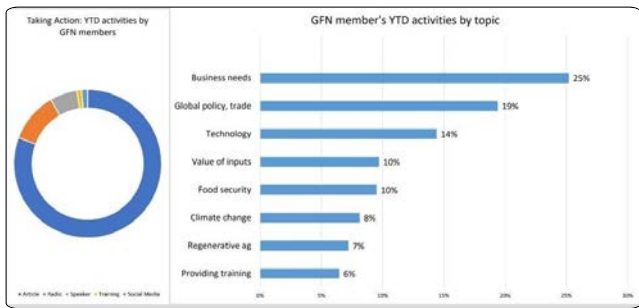
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#### [Farmers address top-of-mind issues](#)



To date in 2023, nearly 100 GFN farmers from the countries highlighted in the map above have been making their voices heard in 242+ media sources.

Those countries are: **Argentina, Australia**, Brazil, **Canada**, China, Colombia, Germany, Ghana, India, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, **Kenya**, Liberia, Mexico, Netherlands, **New Zealand**, Nigeria, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Rwanda, Scotland, South Africa, UAE, **UK, Ukraine**, Uruguay, **USA, Zimbabwe** (bold indicates countries where members have been most active).



**Increasing visibility, awareness through social media**

Our strong presence on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, TikTok, Podcasts and YouTube is focused on growing engagement with non-farmers and farmers alike. Here's what engagement looked like for the months of January through November.

AUDIENCE

**58,005**

CLICKS, LIKES, SHARES

**35,818**

VIDEO VIEWS

**121,113**

**821,669 impressions**  
**4.3% engagement rate**

**What are the next Global Farmer Network Focus Themes?**

**December**  
Farming for the Future

**January**  
Agriculture Resilience



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## GFN Members Participate in COP28

During COP28 in Dubai, seven GFN members were in attendance and engaged! They were:

- **Zeinab al-Momany**, Jordan
- **Mateusz Ciasnocha**, Poland
- **Andre Dobashi**, Brazil
- **Kristjan Hebert**, Canada
- **Saustine Lusanzu**, Tanzania
- **Aaron Moore**, UAE
- **Maria Virginia Solis Wahnish**, Argentina

Description of above photos:

**Saustine Lusanzu**, Tanzania – entering COP28

**Zeinab al-Momany**, Jordan – speaking for farmers at COP28

**Aaron Moore**, UAE – giving tour of his farm to members of FAO leadership

### GFN Members Active in December

- **Terry Wanzek**, USA was a guest on Fox Business "*The Big Money Show*" and also on 1100 The Flag radio program "*What's on your Mind*" discussing free trade. His opinion-editorial titled [Free Trade Is Good for American Farmers Like Me](#) was published in the Wall Street Journal, December 8, 2023
- **Saustine Lusanzu**, Tanzania is named as Restless Development Youth Power Hero Of The Week
- **Semeh Roberts**, Liberia is working with UFA to implement a biodiversity project in five communities in Liberia. He hosted a guest from Germany, a UFA partner, who traveled to visit the project.
- **AD Alvarez**, Philippines launches a [podcast](#) to talk about agriculture in his country
- **Malwinder Malhi**, India was awarded the Award of honor of Regenerative Agric Expert by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). At TNC's event, Malwinder moderated a panel of farmers speaking on success stories in residue management. Malwinder is current serving on the Advisory Committee for Biotechnology Program, to support agricultural students and on the Advisory board for the Australia India Hub Cyber Security & Digital Innovation Alliance

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## [Farmers Learn Directly From GFN Members](#)



**Global Farmer Network**

**Live Webinar Series 2024**

**PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF NO-TILL**

Speaker: **Jorge Lopez-Menendez, GFN®**  
member from Argentina

January 25, 2024  
14:00 GMT

Register at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/GFNwebinar02>

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### UPCOMING EVENT!

#### 1-25-24 GFN Offering Second No-Till Knowledge Transfer Session

A fundamental part of the Global Farmer Network is farmer-to-farmer peer knowledge transfer. The 2nd in a series of peer-to-peer webinars will be hosted by GFN on **January 25, 2024** at **14:00GMT**.

**Jorge Lopez-Menendez**, Argentina will present Practical Implementation of No-Till. Jorge originates from Argentina and is now a consultant who advises farmers in Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Liberia, and Sierra Leone as well as Kenya, in east Africa. As a consultant from South America, his job is to help farmers in Africa grow more food. His strategy is to promote the know-how and transfer the technologies of Argentina to the farmers in these countries. His work shows the great things that can happen when we share information and tools across borders and oceans.

Register today! A confirmation and calendar option will be sent to your email.

3 Reasons to attend:

1. No-Till Kickstart:
  - Learn how to initiate no-till practices effectively.
2. Jorge's Insights:
  - Gain firsthand experiences on adapting to soil, crops, weather, and machinery.
3. Transformation Highlights:
  - Discover initial no-till yield results and insights on soil benefits.

The first session in the series was held in December. No-Till Farming Practices Introduction, presented by **Edgard Ramirez**, Argentina is available on demand.



**Anecdotal story: The reach of social media in sharing farming knowledge**

**David Danio**, Philippines posted "I met this fellow while purchasing filter and e-cleaner for my kanger water machine @ 16th floor RCBE building BGC Taguig City. He said he was my viewer and follower of my YouTube channel. He was from Palawan, he follows our advice in farming." *Note: it is 26 hours travel time from David's farm to Palawan, where the follower lives. YouTube certainly is a great tool in peer-to-peer sharing between farmers!*



**Biotechnology Award Presented to Alvarez**

**AD Alvarez**, Philippines received the 2023 Faces of Biotechnology award, presented by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Promoting biotechnology is a strong focus for GFN members in the Philippines. As proof, another GFN member previously recieved this award. In 2016, **Rosalie Ellasus**, Philippines was the recipient.



**GFN Member Creates Japan Biotech Crop Network, Holds Conference**

**Shuichi Tokumoto**, President of the Japan Biotech Crop Network (JBCN), Japan held the

first [JBCN conference](#) and invited fellow GFN member, **Cherilyn Jolly Nagel**, Canada to speak. Cherilyn spoke about producing GM crops on a large scale.

The most famous music producer in Japan was one of the panelists on the Japanese side. He is also a farmer and has a strong interest in biotech and no-till. This helped increase awareness and brought even more attention to the conference in Japan.

The theme of the conference was Communicating the correct understanding of GM crops to Japanese society. In attendance were many stakeholders, including the Japanese government, embassies, media, retail distributors, as well as farmers. With the success of this conference, JBCN plans to hold it every year.



### **Kelley Hosts Brazilian Agronomists**

**Dan Kelley**, USA hosted a group of agronomists from Brazil on his Indiana corn and soybean farm.

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Nominate a Farmer

2024 Global Farmer Network Roundtable & Communication Training program

**Farmers address top-of-mind issues**



To date in 2023, nearly 100 GFN farmers from the countries highlighted in the map above have been making their voices heard in 285+ media sources.

Those countries are: **Argentina**, **Australia**, Brazil, **Canada**, China, Colombia, Germany, Ghana, India, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, **Kenya**, Liberia, Mexico, Netherlands, **New Zealand**, Nigeria, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Rwanda, Scotland, South Africa, UAE, **UK**, **Ukraine**, Uruguay, **USA**, **Zimbabwe** (bold indicates countries where members have been most active).



n=1,170

## Increasing visibility, awareness through social media

Our strong presence on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, TikTok, Podcasts and YouTube is focused on growing engagement with non-farmers and farmers alike. Here's what engagement looked like for the months of January through December.



854,861 impressions  
4.3% engagement rate

### What are the next Global Farmer Network Focus Themes?

**January**

Agriculture Resilience

**February**

Technology in Ag



*The Global Farmer Network amplifies the farmers' voice in promoting trade, technology, sustainable farming, economic growth, and food security.*

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**#GFNmobilizing**

Details are being finalized for "**Mobilizing the GFN in Support of a Resilient Agri-Food System**" the **February 5-11** roundtable and communication training program to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The group will travel to Rosario, visiting farms and ag businesses along the way.

At the event, emphasis and key is 'mobilization' – the action word that drives who we are and why GFN members will come to Argentina. Training is an available track but the emphasis is on the knowledge transfer of GFN members through listening, panels, and agri-business tours.

While the GFN is busy in the present, we're excited to announce our next Roundtable will be held September 10-16, 2023 in Washington, DC.

**Follow us throughout the week of February 5-11 -- #GFNmobilizing**



*December 2022 results: raising visibility, increasing influence, driving impact*



**February Mobilization Event Led by Girardo**

Pilu Girardo, GFN member from Argentina is leading the planning of the "Mobilizing the GFN in Support of a Resilient Agri-Food System" event with a team of GFN members on the ground from Argentina and Uruguay, and GFN staff.

The vision and goal is to bring together and connect GFN membership to share their recent challenges and opportunities experienced, to identify commonalities, and determine a unifying, common message that recognizes agriculture's role in attaining food security as part of the solution to the main challenges faced by humanity.

- Showcasing the diversity of GFN membership, farmer-members are traveling from these countries to connect, share and mobilize: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Czech, Denmark, Germany, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, Ukraine, United States, Uruguay, and more as visas are approved.
- At the same time, a new cohort of farmers will join in stimulating roundtable discussion and take part in communication training. GFN is welcoming farmers from: Italy, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Nigeria, Puerto Rico, UAE, United States, and more as visas are approved.

[GFN Uniting Farmers](#)



**Hebert brings farmers story to WTO**

Global Farmer Network member Kristijan Hebert, Canada was a panelist at WTO Agri-Food Business Day 2022. He noted that there could be no question that global supply chains had been beneficial for farmers and that their lives had improved as a result. Hebert called on the WTO to engage farmers in order to reduce supply chain bottlenecks and to allow farmers to bring their stories to the WTO negotiating table.

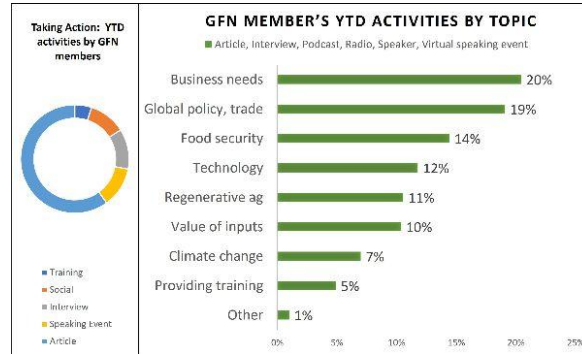


### GFN Members Engage with Asian Farmers

Gina Gutierrez, GFN Agvocate, Mexico, GFN members Rosalie Ellasus, Philippines, Arie Sulistyani, Indonesia, Mary Boote, United States, and William el Bulo, Indonesia traveled to Indonesia to lead a mentorship meeting with Asian farmers. Presenting "agvocate" training for small holder farmers from Southeast Asia, they offered information and ideas that would support the Asian farmers efforts to be profitable and productive, be knowledgeable about adapting to climate change and to be an inspiration to each other. The farmers in attendance are now recognized as Global Farmer Network Fellows.

[Top left photo: Preparing for the session are Gina Gutierrez, Rosalie Ellasus, Mary Boote, Arie Sulistyani. Bottom left photo: William el Bulo leads table talks.]

These YTD results show the topics and the spaces where GFN members are amplifying the farmers' voice:

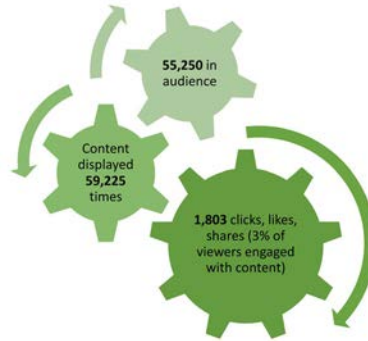


n=1,630

GFN farmers from these countries have been making their voices heard this year—in 309 different media outlets: Argentina, **Australia**, Brazil, **Canada**, Colombia, Denmark, Ghana, Germany, **India**, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, **New Zealand**, Nigeria, Nicaragua, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, **Ukraine**, **United Kingdom**, **United States**, Uruguay, Vietnam, Zimbabwe (bold indicates top 7 active countries).

### INCREASING AG VISIBILITY, AG AWARENESS

Our strong presence on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube is focused on growing engagement with non-farmers and farmers alike. Here's what engagement looked like for the month of December.



#### Global Farmer Network Focus Themes

**January**  
Agriculture Resilience

**February**  
Technology in Ag  
One year anniversary of Russia aggression in Ukraine – food security at risk



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