



GFN Agripreneur Accelerator Helps Kenyan Farmers Collaborate, Reaches Farmers as Far as Eswatini

Lucy Wangari, known as the Onion Doctor, is a young farmer in Kenya. During the GFN Africa Agripreneur Accelerator program Lucy connected with Sibusiso from Eswatini to work on a cross-border onion farming project that would see the exchange of knowledge on commercial onion farming which will expand Onion Doctor's services to Eswatini.

Lucy is also working with Dave Okech, (Kenya) on fundraising and agritech growth. She is learning from him about fundraising strategies for agribusiness, understanding business valuation and investor readiness. As part of this collaboration, she is connecting with investor pools supporting agritech in Africa.

These collaborations will see:

- Increased revenue through expansion into Eswatini.
- Improved onion farming techniques through cross-border collaboration.
- Training on fundraising and access to potential investors.
- Development of an IoT platform to automate and scale operations.

By sharing data and personal experiences, the GFN Africa Agripreneur Accelerator program is fostering a culture of innovation and growth. Stay connected to track Lucy's progress, or for more updates and achievements, contact GFN Africa

Regional Lead, Ruramiso Mashumba, Zimbabwe
at rmashumba@globalfarmernetwork.org.

Calendar

2025

Major Initiatives Leading GFN's 2025 Journey

Along with celebrating its 25th year, the GFN is planning on a year of growth, collaboration, and empowerment.

Underway is a comprehensive survey, sent to all members, with responses to be synthesized by mid-March for sharing. The survey will gather perspectives on how best GFN can increase impact and ultimately influence important global ag conversations.

In June, GFN Roundtable and Communication Training will take place on the IICA campus in Costa Rica. Attendees will take part in discussions aiming to gather insights and communications training to prepare each for future opportunities to amplify their farmer's voice about trade and technology. The selection process for this event is currently underway.

The Africa Regional Program will continue with important work, focusing on farmer engagement and follow-up opportunities. One proposed outcome will take place at the Africa Food System Summit 2025, offering the opportunity for the GFN to host a side event.

A Farmer Declaration on Regenerative Agriculture initiative will have two phases: the first in April will involve a farmer workshop to develop a declaration and statement of principles, while the second will focus on amplifying these principles and the Statement. Plans are underway to update GFN membership and gain signatures, with an Ambassador Program for Regenerative Agriculture set to publicize the statement and principles at major events.

Even with it being 10 months away, excitement is building within the GFN membership for the GFN Summit 2025, themed "Empowering Farmers: The Journey Continues." Scheduled for December 2-5 in Johannesburg, South Africa, the summit promises to be a landmark event. The itinerary for this farmer-member event is currently under development, and resources and sponsorships will be sought to ensure its success.

Throughout the year, the GFN Webinar Series will continue to share information and offer a point of engagement.

To learn more about how **you can help the GFN with these initiatives**, or to learn more about how **you can help the GFN celebrate its 25th anniversary** contact

Mary Boote, CEO at mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org or Kellie Bray, Director of Partnerships at kbray@globalfarmernetwork.org.

Advocacy Tip of the Week

Build support for education and training programs:

Emphasize the importance of digital literacy and technical skills.



Advocacy Tip of the Week

Engage with policymakers:

Build relationships with elected officials to influence policy decisions that benefit farmers, the environment and your communities.




Represent + Engage
Contribute + Nominate!

Champion GFN's Mission
Amplify farmer's voice in promoting trade, technology, sustainable farming, economic growth, and food security.

Represent GFN: When you share your story, identify yourself as a GFN member to promote our mission.

Engage & Participate: Share GFN content online. Keep GFN informed of your advocacy activities and media appearances.

Contribute Content: Share photos, videos, and other materials for GFN media, and engage in the WhatsApp group.



Advocacy Tip of the Week

Master the art of storytelling

Use personal and authentic narratives to connect with different audiences and help you build trust.



Each week, an Advocacy Tip is shared to GFN members and posted on social media as a reminder of ways farmers can share their stories and amplify their voices. These are the January tips.



International Young Farmers' Forum

Emi Macor, Argentina led a session at the International Young Farmers' Forum. Twenty young farmers, including Macor from all continents came together in Berlin, Germany. Each actively contributed their valuable experiences from their own farms or their work in national farmers' organizations to the discussions at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA).

Malwinder Shares Innovations in Support of Potato Seed Growers

Members of the Khatra Potato Seed Group, including **Dr. Malwinder Singh Malhi**, India, led a Farmer Training Program and Inauguration of Gill Potato Seed Tissue Culture Laboratory on January 27th at Village Manuke. The Khatra Group, which includes over 2,000 farmers from Punjab operates a thriving WhatsApp community connecting growers, many of whom are associated with contract farming giants such as PepsiCo and McCain.



Fordyce Named USDA Undersecretary

Richard Fordyce, USA has been appointed as the USDA Undersecretary for Farm Production and Conservation. His new role recognizes his 30 years of ag leadership and commitment to agriculture at multiple government levels. Fordyce's career is noted for his farmer-first approach. Fordyce continues to run Fordyce Farms in Harrison County—a fourth-generation farm producing soybeans, corn, and cattle. This blend of practical farming experience and policy leadership equips Fordyce to significantly influence U.S. agricultural strategies and support. Learn more [here](#).

Amplifying the Farmers' Voice

GFN Members Active in January

- **Chandrashekhhar Bhadsavle**, India, was awarded the first Norman E. Borlaug innovative Farmer Award on December 20th, by the Trust for Advancement in Agriculture Sciences. Malwinder Malhi, was in attendance.
- **Jana Gabert**, Germany, was featured in Women in Ag magazine to expand her story and talk about the award she received in November. Gabert also attended Green Week in Berlin.
- **Dan Kelley**, USA, was quoted in an article published by yahoo!finance, [RFK Jr. Pledge Could Shatter Corn Industry: Farmers Brace for Impact](#)
- **Dr. Malwinder Singh Malhi**, India, engaged with policy makers, led a session on digital marketing as an income source for the future that included key AI tools in agriculture. He also has outlined the key training needed by young ag students in Punjab as an initiative that can be presented at Punjab Agricultural University. Malhi serves on the University's advisory committee. At the Awareness Camp on water

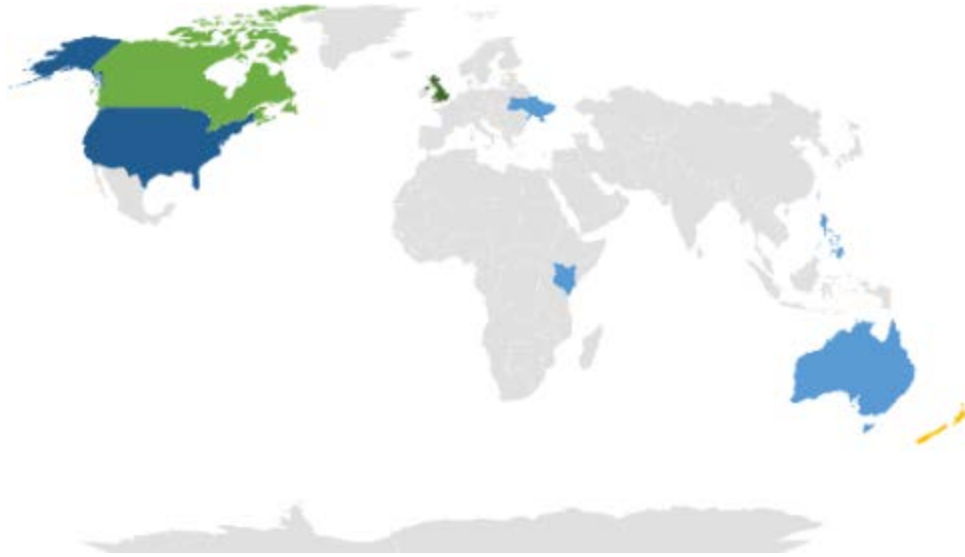
saving practices and crop residue management he explained advancements in ag tech.

To connect with and learn directly from these or any of the 279 GFN members, contact Mary Boote, mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org.

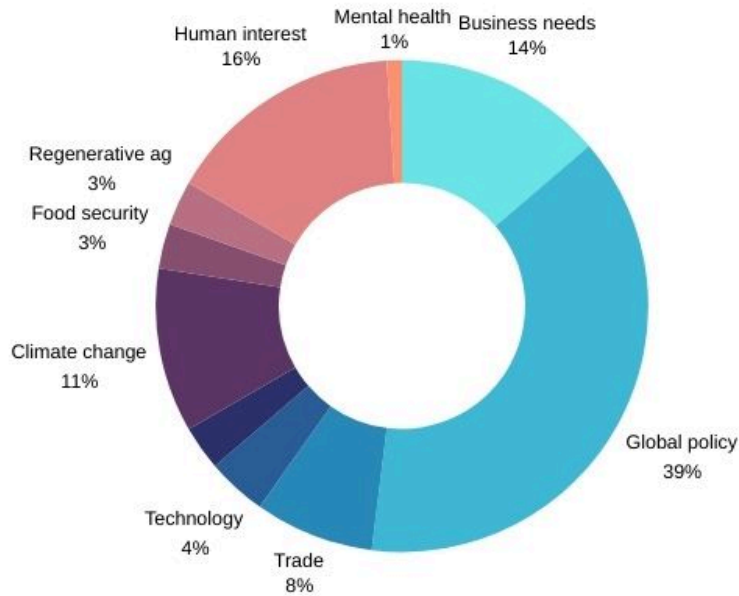
Where are GFN members sharing their voices?

In January, 20 GFN farmer-members, from the countries highlighted in the map above, made their voices heard in 58+ different media sources.

Those countries are: Australia, **Canada**, Kenya, New Zealand, Philippines, UK, Ukraine, **USA**. Bold indicates countries where members have been most active.



In articles, interviews, podcasts, or in person, these are the topics GFN members are talking about to date in 2025.



2025 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 182 published posts in 2025.

Metric	Value
AUDIENCE (net audience growth)	193
CLICKS, LIKES, SHARES	331
VIDEO VIEWS	12,736

48,790 impressions
4.4% engagement rate

What are the next Global Farmer Network focus themes?

February 2025

GFN: 25 years of Advocacy & Action

March 2025

GFN: 25 years of Strong Leadership



Learn about the GFN! Curious about who makes up the Global Farmer Network? Interested in learning about the world-wide impact of the GFN on agriculture? [Click here](#) to learn more about this farmer-led / farmer-driven movement for change, and how members are amplifying their farmer voices in promoting trade and technology.



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

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GFN's Initiative on Defining Regenerative Agriculture

GFN leadership was encouraged to use the expertise of its diverse and global individual farmer membership to identify a set of core principles and determine a statement defining regenerative agriculture with a farmers' perspective. Observations showed that the term was being broadly defined without farmer input, leading to farmers being asked to adopt certain practices labeled as 'regenerative.'

GFN's Elly Sukup, Director of Programs, is gathering information and research on regenerative agriculture to provide a solid background for Phase One of the project. Eight diverse farmers will gather at Chesapeake Farms in Maryland on April 15 for a 2 ½ day workshop to develop a farmer-determined statement of regenerative agriculture, supported by core principles and case studies.

Phase Two will involve sharing the statement and principles with the full GFN, partners, and key networks, collecting farmer signatures globally, and introducing the declaration at global events.

For more information, contact Mary Boote, CEO, mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org or Elly Sukup, Director of Programs, esukup@globalfarmernetwork.org.



Holterman Speaks at American Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

Jenny Holterman, USA, attended the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in San Antonio Texas. She joined Kansas farmer Ray Flickner of Flickner Farms on the trade show center stage for a discussion on Managing Groundwater Challenges and Solutions. Holterman summarized California water issues into a concise and comprehensive 10-minute presentation to put California water on the center stage.

Advocacy Tip of the Week

Highlight the economic impact:

Emphasize how trade creates jobs, boosts local economies, and increases farmers' incomes.



Advocacy Tip of the Week

Practice makes perfect!

Hone your communication and presentation skills by recording yourself and practicing with friends and colleagues



Advocacy Tip of the Week

Explain the role of trade in food security:

Discuss how trade helps ensure a stable food supply, even during crises. Use personal stories to show your experience on the topic.



Advocacy Tip of the Week

Engage with policymakers:

Advocate for trade policies that support farmers' interests.



Each week, an Advocacy Tip is shared with GFN members and posted on social media to remind you of ways to share your stories and amplify your voices. Let's make our voices heard! Share your stories and amplify your impact by following these February tips.



Masure attends International Fair for Ag

Diane Masure, France, is shown with Emmanuel Macron, Agnes Panier Runacher et Annie Gennevard president, environment and agriculture's minister at the International Fair for Ag in Paris.



Diane had the opportunity to visit with David Leishman from the US Embassy at the no-till booth (pictured). Also learning more from Diane were Mohshine Abdelhakim president of the No till association of Morocco and Rachid Moussadek Morocco's representative at the GSP (FAO). She notes this year more young farmers came to the booth for information to be a farmer in no-till ag!

Schmidt on Panel at US Grains Council Meeting

The U.S. Grains Council's 22nd International Marketing Conference and 65th Annual Membership Meeting had a full slate of expert speakers, including **Jennie Schmidt**, USA, who offered comments on preparing for the International Year of Woman Farmer 2026. **Bill Couser**, USA, **Kellie Bray**, Director of Partnerships and **Mary Boote**, CEO were photographed at the event. Also in attendance were **Mark Heckman**, USA.



Rigolizzo Jr. Honored Posthumously with Agriculture Citation

The New Jersey State Board of Agriculture presented the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Citation to **John Rigolizzo, Jr.** (posthumously) during the 110th New Jersey State Agricultural Convention.

John was a fifth-generation farmer of vegetables and field corn for retail and wholesale markets. He was known for helping local, state, national and international farmers to improve their well-being. He served on numerous committees and organizations on behalf of the agricultural community. Rigolizzo served with many industry and local groups. John wrote articles for numerous publications to help educate the public about many of the issues that farmers and the agricultural community face.



Distinguished Council Members Announced by WAF

The World Agriculture Forum proudly introduces its distinguished council members—leaders, innovators, and changemakers from across the globe—two are GFN members! From sustainable farming and agribusiness to food security and rural development, these experts are shaping policies and driving impactful solutions for a resilient agricultural future. Learn more: [Mary Boote](#), USA; [Shuichi Tokumoto](#), Japan.



Sailer Receives 2024 Distinguished Service to Ag Award

Larry Sailer, USA, has been honored with the Iowa Farm Bureau's 2024 Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award. This prestigious award, established in 1978, recognizes individuals whose lifelong dedication and innovation have positively shaped Iowa's agricultural landscape.

Sailer has embraced numerous opportunities to promote agriculture, both in the U.S. and internationally. His efforts include engaging with media and social media, educating in classrooms, and participating in global agricultural discussions. His commitment to telling agriculture's story and advocating for farmers has made a lasting impact on the industry.

Bill Northey, USA, one of the original five GFN Founding Farmers was also honored posthumously.

Photo credit: IA FB

Biotechnology Symposium Explores Sustainable Agriculture

Gina Gutierrez, Mexico, addressed the perspectives of a dairy producer regarding modern biotechnology at the Symposium, hosted by PROCCYT (Crop Protection, Science and Technology) in Mexico City.

She talked about education and communication, legal and regulatory aspects, but above all the influence of ideologies and misinformation around biotechnology issues in general. She stressed that collaboration between farmers, researchers and consumers is a fundamental factor that must be promoted.

Breton Participates in North America Food System Stress Test

Guillermo Breton, Mexico, attended the event "Stress Testing the North American Food System" in Canada, organized by the Arrell Food Institute.

Participants included thought leaders and decision makers from Mexico, the USA and Canada, across a range of sectors from farm to fork and with variety of approaches to addressing emerging challenges and disruptions. They examined the complex challenges facing the North American food system between now and 2040. Speakers called upon the need to go beyond transactions to collaboration, building trust and actions to complement existing trade agreements. Participants were asked to think both deeply and broadly about the whole system to stress test decisions we make, and encouraged to be better at getting food where it belongs: in every home across North America.

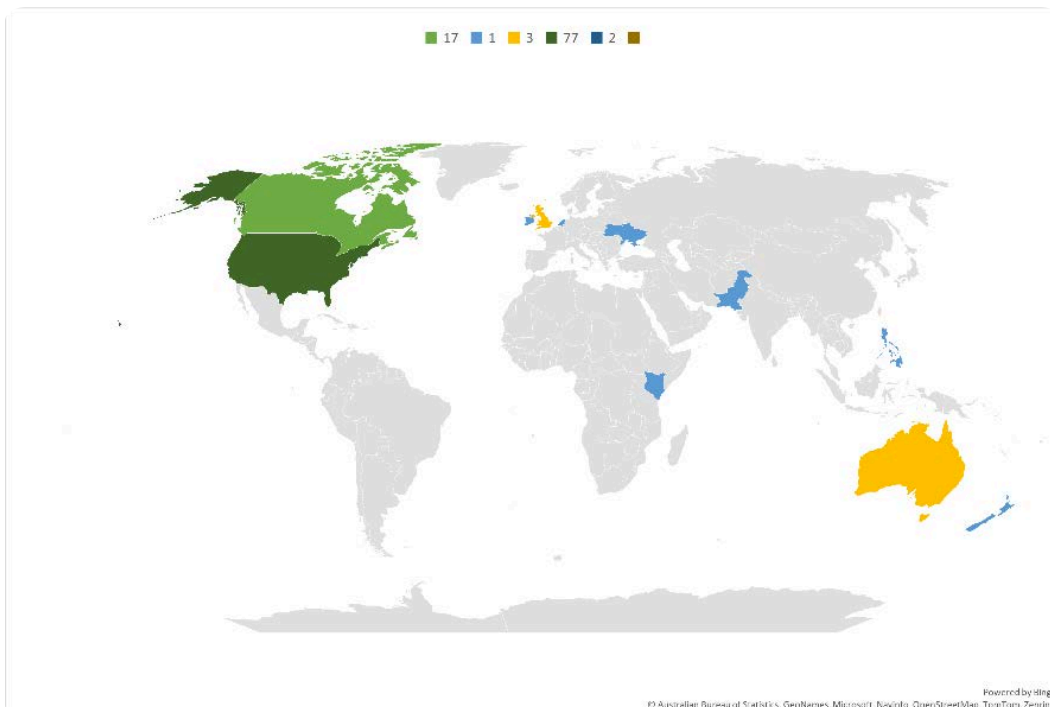
Amplifying the Farmers' Voice

GFN Members Active in February

- **Knud Bay-Smidt**, Denmark, hosted a Canadian professor from Saskatchewan University. He emphasized this connection was made because of the power of the GFN.

- **Aaron Moore's** farm in the UAE has been awarded 3rd place in the Commercial Vegetable Category at the prestigious Agricultural Excellence Awards. The farm is in its first year of commercial operation and this recognition is a testament to his hard work, innovation, and commitment to excellence.
- **Ganesh Nanote**, India, hosted a visit on his farm to talk about carbon credits and soil health.
- **David Noguera**, Paraguay, attended a webinar called Digital Agriculture in India.
- GFN Vice-Chair **Paul Temple**, UK, has been serving as co-chair of the UNEP – Major Farmers Group for the past two years. Through the formal nomination process with the UN Environmental Program Civil Society leadership, Paul's name has been placed in contention for re-election as co-chair of the group.

To connect with and learn directly from these or any of the 279 GFN members, contact Mary Boote, mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org.

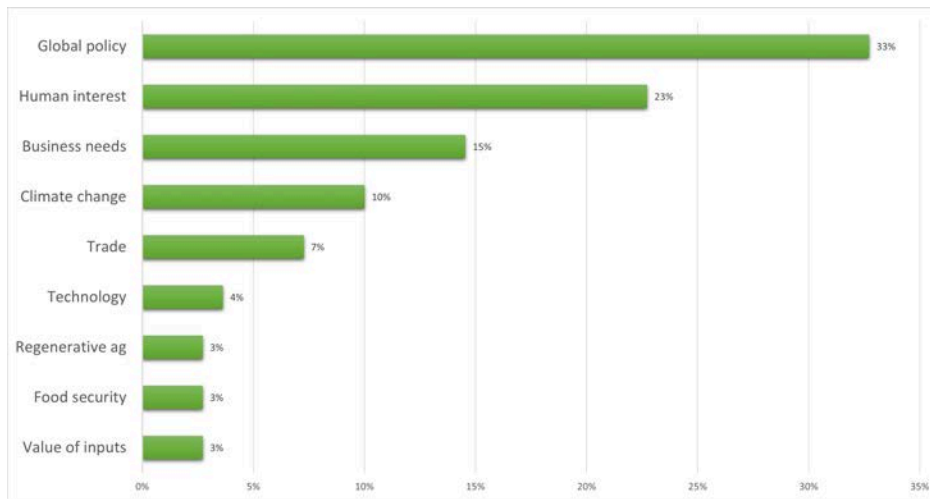


Where are GFN members sharing their voices?

Year-to-date, 28 GFN farmer-members, from the countries highlighted in the map above, made their voices heard in 77+ different media sources.

Those countries are: **Australia**, **Canada**, Ireland, Kenya, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, **UK**, Ukraine, **USA**. Bold indicates countries where members have been most active.

In articles, interviews, podcasts, or in person, these are the topics GFN members are talking about to date in 2025.



2025 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 387 published posts (year to date).

AUDIENCE

307

net audience growth

CLICKS,
LIKES, SHARES

628

VIDEO VIEWS

28,424

105,992 impressions
4.4% engagement rate

What are the next Global Farmer Network focus themes?

March 2025

GFN: 25 years of Strong Leadership

April 2025

GFN: 25 years of Stewardship – Soil, Plants, People, Planet



Learn how you can help the GFN with initiatives, or to learn more about how you can help the GFN celebrate its 25th anniversary contact Mary Boote, CEO

at mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org or Kellie Bray, Director of Partnerships at kbray@globalfarmernetwork.org.



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GFN Agripreneur Accelerator Connects Farm Machinery Fanatic to AI Technology Researcher

Kaahwa Jean Rwamukaga, is a farmer who also runs an agribusiness service in Uganda. Jean offers farmers solutions such as grain silos, threshers, dryers, mills and oilpressers. Formally an AGCO ambassador, Jean is keen on how technology can bring efficiency in agriculture systems in Uganda.

During the August 2024 GFN Agripreneur Accelerator event in Kenya, Jean got to connect with an AI enthusiast from Ghana: Moses Nganwani Tia, who is working on research on AI technology for measuring livestock greenhouse gas emissions.

To support livestock farmers like Moses, Jean has set a goal to gain comprehensive knowledge for a solution to measure greenhouse gas emissions. He can share advice and knowledge on locally manufactured agribusiness technologies which will add to the service he offers to farmers in measurement of greenhouse gas emissions for better environmental conservation. The adoption of better environment conservation technique adds to the knowledge pool in manufacturing of various agribusiness machines for storage, post-harvest handling and processing.

Jean's goal includes continuous communication with partners, demonstrating technologies as well as reviewing and sharing prototypes and information with farmers.



This outcome from the GFN Agripreneur Accelerator is evidence of the value of knowledge sharing amongst farmers and scientists and the benefits of farmer-to-farmer knowledge sharing.

By sharing data and personal experiences, the GFN Africa Agripreneur Accelerator program is fostering a culture of innovation and growth. To receive more updates on the collaborative work Jean and Moses are doing, contact GFN Africa Regional Lead, Ruramiso Mashumba, Zimbabwe, rmashumba@globalfarmernetwork.org.



GFN Empowers Leadership

During the March national roundtable forum of pro-biotech farmers, the Philippine Biotech Farmer Network was formed. Three GFN members were elected as founding officers: President-**AD Alvarez**, Treasurer-**Mariel Corpuz** and Assist. secretary-**Rosalie Ellasus**. Other farmers from different parts of the Philippines complete the membership.



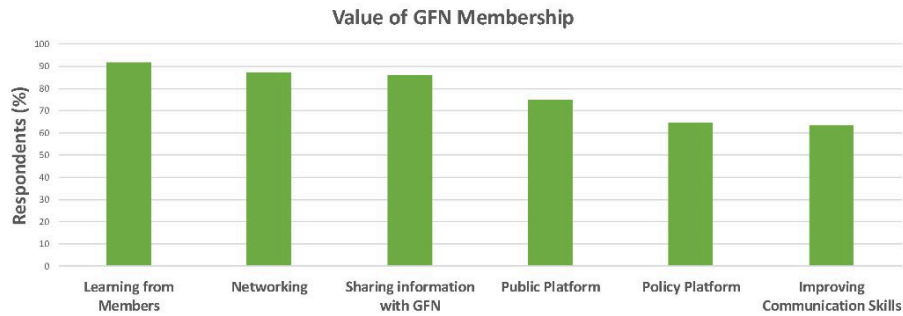
Members Connecting with Members

Bev Flatt, USA, (left) and **Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel**, Canada, met at a conference in New Zealand.



Paul Temple, UK, (right) attended the Grain SA Congress in South Africa. **Derek Mathews**, South Africa, is the immediate past-Chair of the organization.

What **value** do you get out of being a member of the Global Farmer Network?



2025 GFN Member Survey Results

In early 2025, the GFN conducted a survey to understand its members' motivations, challenges, and ideas, aiming to improve its services and showcase its value to donors and partners. The survey revealed insights from farmers across 36 countries, many of which are smallholder farmers and first-generation farmers.

The survey highlighted members value GFN for learning, networking, sharing information, and improving communication skills. Key challenges identified include climate change, inadequate access to technology, policy and regulation, and public perception. Encouragingly, 94% believe GFN is addressing these challenges.

GFN has successfully amplified farmer advocacy, with 96% of members learning new skills and sharing knowledge, and 45% have collaborated on projects. Members suggested additional networking opportunities, a desire for continued advocacy / education, and highlighted the importance of global exposure to further enrich their experience.

This feedback supports the importance of the GFN continuing to implement the [2024-2027 strategic plan](#). The strategic plan will aid the GFN in strengthening its impact and fostering a more connected and empowered farmer community.



Boote Interview on IL Corn TV Showcases GFN

Mary Boote, USA, joined Tara Desmond from IL Corn to talk about the GFN's farmer-led innovation, global collaboration, and farmer-member stories that are shaping agriculture's future. This [video](#) is a great recap of the interview and it showcases GFN programs and happenings.

IL Corn is made up of two farmer-led organizations that serve corn farmers in Illinois: IL Corn Growers Association (ICGA) and IL Corn Marketing Board (ICMB).

Women Support Women: Kompass Mentoring Program

Kompass, a German mentoring program by the DBV (Farmers' Association), is making a significant impact. **Jana Gabert**, Germany, is mentoring a young woman who will take over her family's farm next year. This initiative highlights the power of women supporting women in agriculture, fostering leadership and independence.



Charles Peeters, Brazil Speaks at AgTech Summit 2025



Schmidt Amplifies the Farmer's Voice

Hear [Jennie Schmidt](#), Maryland, as she discusses innovation during the World Food Prize Foundation's 2025 DialogueNEXT.



Global Agriculture Equipment News - Winter 2025

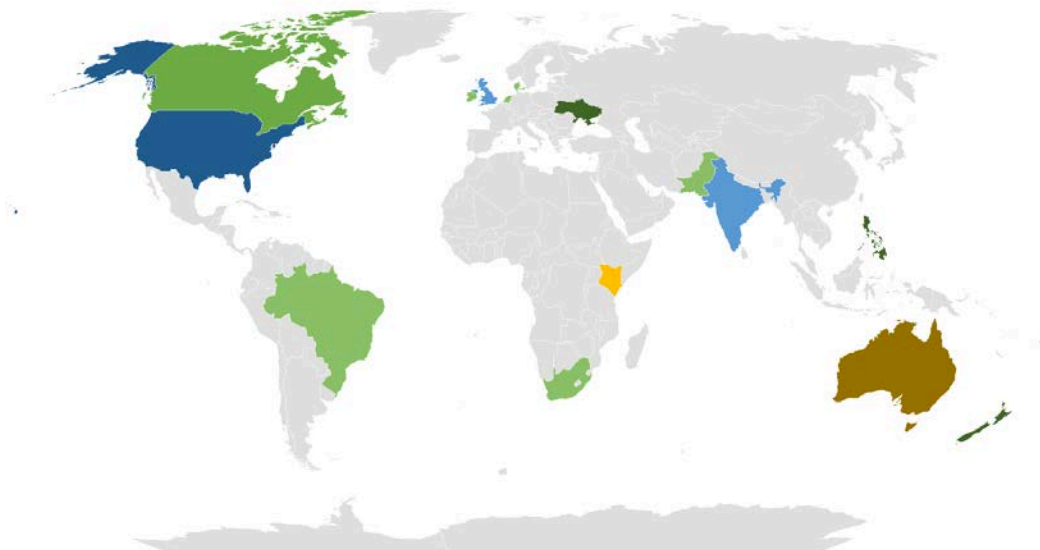
The [Agrievolution Alliance Newsletter - Edition #9](#) included the blog post titled [Why The World Still Needs Superman, The Farmer](#), written by **Jake Leguee**, Canada.

Dr. Malhi Supports PAU Students in Interactive Session

Dr. Malwinder Malhi, India, was instrumental in bringing a representative of Bayer to students at the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), to talk about the role of Bayer's digital apps to provide various crop related information and solutions.

Amplifying the Farmers' Voice

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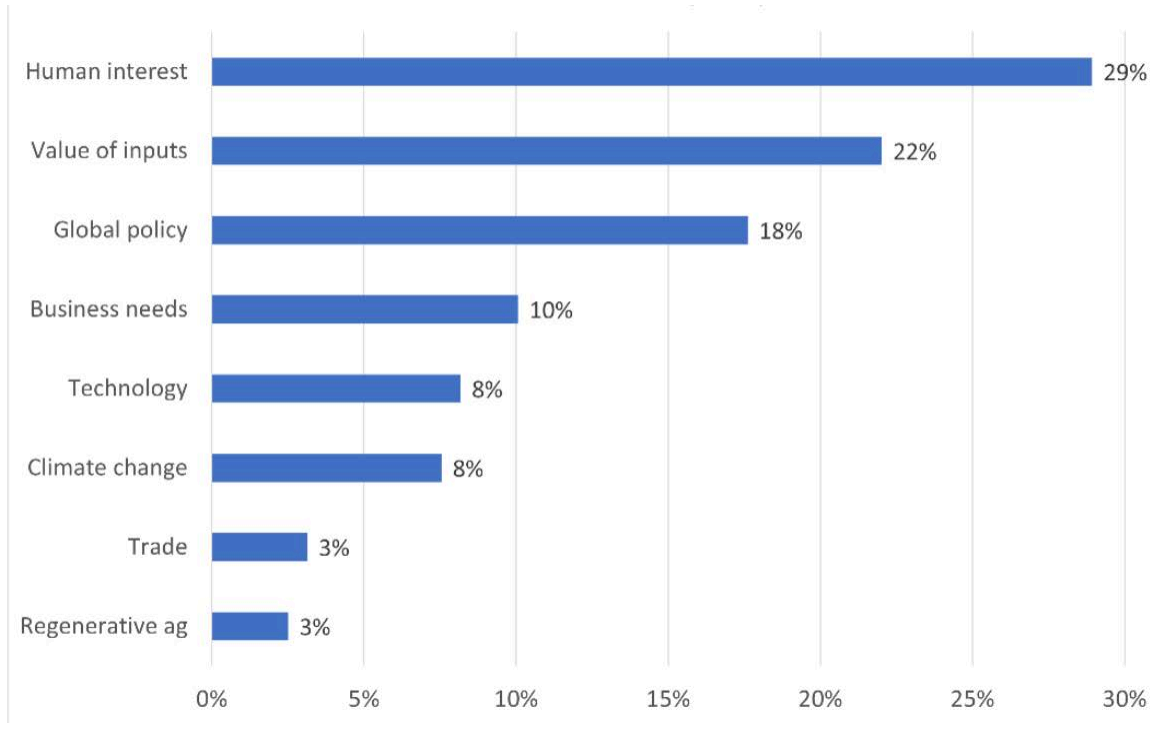
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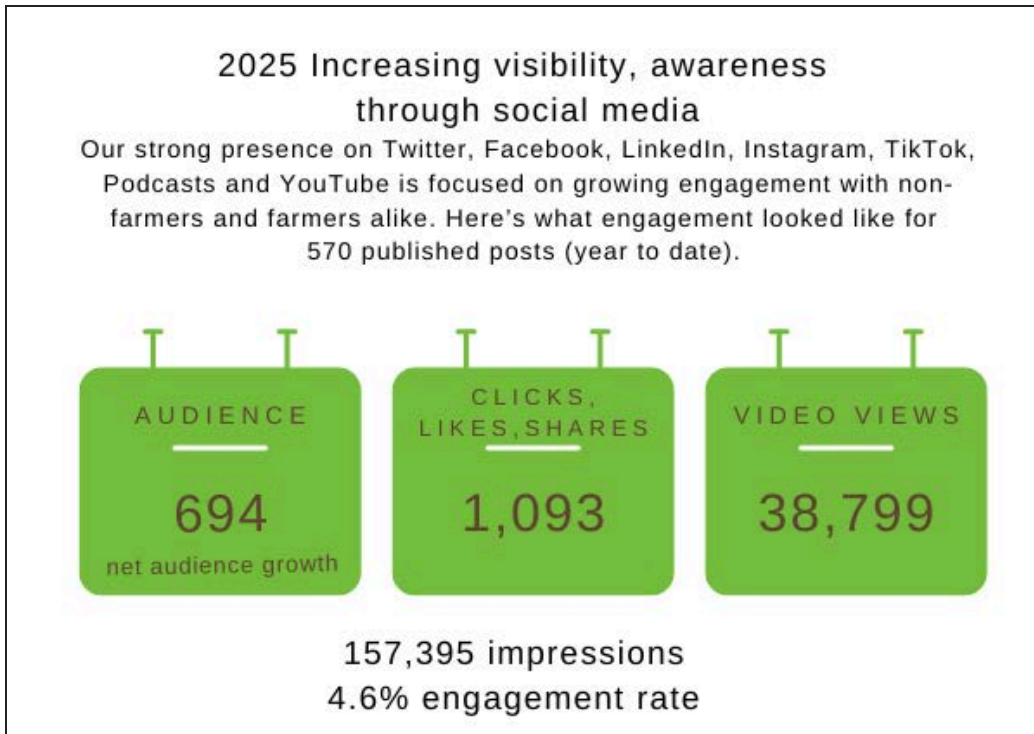
Where are GFN members sharing their voices?

Year-to-date, 36 GFN farmer-members, from the countries highlighted in the map above, made their voices heard in 98+ different media sources.

Those countries are: **Australia, Canada**, Ireland, Kenya, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, **UK**, Ukraine, **USA**. Bold indicates countries where members have been most active.

In articles, interviews, podcasts, or in person, these are the topics GFN members are talking about to date in 2025.





What are the next Global Farmer Network focus themes?

April 2025

GFN: 25 years of Stewardship – Soil, Plants, People, Planet

May 2025

GFN: 25 years of Bolstering Biodiversity



As someone deeply invested in the agriculture industry,

we'd love you to join in helping the GFN celebrate its 25th anniversary. Through your support, you'll be connected with a network of like-minded individuals who are passionate about fostering meaningful change—together with the very farmers whose experiences and voices are changing the future of food. For more information, contact Mary Boote, CEO at mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org or Kellie Bray, Director of Partnerships at kbray@globalfarmernetwork.org.



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GFN Members Draft Farmer Declaration for Regenerative Agriculture

On April 15-17, 2025, eight GFN farmer members flew to Maryland for a three-day workshop at Chesapeake Farms in Chestertown, Maryland, to create a Farmer Declaration for Regenerative Agriculture. Each farmer gave a presentation about regenerative agriculture in their country, including relevant policies and markets, followed by a discussion and drafting of the farmer declaration.

The eight farmers who participated, pictured left to right:

- **Shekhar Bhadsavle**, India
- **Sarah Singla**, France
- **Dave Okech**, Kenya
- **Jorge Lopez Menendez**, Argentina
- **Jennie Schmidt**, USA
- **Judith de Vor**, the Netherlands
- **Antonio Cabrera**, Brazil
- **Knud Bay Smidt**, Denmark

This declaration is the only farmer-created declaration on regenerative agriculture and will be shared globally. Signatures will be collected to show support for the declaration.

The Farmer Declaration for Regenerative Agriculture will be available to read and sign soon, and when it's available, we encourage you to share it with your networks.



Maness Nkhata: Promoting Regenerative Agriculture and Land Restoration in Malawi

Maness Nkhata is a young and dynamic farmer based in Malawi, where she leads her business, Lakeshore Agro-Processors Enterprise (LAPE). As a participant in the GFN Africa Agripreneur Accelerator program, Maness has embraced the values of regenerative agriculture and knowledge sharing to drive sustainable development in the agricultural sector across Malawi.

After the Accelerator, Maness fostered a strong network of agricultural professionals, creating vibrant WhatsApp groups that serve as hubs for exchanging success stories, best practices, and innovations in regenerative agriculture. This initiative aligns with GFN's commitment to building collaborative communities of learning.

Pioneering the African-Based No-Till Organization

A significant outcome of her participation in the Accelerator is Maness's leadership in establishing an African-Based No-Till Organization. This organization aims to unite multiple agricultural sectors under a shared mission of promoting sustainable farming. Key priorities include:

- Defining a clear vision and mission to drive sustainable agricultural practices.
- Developing thematic focus areas such as crop production, livestock farming, and ag-tech innovations to boost efficiency and yields.
- Promoting the adoption of ag-tech solutions to improve both farmer-facing and consumer-facing operations.
- Leveraging the GFN webinar platform to disseminate knowledge broadly.
- Engaging key opinion leaders, stakeholders, and policymakers to advocate for more supportive agricultural policies.

- Forging partnerships with governments, NGOs, businesses, and foundations to scale impact and accelerate agricultural transformation.

Restoring Degraded Land Along the Lilongwe River

In addition to her work in agricultural innovation, Maness is leading vital environmental restoration efforts. In collaboration with the Malawi Government — including the Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Water, and Ministry of Tourism — LAPE has launched a major reforestation campaign targeting the Lilongwe River and other key catchment areas. The project also includes planting initiatives along Lake Malawi. The core objectives of this campaign are:

- Restoring degraded catchment areas to prevent soil erosion.
- Mitigating the impacts of climate change.
- Aligning sustainability goals with business objectives to ensure long-term soil and water conservation.

Challenges and Resilience

Despite her successes, Maness faces challenges such as inconsistent internet access due to mobile network disruptions, which can impact communication and knowledge sharing. However, her resilience and commitment to innovation continue to drive positive change in Malawi's agricultural landscape.

The GFN Africa Agripreneur Accelerator program showcases how sharing knowledge between farmers fuels innovation, resilience and growth. By exchanging real-world experiences, participants are overcoming challenges and building a stronger future for agriculture in Africa.



To receive more updates on the work Maness is doing, contact GFN Africa Regional Lead, Ruramiso Mashumba, rmashumba@globalfarmernetwork.org.



Temple Elected Co-Facilitator for Farmers Major Group

Following the end of the current Co-Facilitators' terms, UNEP held 2025 elections to fill the two Farmers Major Group seats on the UNEP Major Groups Facilitating Committee.

GFN member and vice chair, **Paul Temple**, UK, is re-elected Co-Facilitator, along with A.G. Kawamura, Solutions from the Land.



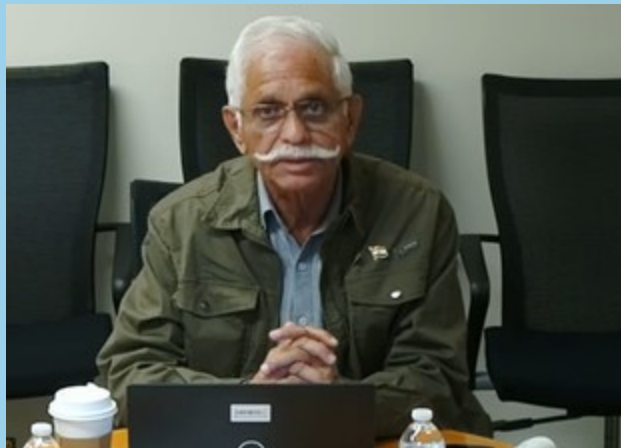
Meeting with NASDA CEO

Shekhar Bhadsavle, India, met with Ted McKinney, a long-time friend of the GFN who currently serves as CEO for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. In this position, Ted is coordinating work and connections between US State Department of agriculture and potential global partners, with recent emphasis in Kenya and India. Shekhar provided information on regenerative agriculture and the Saguna Regenerative Technique.



de Vor Attends World Food Prize Youth Institute

Judith de Vor, Netherlands, participated in the World Food Prize Youth Institute in The Netherlands. In this photo, she is standing with Jon Wogman. Jon leads the WFP Youth Institute programming. Judith and Jon met last year in Des Moines, Iowa-USA at the World Food Prize.



Presentation at the World Bank: SRT in Global Spotlight

On April 14, 2025, the Agriculture, Food & Rural Development Thematic Group of the World Bank hosted a special hybrid webinar titled “Regenerative Agriculture Practices to Address Soil Health, Improve Water Infiltration, and Sequester Carbon.”

Shekhar Bhadsavle, India, presented the Saguna Regenerative Technique (SRT)—a zero-till, sustainable method now practiced by thousands of farmers across Maharashtra, India.

Shekhar was joined by these panelists: Dr. George W. Bird, Professor Emeritus, Michigan State University; Mr. Kevin Cleaver, Sr. Consultant, Centennial Group; formerly AVP, IFAD; Mr. Willem G. Janssen, formerly Lead Agricultural Economist, WorldBank.

Watch the recording here: [World Bank Webinar Recording](#)



Wanzek Meets U.S. Secretary of Agriculture

Terry Wanzek, North Dakota-USA, had the opportunity to meet U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins. During their conversation, he shared his personal farming experience and "amplified the farmers' voice."

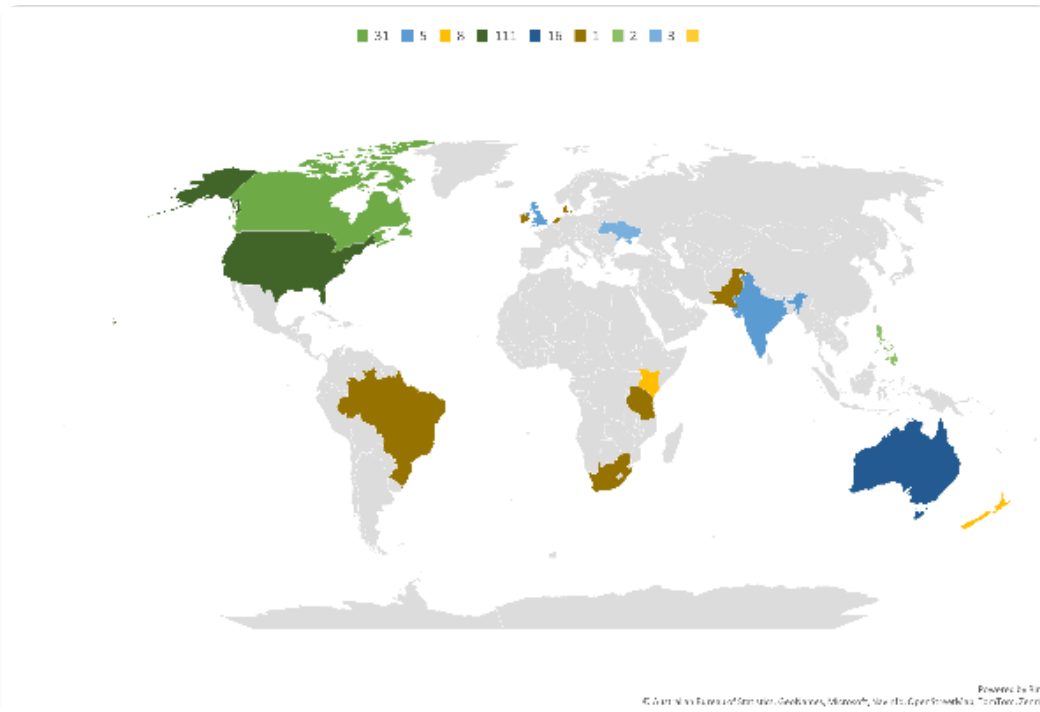


Malhi Honored for Basmati Work; Supporting Self-help Groups

CropLife India honored **Dr. Malwinder Singh Malhi**, India, at a Basmati traceability workshop, "From Field to Fork: Ensuring Basmati Purity through Comprehensive Traceability," organized by the Directorate of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare. The event focused on preserving Basmati purity through robust traceability systems.

Malwinder is working with Punjab Agricultural University and the Agriculture Department to create self-help groups, especially for underprivileged women in rural villages. These groups aim to support women in developing agricultural businesses, helping them achieve financial independence and stability.

Amplifying the Farmers' Voice

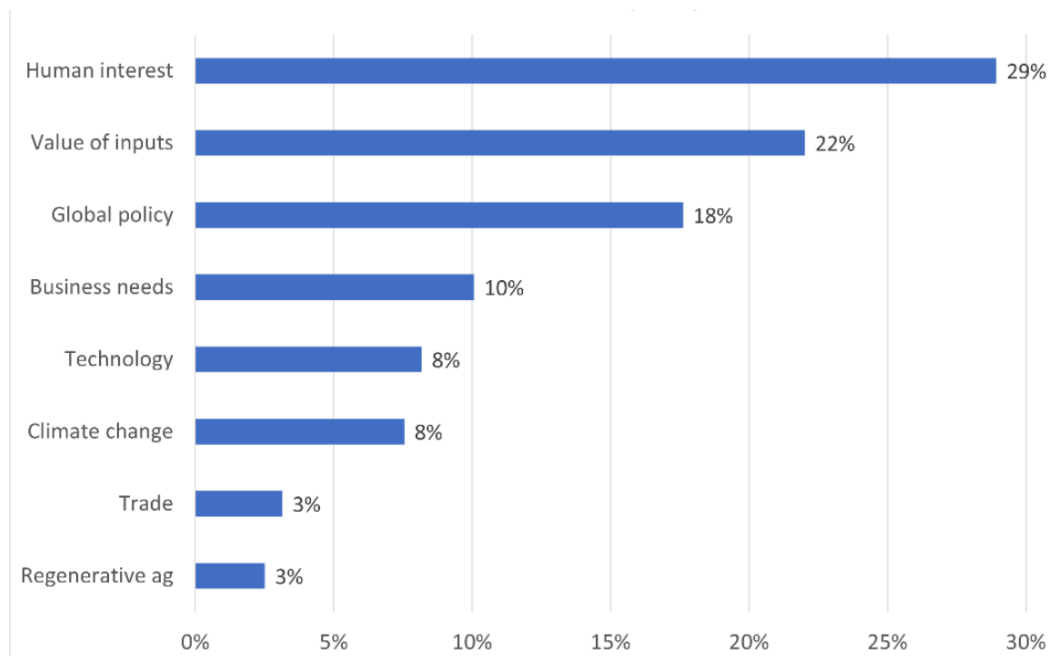


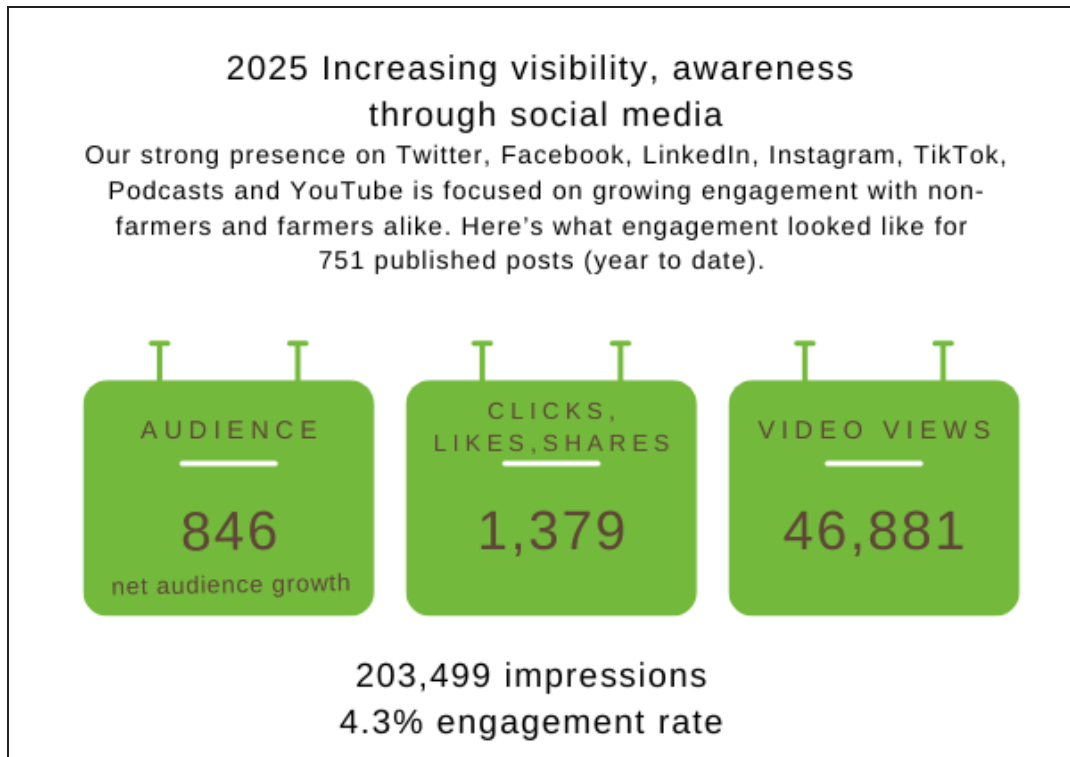
Where are GFN members sharing their voices?

Year-to-date, 45 GFN farmer-members, from the countries highlighted in the map above, made their voices heard in 199+ different media sources.

Those countries are: **Australia**, Brazil, **Canada**, Denmark, India, Ireland, Kenya, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Scotland, South Africa, Tanzania, **UK**, Ukraine, **USA**. Bold indicates countries where members have been most active.

In articles, interviews, podcasts, or in person, these are the topics GFN members are talking about to date in 2025.





What are the next Global Farmer Network focus themes?

May 2025

GFN: 25 years of Bolstering Biodiversity

June 2025

GFN: 25 years of convening and connecting farmers around the world



As a valued member of the agriculture community, we invite you to be part of a special milestone — **the 25th anniversary of the Global Farmer Network.** Your support helps amplify the voices of farmers who are shaping the future of food, feed, fuel, fiber and forests.

You'll connect with a global network of individuals committed to resilient and dignified farming lives, and for a future that both nourishes and bring peace to people and planet. To learn more or find out how you can get involved, please reach out to:

Mary Boote, CEO – mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org
Kellie Bray, Director of Partnerships – kbray@globalfarmernetwork.org



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

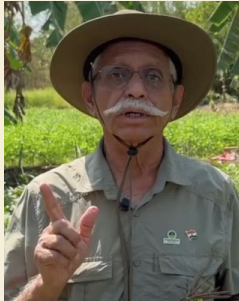
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Add YOUR Signature to Help Farmers Lead the Way



A few weeks ago, eight GFN members met to discuss, collaborate and author a Farmer Declaration on Regenerative Agriculture. This declaration stood the test of many filters as the eight operationally-diverse farmers discussed it. Shekhar Bhadsvale (pictured here) was part of the group, and he has created a video from his farm in India in support of the Declaration program.

Click this [direct link](#) to hear why the Declaration is important to him.

Why is it important for farmers from different countries to sign this document?

- As the concept of Regenerative Agriculture continues to grow in popularity, governments to private companies to activist organizations have adopted their own definitions to align with their interests and experience, all while putting farmers in a reactive position as policies and markets change.
- Signing the document affirms what is written. Signers will be interested in sharing the declaration much more broadly and inserting it in conversations, discussions and global policy platforms where it is sorely needed.

You can support the GFN by signing the Farmer Declaration on Regenerative Agriculture!

The GFN is gathering signatures from around the world. *(See QR code and link in box below to read the Declaration and to add your signature.)* We are inviting you and your networks to sign the Declaration and join us as we affirm our commitment to regenerative agriculture as a pathway to improve ecological functions of farming, feed our communities safe and nutritious food, and secure a thriving future for generations to come with dignity and well-being of farming communities as top of mind.

Your feedback, ideas on gathering signatures globally, thoughts and personal introductions where the Declaration can be most useful and suggestions on how best to utilize the message can be directed to:

- Mary Boote, CEO, mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org
- Elly Sukup, Director of Programs, esukup@globalfarmernetwork.org



Declaration for Regenerative Agriculture

[Click](#) to read the Declaration and background summary created by GFN members.

Please SIGN the Declaration [here](#) (or use the QR code on the left to gain access).

Then, share with your networks.

Your support is important to this initiative.

Thank you!

Amplifying the Farmers' Voice on Regenerative Ag

- **Sarah Singla**, France, authored the first column in the eight-part series: *Farmers Speak with One Voice: Regenerative Agriculture is the Future*. This is the first in a series of columns, authored by a GFN member who participated in the Regenerative Agriculture workshop and collaborated in authoring the Farmer Declaration on Regenerative Agriculture.
 - Learn [more about Sarah](#) and her regenerative ag efforts in this podcast.
- **Jennie Schmidt**, USA – Maryland, authored a GFN column: *Farmers Continue to Lead, Embracing the Principles of Regenerative Agriculture*. This is the second in the series of columns.

Be watching globalfarmernetwork.org for future columns, podcasts and videos in support of Regenerative Agriculture.



From South America to Africa - Accelerating Regenerative Agriculture

At the GFN Africa Agripreneur Accelerator program, **Jorge Lopez Menendez** (West Africa/Argentina) forged partnerships to broaden farmer connections and shared project opportunities. He intends to set up Numen Bio in Malawi, followed by locations in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Key partners include GFN member **Semeh Roberts** (Liberia), and Brimpa Pkra (Sierra Leone), and Colina (Malawi). Jorge's goal is to enroll 5 million hectares into regenerative programs, expanding to five African countries, and ensuring farmers own the company.

Numen Bio hopes to scale regenerative agriculture technologies (no-till, biological practices, and machinery) including know-how, improved practices, and partner collaboration.

The August 2024 GFN Africa Agripreneur Accelerator program held in Kenya provided vital connections and insights for farmers and aims to expand farmer leaders' training to promote peer-to-peer knowledge sharing.

To receive more updates on the work Menendez is doing, contact GFN Africa Regional Lead, Ruramiso Mashumba, rmashumba@globalfarmernetwork.org.



Nanate Leads Soil Health Strategies

Ganesh Nanote, India, received a 2025 award for his work on improving soil health.



Huizinga is Harvesting Hope in Ukraine

From the Dutch countryside to Ukraine's farmlands, **Kees Huizinga**, Ukraine, has spent more than two decades at the heart of agricultural transformation. After earning his degree in Agricultural Engineering from Wageningen University & Research in the 1990s, he moved eastward and played a key role in developing one of Ukraine's largest farming operations.

Kees was drawn to Wageningen by its unique blend of hands-on farming and technical knowledge. He later expanded his studies to include economics and business, believing that a university education should enhance your ability to solve real-world problems. His time at Wageningen gave him a wide-ranging view of agriculture—from barn construction to supply chain logistics.

Setting a Regenerative Agriculture Example

His journey took him through internships in Russia, farm work in Poland, and eventually to Ukraine. What began as neglected land rented for just €15 per hectare has grown into a thriving, diverse farm with crops, livestock, and vegetables.

The outbreak of war changed everything. With missiles overhead and fields turned into conflict zones, over 40 of Kees's employees were conscripted—nine of whom never returned. Despite the hardships, Kees and his wife Emmeke, also a Wageningen alumna, continue their work. Together, they run Stichting De Leeuw Kyiv, a foundation that supports both civilians and soldiers.

Photo by Michiel Driebergen

Grow the Movement: Help Advance the Regenerative Ag Initiative

Each week, we post an "**Advocacy Tip of the Week**" on social media to equip our community with practical tools and strategies that drive real change. These tips fuel advocacy efforts.

Take Action with the Tips

- **Gather Support for the Declaration:** Start conversations using the weekly tips and invite others to sign and share the GFN Declaration.
- **Raise Awareness:** Introduce the initiative to farmers, nonprofits, and businesses aligned with regenerative goals. Encourage them to join you in signing and promoting the Declaration.

**Advocacy Tip
of the Week**

Use social proof!

**Share success stories
and testimonials.**



**Advocacy Tip
of the Week**

Foster partnerships:

**Encourage collaboration
between farmers, technology
providers, local communities
and governments.**



**Advocacy Tip
of the Week**

**Photos and videos are
powerful tools!**

**Be sure to snap a photo or
video to help tell your story!**

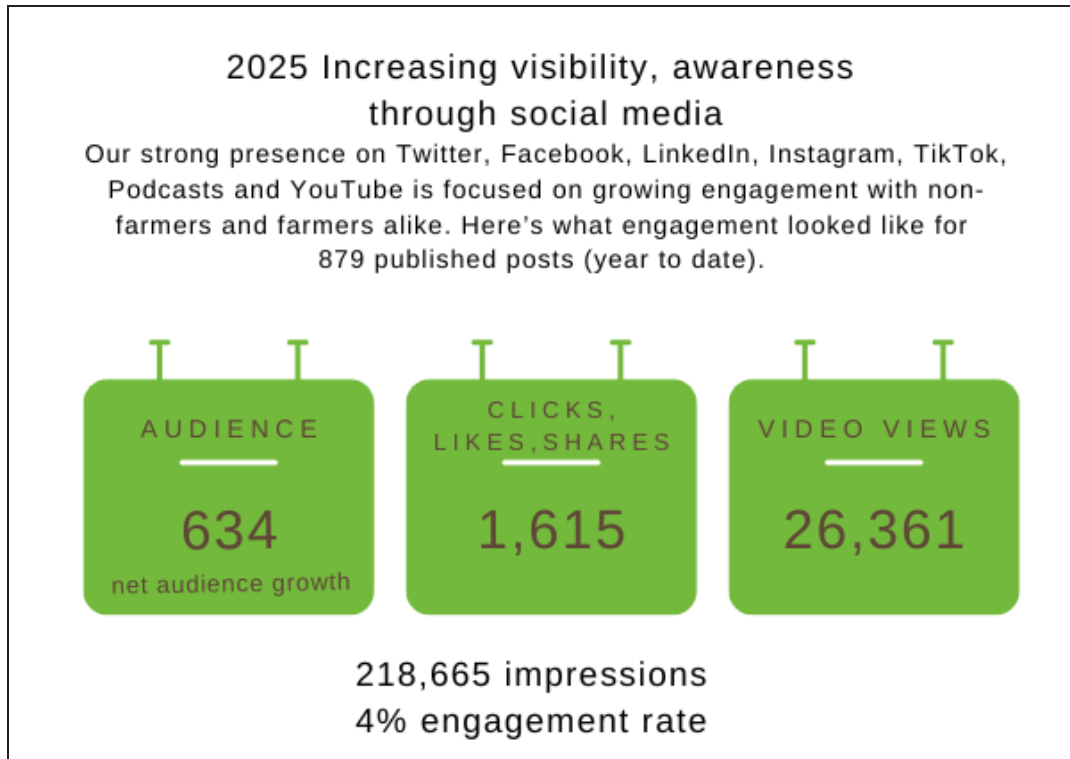


**Advocacy Tip
of the Week**

**Showcase economic
advantages:**

**Demonstrate how
sustainable farming can
increase profitability
and resilience.**





What are the next Global Farmer Network focus themes?

June 2025

GFN: 25 years of convening and connecting farmers around the world

July 2025

GFN: 25 years of collaboration and knowledge sharing



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

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