



# Global Farmer Network

## Activity Report - January 2026

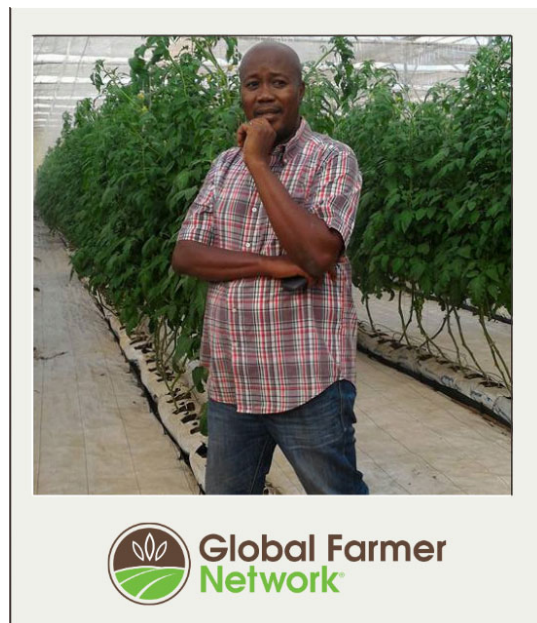
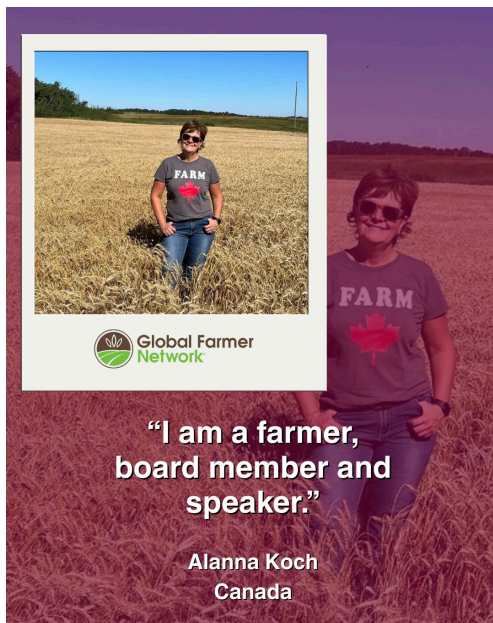


### GFN Opens Merchandise Store

We're excited to announce the launch of the Global Farmer Network merchandise store! You can now proudly represent the GFN with logo'd caps, shirts, and more.

The store is 'live' and ready for you to shop—[CLICK HERE](#) today and showcase your support of the GFN. Every purchase supports the mission of the GFN.

### "I am a farmer" Series Launches



With short features elevating diverse voices and on-farm innovation, the GFN started a weekly "I am a farmer" series. The goal is to re-introduce our members in their own words, highlighting the incredible diversity and strength of our global network.

The series will celebrate the International Year of the Woman Farmer, beginning with our first featured farmer: **Alanna Koch** of Canada. **Amadou Sidibe**, an architect turned greenhouse innovator from Mali is also featured early in the series.

## Burrack Meets POTUS



**Tim Burrack**, USA-IA, met President Donald Trump in Des Moines, Iowa. Both were attending a forum focused on agriculture. President Trump was delivering a speech centered on economic issues and he placed strong emphasis on agriculture—highlighting support for and appealing directly to farmers and rural communities. The visit aimed to refocus public attention on President Trump's economic and agricultural priorities.



## Taylor Speaks on Adapting Tech in Dairy

**Stuart Taylor**, New Zealand, shared his experiences and key insights about adopting different farm tech at the 2025 Precision Dairy Farming Conference as he participated on the Dairy Farmer Panel Discussion.

## Temple Featured on Panel

**Paul Temple**, UK, attended the Independent Agronomists conference, where he participated in a question / answer panel.

A long-time leader in agricultural policy, Paul is serving the GFN as Chairman.



## Japan–Brazil Exchange Showcases Brazil's Biomass Success



**Shuichi Tokumoto**, Japan, shared the 5th video conference of the Japan Biotech Crop Network: “Biomass Energy: How Brazil Successfully Implemented It in Society”. This session’s speaker was **Antonio Cabrera**, Brazil. [Watch here.](#)

*“I’m a Japanese farmer and have visited farms in Argentina and Brazil, so I understand the differences and similarities. I use JBCN and YouTube to communicate the reality of global agriculture to Japanese farmers and politicians.” - Shuichi Tokumoto*

## GFN Members Participate in Berlin Global Forum for Food and Agriculture

The [2026 Global Forum for Food and Agriculture](#), held in Berlin, focused on the theme "Water. Harvests. Our Future."

It brought together agriculture ministers and global experts to address water scarcity, sustainable water use, and the critical role of agriculture in global food security.

Key outcomes emphasized improving water governance, promoting efficient water use technologies, and strengthening agriculture's role in international water policy ahead of the UN Water Conference 2026.

Participating:

- **Mary Boote**, USA-IA - Panelist in Ensuring global food production with sustainable water supply: technologies and adaptation strategies from agriculture and agricultural engineering
- **Jana Gäbert**, Germany
- **Marcus Holtkötter**, Germany
- **Jenny Holtermann**, USA-CA, Panelist in International Young Farmers' Forum
- **Elizabeth Maanda Sianga**, Zambia - Speaker in International Young Farmers' Forum
- **Roger Navarro**, Philippines





## Amplifying the Farmers' Voice

These GFN Members also reported recent activities:

- **Chandrashekhar Bhadsavle**, India – was a special guest at a reception on behalf of President Modi, to celebrate the 77th Republic Day.
- **Mary Boote**, USA-IA – facilitated a panel on sustainable water supply at EU Commission Pre Program Forum.
- **Jake Freestone**, UK – Participated in LEAF Conference 2026 – “New Frontiers: Regenerative Agriculture, Public Engagement & Data.” LEAF’s recap and social posts highlight Jake’s farmer perspective and quotes.
- **Kornelis “Kees” Huizinga**, Ukraine – presented at Themadag Uien 2026 (Onion Theme Day). He continues to provide ongoing weekly video updates (“De week van Kees Huizinga”) on YouTube, reflecting continuing farm operations in Ukraine during war.
- **Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel**, Canada – served as master of ceremonies for the January 2026 two-day Saskatchewan Crops Forum 2026.
- **Diana Lenzi**, Italy – spoke at European Biomethane Week 2026.
- **Malwinder Malhi**, India – took part in an on-farm practical training for 30 agribusiness students, to expose the young generation to real-world agricultural practices. He also attended the inauguration of the aeroponic Divine Biotech Seed Lab at the Daudhar Potato Seed Farm.
- **Mitchell Hora**, USA-IA – is quoted in analysis connecting 45Z to regenerative ag. He’s involved in policy/market engagement for the 45Z Clean Fuel Production Credit, including U.S. government stakeholder meetings.
- **Paul Temple**, UK – hosted a group of young farmers on his farm.
- **Aline Vick**, Brazil – hosted a field day focusing on herbicide-resistant weeds in soybeans. She also spoke at COP30 [Listen to her here.](#)

- **Rotimi Williams**, Nigeria – held interviews on rural security and large-scale rice production. Featured is his work piloting a farmer–security communications app to address kidnapping and safety challenges in rural Nigeria.
- **Martin Ziegelbäck**, Austria – hosted a leadership workshop on Regenerative Agriculture.

## What are the next Global Farmer Network focus themes?

### February 2026

Amplifying Farmer Voices: Advocacy in Action

### March 2026

Amplifying Farmer Voices: Women leading change!

- **Upcoming events**

- International Women's Day
- International Day of Forests
- World Water Day
- Commodity Classic: San Antonio, TX Feb. 25-27, 2026
- Discover the Argentina Farming System with Aapresid: Agronomic Technical Tour, March 10-15, 2026
- World Agri-Tech Innovation Summit: San Francisco
- World Food Prize DialogueNext: Washington, DC

We invite you to support the Global Farmer Network's mission to elevate farmer perspectives and encourage collaborative solutions across borders. Your donation directly supports programs that connect farmers, share on-the-ground expertise, and foster a more resilient global agricultural community. To learn more or find out how you can get involved, please reach out to:

Mary Boote, CEO – [mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org](mailto:mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org)

Kellie Bray, Director of Partnerships – [kbray@globalfarmernetwork.org](mailto: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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## Activity Report - February/March/April 2026



## GFN Roundtable and Communication Training Held in Brazil

The Global Farmer Network® (GFN®) concluded its annual Global Farmer Network Roundtable and Communication Training program in Sao Paulo, Brazil, bringing together 18 farmers from 17 countries across the globe for an intensive program focused on communication skills, science-based advocacy, and dialogue around global agricultural challenges.

Held April 27–May 1, 2026, the week-long program combined policy roundtables, professional communication training, and field visits under the theme “One Voice.” Led by experienced farmer-members of the GFN, participants worked together to better understand how farmers—despite regional differences—can engage effectively with policymakers, media, and the public on shared global agricultural challenges.

Expanding the network’s global reach and diversity, these farmers are now members of the GFN, selected from more than 200 nominations:

- Amine Bennani, Morocco
- Lucas Camolese, Brazil
- Inota Cheta, Zambia
- Ingrid Graziano, Brazil
- Zainab Lawal Gwadabe, Nigeria
- Prabhu Sankar Krishnan, India
- George Mailat, Romania
- Merle Massie, Canada
- Alida Matsa, Lesotho
- Sara Mohr, United States-IA
- Tsuyoshi Nakamori, Japan
- Sunita Nhemaphuki, Nepal
- Christopher Jequier Nickelsen, Chile
- Jean Claude Niyomugabo, Rwanda
- Ayse Oksuz, Turkey
- Jose Luis Perez Miranda, Mexico
- Franco Rochon, Uruguay
- Varban Varbanov, Bulgaria

Thank you to the partners, both companies and individuals, who help deliver this dynamic program for farmers including, Bayer, BASF, Cargill, CropLife International, UPL, CLAAS, Cooperfarms, Dick Hebert, Syngenta Group, Bunge, Grupo Botuvera, Grupo Cabrera, Dulce Ciochetta, Yara de Geus, and Richard Dijkstra.

The program is invitation-only and designed specifically with a strong focus on building connections among farmers, enhancing communication skills, and preparing participants to be fully trained and equipped to use their voice in global discussions on food and agriculture, promoting innovation, sustainability, and collaboration.

The next Roundtable and Communication training program will be held in 2027. If you are interested in being a financial partner, or to submit a nomination, please visit [www.globalfarmernetwork.org](http://www.globalfarmernetwork.org).

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## GFN Earns 2026 Candid Platinum Seal of Transparency

We are very pleased to have recently earned a 2026 Candid Platinum Seal of Transparency - Candid's highest level of transparency!

Candid is a nonprofit organization that provides the most comprehensive data and insights about the social sector. Through research, collaboration, and training, Candid connects people to resources.

Platinum  
Transparency  
2026

**Candid.**

Candid was formed in 2019 when GuideStar and Foundation Center merged. Their history is steeped in transparency, data, and analysis, paired with guidance on how to leverage their tools.

You can use this link for access to the Global Farmer Network's profile. Sharing information and keeping our profile up to date helps us gather support; enabling funders and donors to find the GFN and learn about our impact.

*"Candid connects people who want to change the world to the resources they need to do it."*

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## Gust Represents Saskatchewan Pulse Growers



**Gerrid Gust**, Canada, (left) represented the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers and Grain Growers of Canada, explaining the competitiveness of Canadian products.

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## Boote Attends NASDA Policy Conference



**Mary Boote**, USA-IA, spoke at NASDA plenary session panel, "International Year of the Woman Farmer: What it is and why it matters" that examined the pivotal role women play in advancing global agriculture and highlighted how empowering women in agriculture helps strengthen and advance the entire industry. *From left to right: NASDA President, Commissioner Amanda Beal, U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, Global Farmer Network CEO Mary Boote and U.S. Dairy Export Council President & CEO Krysta Harden.*



## Olsson Debate Televised

**Per-Ola Olsson**, Sweden, (left) participated in a televised debate with the Green Party leader.

## Kaari Holds Energy Training

**Lucy Kaari**, Kenya, led a clean energy training to help farmers and community members adopt more sustainable practices. Her work reflects a broader effort to strengthen rural livelihoods and expand access to clean energy across farming communities.



## Pangli Attends Summit

**PPS Pangli**, India, attended the Agrifood Systems Summit. Prior to attending, collaborated with GFN

members to develop policy questions for discussion at the event.



## Kili Hosts U.S. Diplomat

**Felix Kili**, Kenya, hosted U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Susan Burns as part of her broader engagement with agricultural leaders and partners across the country. Her visits to farms and agribusiness operations highlight the United States' ongoing commitment to strengthening agricultural collaboration, trade, and investment in Kenya



## Holtermann Joins Exchange

**Jenny Holtermann**, USA-CA, (right) participated in the transatlantic program at Wageningen University in the Netherlands to explore agricultural research, innovation, and policy. During the program, she engaged with European farmers and experts, including Dutch dairy farmer **Judith de Vor**.



## Menendez Speaks on Adapting No-till

**Jorge Lopez Menendez**, West Africa/ Argentina, (right) shared his experiences and journey in no-till farming with farmers in Bulgaria and Romania. There, he met 2026 cohort member **George Mailat**, Romania. Jorge specializes in introducing modern technologies and providing training to support farmers.

## Ciochetta Showcases Ag

**Dulce Ciochetta**, Brazil, hosted U.S. farmers, facilitating exchange and learning while showcasing Brazilian agriculture: drip irrigation, climate-smart ag, expanding hydroponics, integrated livestock and crop production. Dulce also shared examples involving community and women.



## Musi Celebrates IYWF

**Motlatsi Musi**, South Africa, conducted GMO awareness training and also celebrated women farmers in his community.



## Cabrera Hosts Journalists

**Antonio Cabrera**, Brazil, hosted European journalists at the Soybean Producers Association and led discussions on Brazilian agriculture.



**Cooperatives belong to farmers,**  
collective strength in every decision.



## Gäbert Featured on Panel and at Parliament

**Jana Gäbert**, Germany, shown left below, participated in a panel on strengthening women in agriculture and was also featured in an exhibition at the European Parliament (left).



## Bor Advocates for Kenya Ag

On April 10, **Gilbert Bor**, Kenya, joined the Vice Chancellor of the University of Eldoret and a plant breeding professor in a panel with U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Susan Burns to discuss improving agricultural and dairy productivity and advancing food security through initiatives



such as "Food for Progress." He highlighted technologies used on his farm—including zero-grazing dairy systems, biogas, solar power, irrigation, improved seeds, and mechanization—while noting key challenges like limited access to biotech seeds, high fertilizer costs, and land fragmentation. Bor also introduced the Clean Dairy Energy for Africa (CDEA) concept to address low productivity, energy dependence, climate vulnerability, and barriers to scaling innovation, with a focus on benefiting women, youth, and smallholder farmers.

## Three GFN Members Connect in Japan



**Elizabeth Maanda**, Zambia, traveled to Japan and met with GFN members **Shuichi Tokumoto**, Japan (photo at right) and **Steve Larocque**, Canada (photo on left).



## Jolly-Nagel Recognized at Farm Show

Canada Farm Show Regina was hosted by **Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel**, Canada (right). The event brings farmers, exhibitors and industry leaders together to kick off the growing season.

Canada's Farm Show also provides special recognition to individuals making an impact in the agriculture sector. Awards are also being presented for the ideas, technologies, and initiatives helping agriculture evolve. The Innovators Recognition Program highlights the thinkers and problem-solvers, who are driving agriculture forward. These innovators aren't just improving how we farm today; they're shaping the future of agriculture. The program is proud to recognize these talented individuals whose ideas, technology, and leadership will help propel the next generation of progress in the ag industry.

The 2026 Innovator recipients include:

- Visionary Innovator: **Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel**, farmer, speaker and agricultural advocate

Canada's Farm Show also recognizes new products and solutions through its Innovation Program, where exhibitors present technologies and services new to the market that demonstrate advancements for farmers.

## GFN Member Highlights

These GFN Members also reported recent activities:

- **AD Alvarez**, Philippines, participated in a podcast called *Feeding the Future* and discussed "Why farming deserves respect."

- **Knud Bay-Smidt**, Denmark, joined a workshop on long-term tillage trials comparing conventional, reduced, and no-till systems.
- **Vicente Bissoni**, Brazil, met with Nexat founders.
- **Gabriel Carballal**, Uruguay, spoke at the National Plant Breeding Day celebration at the National Agronomy University.
- **Judith de Vor**, Netherlands, spoke at the Dairy Innovation Summit.
- **Mitchell Hora**, USA-IA, hosted Iowa Senator Joni Ernst, who named his company “Small Business of the Week.”
- **Malwinder Malhi**, India, participated in the AI Impact Summit and met with Argentina’s Ambassador to discuss sustainable agriculture collaboration.
- **Roberto Peiretti**, Argentina, delivered an online lecture on “50 Years of No-till Farming in Argentina.”
- **Aline Vick**, Brazil, hosted members of the German Parliament.

## What are the next Global Farmer Network focus themes?

### May 2026

Amplifying Farmer Voices: Seeds of Innovation

### June 2026

Amplifying Farmer Voices: Connecting Communities - Growing Resilience

### Upcoming events

- World Milk Day – June 1, 2026
- World Environment Day – June 5, 2026
- Open Farm Sunday (UK) – June 2026 (date TBD)
- World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought – June 17, 2026
- Bonn Climate Change Conference – Bonn, Germany – June 2026
- G7 Summit (52nd) – June 14–16, 2026 | Évian, France
- DLG Feldtage (Festival of Modern Crop Production) – June 16–18, 2026,  
International DLG Crop Production Center – Bernburg, Germany
  - GFN Member Participation (TBC)
- London Climate Action Week – June 20–28, 2026 | London, UK
- Royal Highland Show – June 2026 | Scotland
- CLAAS Harvest Horizons – June 24–25, 2026 | Omaha, NE
  - Multiple GFN members invited to participate
  - Mary Boote confirmed to attend
- DialogueNEXT: Africa (World Food Prize) – June 30, 2026 | Nairobi, Kenya
  - Kenya-based GFN farmers expected to participate (TBC)

- Farm Foundation Event – June 16–19, 2026 | St. Louis, MO
  - Theme: Beyond the West – U.S. Agriculture in a Realigning World
  - Attendees: Mary Boote, Kellie Bray

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## Activity Report - May 2026



### Student Project Helps Strengthen GFN Member Data

Summit Technology Academy students Conrad Kuhn and Makayla Micke recently completed a four-month project to help GFN organize and strengthen its member data. What began as a challenge involving multiple data sources eventually led to database cleanse shared as an organized spreadsheet, along with charts and graphs.

Makayla helped coordinate communication with GFN's Director of Partnerships Kellie Bray, shared project updates, and assisted with the team's final presentation. Conrad focused on working through the original spreadsheets, solving data issues, and helping streamline the overall process.

For both students, the project became more than a data assignment. Makayla's appreciation for farmers was shaped by her father's work as an agronomist, and this experience deepened her respect for GFN's role in connecting farmers across countries. Conrad also came away with a greater understanding of the value of international relationships in agriculture.

Operated by the Lee's Summit, USA-MO, R-7 School District, Summit Technology Academy functions as a half-day, shared-campus extension of a student's home high school, offering hands-on, college-level curriculum in high-demand fields for high school juniors and seniors.

Pictured above Makayla Micke and Conrad Kuhn as they present their project to GFN staff.

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## Have you signed and shared the Regenerative Ag Declaration?

The GFN's "Regenerative Agriculture: A Farmers' Declaration" — along with its related Change.org petition — is a farmer-led call to shape the future of regenerative agriculture from the ground up.

Drafted by eight farmers from eight countries, the declaration reflects real-world experience across diverse farming systems. It centers on five core themes: soil health, rural prosperity, science and traditional knowledge, peer learning, and locally adapted practice.

Already, the effort has generated **34,906 petition views, 1,765 petition shares, and 2,539 supporters.**

To sign and share GFN's declaration, [click here.](#)

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## Holterman Fellow for Young Leaders in Ag



**Jenny Holterman**, USA-CA, traveled to Europe as part of the EU-U.S. Fellowship for Young Leaders in Agriculture, to explore agricultural research and visit farms in the Netherlands that challenge conventional thinking. From biodynamic vegetables to dairy innovation and high-density fruit production, the experience broadened perspective and deepened understanding of how agriculture, innovation, and policy intersect in the European Union.

## Wangari to Speak at Dialogue NEXT



**Lucy Wangari**, Kenya, will be speaking at the June 30th, DialogueNEXT Africa event, sponsored by the World Food Prize. Lucy is an award-winning agricultural consultant, agripreneur and community engagement specialist with over seven years of experience in dryland agriculture, agri-tech, agronomy and startup development. She is the founder of Onion Doctor Limited, a Kenyan enterprise focused on transforming arid and semi-arid regions into climate-smart hubs for onion and garlic production.



Passionate about sustainable agriculture, Lucy actively champions youth and women's inclusion in agribusiness, combining innovation with practical solutions to address food security and economic resilience. Her expertise extends to global and regional policy engagement, where she contributes to shaping conversations around sustainable farming and technology adoption.



**Show your support for farmers around the world by making a purchase from the GFN merchandise store**

Every purchase helps:

- Provide a meaningful way to celebrate the power of farmer voices.
- Increase visibility of farmer-led voices
- Spark interest in global agriculture issues
- Support more GFN farmer-led programs to engage, train and share experiences

Start shopping by clicking [here](#).

## Zanella Attends Cotton Outlook

**Celestino Zanella**, Brazil, attended the Cotton Brazil Outlook in Vietnam.

Celestino is pictured fourth from the left in the photo.



## Pinol at Forum

**Manny Pinol**, former Secretary of Agriculture in the Philippines, presented at the Davao Wagyu & Sorghum Forum, an initiative he spearheaded to promote local beef production and sorghum as a feed source. It's a hub for farmers, investors, and agribusinesses to collaborate. **A.D. Alvarez**, Philippines also attended.



## Three GFN Members Meet in Iowa

**Bill Couser**, USA-IA, hosted **Richard Fordyce**, USA-MO, USDA Undersecretary for Farm Production and Conservation. **Tim Couser**, USA-IA, also joined the visit.

Shown in the photo, left to right: Bill Couser, Richard Fordyce, and Tim Couser.

## Villacorta on Food Security

**Roger Navarro**, Undersecretary of Agriculture in the Philippines participated in a panel on food security, animal health, and climate resilience.

He's pictured second from the left in the photo.



## Temple at Cumbria Event

**Paul Temple**, UK, represented GFN at the University of Cumbria's Ambleside campus Youth Institute. The Youth Institute, connecting the university with the World Food Prize Foundation, provides secondary school students with a unique opportunity to critically engage with global food security challenges and develop practical solutions for real-world problems.



## Farmers' Voices Can Benefit Agribusiness

Global Farmer Network members can provide valuable, real-world insight for agribusinesses. Their feedback can help companies make decisions.

### **Did you know, GFN members are available to provide candid, real-world feedback?**

As an example, member's were recently asked: *"How can a manufacturer (equipment or inputs) provide better service? What gaps are you seeing in service after the sale? What would improve that?"*

Here's a high level summary as an example of the insight provided:

- Across regions, members consistently point to the same reality—post-sale service is increasingly the deciding factor in whether they remain loyal to a brand or dealer. Selling the first machine may be straightforward, but earning the second sale depends on how manufacturers and dealers respond when support is needed.
- From slow response times and weak accountability to limited technical follow-up, poor rural service coverage, and difficulty accessing spare parts during critical seasons, members identified the service gaps that most affect their operations.
- Farmers also note a decline in dealership expertise, a shortage of skilled technicians, and complexity of electronic systems that makes repairs difficult and downtime more costly.
- Just as importantly, members are clear about what would improve the experience: faster and more reliable service, better-trained field staff, stronger local relationships, improved parts logistics, practical digital diagnostic tools, and continued training that helps farmers get the most from their equipment.

**Do you know a company that would benefit from hearing the farmers' voice?** It could be an interview, focus group or roundtable that brings issues to GFN members for feedback and knowledge sharing. **To learn more about these opportunities**, contact Mary Boote, CEO – [mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org](mailto:mboote@globalfarmernetwork.org).

## GFN Member Highlights

These GFN Members reported recent activities:

- **Gabriel Carballal**, Uruguay — Participated in Agro en Punta, speaking about his experience with crops for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (specifically carinata) and how they fit within a no-till, high-rotation agricultural system.
- **Mateusz Ciasnocha**, Poland — Selected as one of the Top 50 Farmers 2025. Top 50 Farmers envisions a future where farmers are recognized for their important work and where regenerative farming is the norm. Ciasnocha Family Farm is building farmer-centric bridges between climate agriculture and policy.
- **Bill Couser**, USA — Attended the Brasil-US Industry Day organized by the Brazilian National Confederation of Industry.
- **Mitchell Hora**, USA-IA — Testified at the IRS public hearing on Section 45Z, pressing for implementation rules that would include farmers in clean-fuel markets through workable carbon-accounting and verification systems.
- **Pam Johnson**, USA-IA — Delivered a global-facing university lecture on women's leadership in agriculture, drawing on international trade work (MAIZALL, U.S. Grains Council) and addressing a globally oriented academic audience.
- **Kaahwa Jean**, Uganda — Attended a CropLife symposium on crop protection in Kampala.
- **Diana Lenzi**, Italy — Joined a FoodRevolution 2026 panel in Venice-Mestre about manure digestion, digestate, and pathways to carbon-neutral farming in Europe. She also contributed to EU-level policy advocacy tied to the European Commission's "Accelerate EU" energy package, positioning farmers within Europe's energy-security and sustainability agenda. In addition, she participated in EU agri-tech and policy dialogue forums and webinars addressing smart farming and digital agriculture systems, engaging European industry and policy stakeholders.

- **Ruramiso Mashumba**, Zimbabwe — Spoke at the UPOV Symposium. Her presentation focused on the impact that agreements like UPOV have on farmers, as well as what it means for farmers who are not part of UPOV and what they may be missing out on.
- **Annechien Ten Have Mellema**, Netherlands — Will host an open farm day, three years after a fire destroyed their pig housing facilities.
- **Ganesh Nanote**, India — Received the Sustainable Agriculture Inspiration Award from the Tidán Foundation.
- **Andrew Weidemann**, Australia — Was the featured speaker in global ag technology forums, contributing expertise on autonomous machinery adoption and farm innovation, a topic increasingly central to international agriculture dialogues.

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## What are the next Global Farmer Network focus themes?

### June 2026

Amplifying Farmer Voices: Connecting Communities - Growing Resilience

### July 2026

Amplifying Farmer Voices: Trade. Technology. Trust.

### Upcoming July Events

- International Day of Cooperatives
- Global Conference on Smart Farming, FAO, July 1-3, Rome FAO (TBC)
- UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), New York: TBC
- World Congress on Conservation Ag
- 49th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC49), July 6-10, 2026, Geneva, Switzerland
- 30th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), July 20-24 (TBC), Rome



Support the Global Farmer Network's mission to elevate farmer voices and foster collaboration across borders. Your donation helps connect farmers, share real-world expertise, and build a more resilient global agriculture community.

To learn more contact:

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## Activity Report - June 2026



### Gäbert Brings Farm Innovation to Berlin Open Day

Jana Gäbert, Germany, participated in the Open Day of the German Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Home Affairs in Berlin. Invited to join a stage discussion with Federal Minister of Agriculture Alois Rainer, Gäbert spoke about modern agriculture, innovation, social responsibility and the role farms play in rural communities and food production. To illustrate agriculture's evolution, she brought an old milk can from eastern Germany and a new high-tech ear tag now being introduced on her dairy farm, along with a Fendt 933 tractor exhibit that helped spark public conversation about today's farm technology. Pictured is Gäbert with Minister Rainer.

### Alvarez Launches Philippine Biotech Farmers Network



**AD Alvarez**, Philippines, led the creation of the Philippine Biotech Farmers Network Inc., a new pro-science, pro-biotech and pro-agtech organization created to strengthen farmer leadership around agricultural innovation. Seven farmer leaders from across the Philippines gathered in Manila on June 2 to formally found and register the organization. Alvarez is serving as national convenor and founding president, joining fellow GFN members Rosalie Ellasus and Mariel Corpus among the organization's founding leaders.

Pictured: **GFN member: Rosalie Ellasus** (Pangasinan) - BOD Member - Central Luzon Convenor, Edgar Bueno (Batangas) - Treasurer and Southern Luzon Convenor, Arvin Reola (Cam Sur) - BOD Secretary and Bicol Convenor, **GFN member: AD Alvarez** (Cebu and Negros) - President and National Convenor, Edwin Paraluman (Gen San) - Vice President and Mindanao Convenor, Elson Lydia (Quezon) - BOD Member and Quezon Convenor, **GFN member: Mariel Corpus** (Isabela) - BOD Member and Northern Luzon Convenor.

## Ellasus Shares Biotech Perspective with Bayer Asia

**Rosalie Ellasus**, Philippines, joined Bayer Asia's ICS 2026 Innovation in Crop Science meeting virtually from the APAC event in Bengaluru, India. As a panelist in the Grower Panel Discussion, she shared practical farmer perspectives on crop science and biotechnology. Ellasus also participated in a media "coffee session" focused on biotechnology, helping bring farmer experience into public conversations about agricultural innovation.





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- Increase visibility of farmer-led voices
- Spark interest in global agriculture issues
- Support more GFN farmer-led programs to engage, train and share experiences

Start shopping by clicking [here](#).

## Okech Hosts Distinguished Guests

Dave Okech, Kenya was honored to host US Chargé d'Affaires Susan Burns at his Fish Deli. She experienced his signature air-fried tilapia.

Pictured is Dave, second from left and third from the left is Susan.

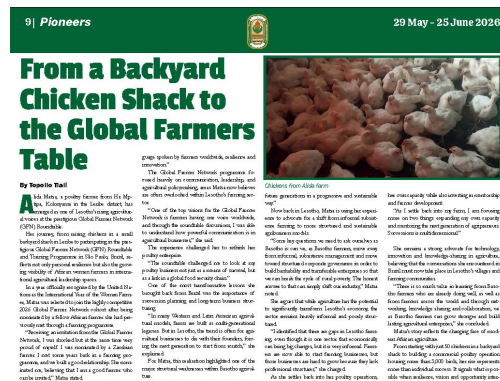


## Couser Hosts German Farmers

**Bill Couser**, USA, hosted 25 German farmers traveling with DLG and John Deere for an evening of exchange focused on agriculture, trade and international farmer connections. The group visited Lincolnway Energy to learn more about ethanol production before gathering at Couser's farm shop for a barbecue meal and a two-hour roundtable discussion. The visit created space for practical conversations about trade, shared challenges and the Global Farmer Network's mission to amplify the farmers' voice.

## Matsa Featured in Seahlolo-Volume-3-Issue-11 Magazine

**Alida Matsa**, Lesotho, is highlighted in this article talking about her GFN roundtable experience and her commercial chicken operation. Read the article [here](#).



## Malhi Recognized for Sustainable Agriculture Leadership

**Malwinder Malhi**, India, was recognized for his work in sustainable agriculture by the School of Business Studies at Punjab Ag University. The recognition highlights his contributions to advancing agricultural practices that support productivity, stewardship and long-term resilience. He is pictured on the left.



## Heckman Engages with Rome-based Agencies

**Mark Heckman**, USA, joined a discussion bringing together a group of U.S. agriculture and food system leaders whose organizations are following issues before the Rome-based agencies, including FAO and WFP, as well as Codex Alimentarius and IPPC. The meeting offered an important opportunity for U.S. leaders to engage directly with Ambassador Blanchard and share the importance of continued U.S. leadership in Rome as well as highlight issues of specific importance.



## GFN Member Highlights

These GFN Members reported recent activities:

- **Mary Boote**, Global Farmer Network CEO, USA, discussed how farmers around the world have responded to U.S. trade and tariff policies enacted by the Trump administration, as well as technology adoption trends in this Agri-Pulse Newsmakers video, “Global Farmer Sentiment.”
- **Antonio Cabrera**, Brazil, authored an article examining tensions between agriculture and public institutions in Brazil. His commentary adds a farmer perspective to ongoing public policy debates affecting agriculture and rural communities.
- **Gabriel Carballal**, Uruguay, joined a panel discussion on the price crisis and trade disruptions affecting fertilizer markets and the broader agri-food sector. He participated alongside IICA Director General Muhammad Ibrahim and Ambassador Kip Tom, contributing a farmer viewpoint to a timely conversation about input costs, trade and food system resilience.
- **Inota Cheta**, Zambia, participated in the 6th Women in Agribusiness Conference – Copperbelt Edition in Kitwe on June 27, focused on advancing women in agriculture and agribusiness partnerships.
- **Mateusz Ciasnocha**, Poland, participated in the EU CAP Network Thematic Group on Just Transition in the Agri-Food System in Brussels, contributing to EU-level discussions on making agricultural transition fair, sustainable and competitive. He also participated in EU Mission Soil, he Mission Soil Investment Forum in Brussels/online, focusing on soil-health finance, public-private investment and regenerative agriculture.
- **Dulce Ciochetta**, Brazil, participated in the EP Agro Summit in São Paulo, joining a panel discussion. She highlighted the role of farmers in shaping conversations around innovation, sustainability and the future of Brazilian agriculture.
- **Gina Gutierrez**, Mexico, was interviewed by El Economista for World Milk Day, offering insight into dairy production, consumption and the people behind every glass of milk.

- **Mitchell Hora**, USA, convened and led the 2026 TopSoil Summit in Riverside, Iowa, bringing farmers, ethanol plants and ag leaders together around carbon intensity, 45Z, soil health and low-carbon fuel market opportunities.
- **Kornelis “Kees” Huizinga**, Ukraine, was featured by Dutch ag outlet Nieuwe Oogst in a field update from Ukraine, showing testing of a new onion-spraying machine and discussing weather, equipment and field conditions.
- **Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel**, Canada, served as Master of Ceremonies for SAI Platform’s Annual Event 2026, a global food-system convening focused on regenerative agriculture and production-system resilience.
- **Per-Ola Olsson**, Sweden, met with Sweden’s Minister of Agriculture to exchange perspectives on agricultural priorities and ongoing work connected to TFA. The conversation provided an opportunity to share farmer insight directly with national leadership.
- **Shuichi Tokumoto**, Japan, used his TREE & NORF platform to share updates on the close of the busy season and ongoing rice-production work, connecting with a large Japanese ag audience.
- **Aline Vick**, Brazil, was [featured in Farm Futures Magazine](#), sharing her profile as part of a broader look at farmers contributing to agriculture’s future. The feature offers readers a closer look at her work, leadership and perspective from Brazil.

## What are the next Global Farmer Network focus themes?

### July 2026

Amplifying Farmer Voices: Trade. Technology. Trust.

### August 2026

Amplifying Farmer Voices: Preparing Farmers of the Future

### Upcoming August & September Events

- AAPRESID No-Till Congress: Rosario, Argentina
- International Youth Day
- International Beer Day: August 1, 2026
- COP 17 on Desertification: August 17-28, 2026
- The Africa Biennial Bioscience (ABBC25) Symposium: 8.26-28.2025 Accra, Ghana
- Farm Progress Show: Boone, IA September 1-3, 2026
- Couser Party in the Pasture; Nevada, IA September 2, 2026
- AgriBusiness – AgriPulse Conference: September 21-22, 2026 Kansas City, MO
- 81st UN General Assembly & High-Level General Debate, September 8-22, New York
- Climate Week NYC: September 20-27
- World School Milk Day

- Committee on Agriculture (COAG): FAO Rome



Support the Global Farmer Network's mission to elevate farmer voices and foster collaboration across borders. Your donation helps connect farmers, share real-world expertise, and build a more resilient global agriculture community.

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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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