



WFO E-MAGAZINE

F@RMletter

ISSUE N°70 SPECIAL EDITION

MOSCOW 2018

8TH WFO GENERAL ASSEMBLY 28TH -31ST MAY 2018



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITORIAL

WFO GENERAL ASSEMBLY. MOSCOW 2018. Farmers together to Strengthen their Voice and Show to the World what they Can Do.	04
--	----

EDITORIAL

WFO GENERAL ASSEMBLY. MOSCOW SESSION. A big Event for Farmers All Over the World.	06
--	----

DAY 1: Workshop 09

Is Organic Farming a Solution to Climate Change?	10
--	----

FOCUS ON THE WORKSHOP: Food and Farming bring us Together	11
---	----

Advancing Climate-Smart Agriculture along the Food Value Chain	12
--	----

Traditional Knowledge and Innovative Technology. How they can be combined to ensure Sustainability in the Agricultural Sector.	14
---	----

A Talanoa Dialogue: Sharing Stories of Climate Change and Innovative Risk Management Tools	16
---	----

FOCUS ON THE WORKSHOP: A Farming Talanoa: Climate stories from WFO Members across the World	17
---	----

DAY 1: Opening Ceremony 21

DAY 2: Internal Session 25

Acknowledgement of the WFO Working Groups and Committees Facilitator	27
--	----

WORKING GROUPS FACILITATORS PERSPECTIVE: Agriculture is Committed to combat Climate Change Resolutely	28
---	----

WORKING GROUPS FACILITATORS PERSPECTIVE: The New World Farmers Organisation	29
---	----

GA2018 PARTNERS



TABLE OF CONTENTS

WORKING GROUPS FACILITATORS PERSPECTIVE: A broader Knowledge to create Workable Solutions	31
WORKING GROUPS FACILITATORS PERSPECTIVE: Youth and their Leaders in Russia	32
DAY 3: High-Level Session	35
Innovative Solutions for a Sustainable Agricultural Sector	36
STORIES FROM THE FIELD - ASIA: Knowledge sharing benefits Small-Scale Farmers	38
STORIES FROM THE FIELD - NORTH AMERICA: Best practices in Canadian Agriculture for Sustainability	39
STORIES FROM THE FIELD - OCEANIA: New Zealand's Global Science approach to Biological Greenhouse Gas Emissions	40
Using Insurance Schemes as Data Harvesting Mechanism	42
Viable and Climate-Resilient Food Chain for a Sustainable Agricultural Sector	44
STORIES FROM THE FIELD - EUROPE: How we reduce Carbon Footprint from Dairy Farming	46
STORIES FROM THE FIELD - LATIN AMERICA: Learning first to Heal and then to Produce	48
DAY 4: Farm Visits	51
FROM WFO PARTNERS	
The First step towards a "Farmers Driven" Process	52
A Joint Lobby Agenda for Farm Leaders from all over the World	53
Towards next General Assembly: LUXEMBOURG 2019	54

GA2018 PARTNERS



NORGES BONDELAG



WORLD FARMERS' ORGANISATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY. MOSCOW 2018

Farmers together
to strengthen their voice
and show to the world
what they can do

Theo De Jager

PRESIDENT, WFO - WORLD FARMERS' ORGANISATION



The 2018 World Farmers' Organisation General Assembly ended on 31st May, with a renewed enthusiasm and desire of the farming community that gathered in Moscow to team up for strengthening the farmers' voice on the global political arena

Under the theme "Towards a Farmers Driven Climate Change Agenda", the event featured the involvement of more than 700 participants from more than 40 countries all over the world, from New Zealand to Canada, from Argentina to Japan, from South Africa to Norway.

Farmers' leaders met in Moscow to exchange their views and share their experience with climate change impacts on their farms and in their countries. In addition, representatives of multilateral organisations, research centres, private sector entities and civil society took part in the debate. These included FAO, IFAD, UNISDR, OIE, UPOV, the World Bank Group, Bioversity International, IFA, Crop Life International, IFOAM, IDF and Bayer, just to name a few.

The meeting lasted four days, from 28th to 31st May 2018, including workshops, thematic sessions and internal discussion and culminated in the farms visit around the Moscow area, during which participants had the opportunity to share their own knowledge and experience and learning from each other.

The WFO General Assembly is a tremendously significant event for the farmers around the world, since it provides the opportunity to discuss, share and exchange visions and ideas on the different issues that affect the whole

agricultural community. This year in Moscow, WFO member organizations have adopted the principle of the "farmers driven" agenda, which will guide WFO engagement in all political processes on agriculture, starting from the climate negotiations.

Farmers are called to play a significant role in the implementation of the global agenda of sustainable development and, not only they deserve to be at the center of the global decision – making process on agriculture, but they are ready and willing to fulfill this critical role.

It is more than necessary to radically change the way the voice of farmers is perceived, when it comes to global processes, and the approval of the "**farmers driven**" agenda represents the first step of a new path where farmers, instead of waiting for decisions from on high, propose to the Governments their best practices as effective methods to address climate change and the other many key challenges that put the global sustainable development at risk.

Moscow 2018 will be remembered as the General Assembly that provided the WFO with a renewed impetus, where farmers are the true leaders of the global dialogue on agriculture.

A new era has begun in the World Farmers' Organisation and the contribution of all the members will be key to keep WFO on the edge.

A lot of work is waiting for WFO member organisations, but also a lot of results to achieve, thanks to our common effort.

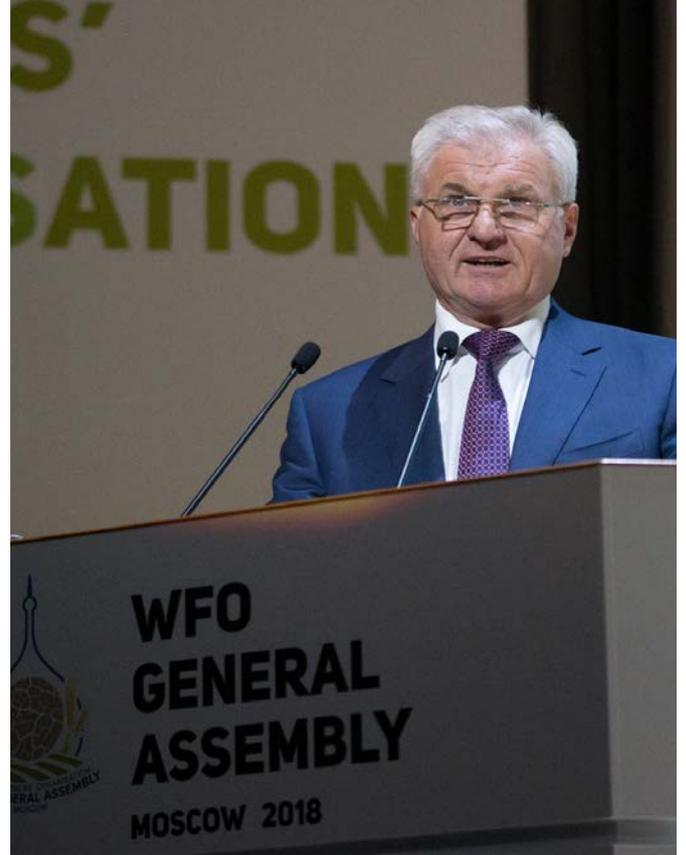
I am eager to share with our members this exciting challenge and I am looking forward to seeing all of them at the next edition of WFO General Assembly that will be held in Luxembourg from May 20th to 23rd 2019.

WE WANT TO SAY
TO THE WORLD
WHAT FARMERS
CAN DO TO TACKLE
CLIMATE CHANGE
AND,
INSTEAD OF WAITING
FOR POLITICIANS
TO TELL US WHAT TO DO,
WE WANT TO COME UP
WITH A
**FARMERS' DRIVEN
CLIMATE CHANGE AGENDA**

THEO DE JAGER
PRESIDENT
WORLD FARMERS' ORGANISATION

WFO GENERAL ASSEMBLY MOSCOW SESSION

A big event
for farmers
all over
the world



Vladimir Plotnikov

PRESIDENT, AKKOR- ASSOCIATION OF PEASANT FARMS
AND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES OF RUSSIA

The annual World Farmers' Organisation General Assembly is an important international agricultural event that shows the pivotal role of farmers in achieving sustainable development in agriculture.

This year the global forum of the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) took place in Russia. It has been a great honour for us to host the General Assembly of the WFO.

It is the first time that such a major agricultural annual meeting takes place in our country. More than 700 participants took part in the plenary, including foreign countries' official delegations, representatives of farmers' and cooperatives organizations from more than 40 countries all over the world, renowned scientists and analysts, executives of international organizations and financial institutions.

We are still receiving feedbacks from our foreign colleagues who highly appreciated the 2018 WFO General Assembly in Moscow. Undoubtedly, A key role in this was played by the WFO President, Dr Theo De Jager and the WFO Secretary General, Ms Arianna Giuliadori. We highly appreciate the WFO's trust in our organization and we are sincerely grateful for both, the effective assistance and support that we received during the preparation and fulfilment of the gathering.

AKKOR received a comprehensive assistance in the preparation and execution of the General Assembly from the Russian Ministry of Agriculture, from the Russian Government and the Region of Moscow too.

The Minister of Agriculture H.E. Mr. Dmitry Pátrushev personally took part in the plenary.

AKKOR, the Association of Peasant Farms and Agricultural Cooperatives of Russia stand for mutual beneficial cooperation, experience-exchange, partnership-strengthening, and against any restrictions and sanctions, aiming to reach a fair competition.

For this reason, we have greeted our guests sensitive to our challenges, trying to do our best to provide all the necessary conditions to discuss the most relevant issues of the farmers' movement. I hope that the four days of the General Assembly will be remembered for their useful discussions, interesting meetings, and new significant information about Russia and about our agriculture.

The General Assembly focused on a very important matter concerning our future. The main topic was the development of a sustainable agriculture due to climate change, underlining the increasing role of farmers and their organizations to create a better future for all.

Thematic discussions were focused on the global role of farmers in achieving food security goals, climate change adaptation and mitigation, introduction of innovations, gender equality promotion, development of organic agriculture and renewable energies. The fair distribution of income along the value chain as well as the movement "from the farm to the fork" became a significant topic too.

These and other problems in the agenda of the WFO have to be considered under the light of the most important problem nowadays: how to feed humanity. This is seen to

be the main purpose of the farmers, their highest mission in the world.

The UN officially declared 2016-2025 the decade of Action on Nutrition and requested the States and their institutions “to act in accordance with the general concept of building a world in which all people always and at all stages of their lives have access to affordable, diverse, safe and healthy nutrition.”

Promotion of a peaceful world without hunger means that there is a growing need for food. Mainly it is necessary to feed more than 800 million people who are currently suffering hunger. More food also is needed to feed the growing population of the planet. According to international forecasts, by 2050, we will be almost 10 billion on earth – which is two billion more than today. According to experts, it is necessary to raise the world food production by 50%, if the principle that “no one should be forgotten” is to be fulfilled.

Of course, this is, first and foremost, the duty of farmers, but we cannot reach this ambitious objective by ourselves. One of the main tools available to farmers is science. It was science, inter alia genetics, breeding, organic chemistry, and others, that allowed farmers to achieve the current results that only half a century ago seemed utopian.

This challenge today concerns the development of sustainable food systems, including all the rings of value

chain - from production and processing to storage, from transportation to retail and consumption.

From the Russian perspective an important target is to increase the farmers’ role by strengthening the potential of smallholders, accelerating the development of processing marketing and other agricultural cooperatives, offering consumers’ services.

During the activities delegates and guests constantly met with Russian farmers, and during the final day of the meeting a presentation of regional farms was held in Moscow. During the farm visits, the discussions about the different issues continued. Once more the different perspectives concerning organic agriculture, innovation, profitability and relationships with partners, processors, trade, etc. were at the heart of the debate. During the visit Russian farmers shared their experience in solving these issues with other farmers from all over the world.

The 2018 WFO General Assembly in Moscow clearly demonstrated that farmers are indeed very similar to one another. We have many common interests - professional, civil and human. After all, the nature of agricultural activities requires peace and cooperation.

Moreover, it is important to improve the reciprocal relationships in order to reinforce the trust of our people. We are in favour of building more bridges and more connections between us, farmers, our people and our countries.





DAY 1 | WORKSHOPS

The first day of the 2018 WFO General Assembly was dedicated to four interactive workshops. Speakers and participants shared their opinions and experiences to improve farmers' resilience to climate change to achieve global food security, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda. The relevant role of the agricultural sector in climate change mitigation practices was also explored.

The debate covered different topics, such as the opportunities of climate-smart approaches, the role of insurance schemes, the relationship between organic farming and climate change, and the importance of innovation. All the topics were discussed in a holistic manner, thus achieving an inspiring and constructive exchange among all the actors of the entire value chain.



IS ORGANIC FARMING A SOLUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE?

MODERATOR:

Mr Richard Bower, Young farmer, Chairman of Mid Staffs Branch and Vice-chairman of Staffordshire, UK NFU, UK

SPEAKERS:

Mr Vladimir Plotnikov, President, AKKOR, Russia

Mr Denis Kabiito, National Coordinator, Uganda National Young Farmers' Association (UNYFA) - Affiliate body of UNFFE, Uganda

Mr Sergey Lisovski, Senator, First Deputy Chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the Council of the Federation of Russia

Mr Ilya Kaletkin, Representative, IFOAM, Germany

Mr Fritz Glauser, Vice-President, Swiss Farmers Union, Switzerland

Dr Muhabbat Turdieva, Regional Project Coordinator, Bioversity International, Italy

Ms Saquina Mucavele, Executive Director, MuGeDe, Mozambique

Mr Gunsham Seeborun, President, Falcon Citizen League, Mauritius

Ms Cecilia Dardes, Policy Officer, Coldiretti Representation to the European Union, Italy

Dr William Rolleston, Representative, Federated Farmers of New Zealand, New Zealand:

Mr Richard Bower, Young farmer, Chairman of Mid Staffs Branch and Vice-chairman of Staffordshire, UK NFU, UK



focus on the workshop

FOOD AND FARMING BRING US TOGETHER



Richard Bower

YOUNG FARMER, CHAIRMAN OF MID STAFFS BRANCH
AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF STAFFORDSHIRE, UK NFU, UK

T Traveling to Russia for the first time to attend my first ever World Farmers Organisation (WFO) General Assembly was a fantastic experience I will never forget. I was a representative of the WFO Gymnasium program, which is a group/network of global young farmers who are being exposed to global agricultural advocacy.

What better exposure is there than being asked to Chair the General Assembly thematic workshop on "Is organic farming a solution to climate change?"

The workshop was broken into three sessions and, for each session, we had presentations from global stakeholders who shared their experiences before we had a Roundtable discussion.

The three sessions were:

1. Organic farming: Challenges and opportunities in relation to climate change.
2. How to achieve global food security: which is the role of organic agriculture.
3. Organic farming: does it reduce environmental impacts compared to conventional farming? Concrete cases.

Our Russian hosts played a very big role in the first session and I must take this opportunity to thank them for the fantastic facilities with full translation facilities, which I required.

I can honestly say all three sessions seemed to cover the same areas in-terms of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of organic farming. The passion and knowledge of the panel representatives and members around the room was inspiring, from the

AKKOR President, Mr. Vladimir Plotnikov, to the Russian Senator, Mr. Sergey Lisovskiy. The Swiss Farmers Union Vice President, Mr. Fritz Glauser, who is also an organic farmer, to the President of Falcon Citizen League in Mauritius, Mr. Gunsham Seeborun, who has a model organic farm. We also had my gymnasium colleague Denis Kabiito from Uganda National Young Farmers' Association, the executive director of MuGeDe, Ms. Saquina Mucavele, from Maputo. Dr. Muhabbat Turdieva from Bioversity International, Ms Cecilia Dardes, Policy Officer, Coldiretti Representation to the European Union, and Dr. William Rolleston as representative of Federated Farmers of New Zealand took part in the debate.

In the audience, we had many media representatives and farmers from Canada to South Africa. Several representatives of the Russian Village Women Movement also attended the meeting.

This platform allowed for a positive discussion.

My biggest learning point was that food brings us all together and sharing our passion and different production systems can only make us better farmers and help us to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

We spoke about inequalities, the role women have in our industry. How organic farming is not certified in some regions and how other regions subsidise inorganic fertilisers so they can try to produce enough food to feed their population.

I conclude that organic farming cannot feed the world alone however, techniques and practices used by both organic and conventional farmers can be shared to provide food security and to be a solution to climate change. Food brings us together.

ADVANCING CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE ALONG THE FOOD VALUE CHAIN

MODERATOR:

Mr Beat Roosli, Head of International Affairs, Swiss Farmers' Union, Switzerland

SPEAKERS:

Ms Brenda Tlhabane, Young Farmer and Member, National Women's desk, African Farmers' Association of South Africa AFASA, South Africa

Dr Martin Märkl, Senior Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Bayer AG, Germany

Mr Michael Keller, Secretary General, International Seed Federation, Switzerland

Ms Dimakatso Sekhoto, Young Farmer and Member of Presidential Youth Working Group, African Farmers' Association of South Africa, AFASA, South Africa

Mr Jan Laustsen, Director Trade Markets and Nutrition, Danish Agriculture and Food Council, Denmark

Mr Robert Hunter, Executive Director, Corp Protection at Crop Life International, Belgium

Mr Dick Nuwamanya Kamungaga, President, UNFFE, Uganda



The workshop on “Advancing climate-smart agriculture along the food value chain” was focused on how climate-smart approaches can help to reduce losses and increase farmers’ resilience to climate change, thus contributing to achieve global food security, within the framework of the Agenda 2030.

Climate change is bound to have increasing impacts on agricultural productivity, post-harvest losses and value chains.

Farmers must tackle climate change by addressing different interlinked issues at the same time: adapt to and mitigate climate change, as well as, increasing the productivity taking care of the quality, quantity and diversity of the food they produce.

Climate-smart agriculture is an approach to develop sustainable agricultural practices and achieve global food security in a changing climate.

In this context, a significant role is played by innovative solutions.



TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY. HOW THEY CAN BE COMBINED TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

MODERATOR:

Mr Andreas Quiring, Director, Andreas Hermes Akademie AHA, Germany

SPEAKERS:

Mr Béla Kocsy, Director of International Affairs and Trade, Hungarian Chamber of Agriculture, Hungary

Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas, Regional Representative, OIE, Russia

Dr Yvonne Harz-Pitre, Director Communications and Public Affairs, IFA, France

Mr Raul Roccatagliata, Trade Policy Manager, Sociedad Rural Argentina, Argentina

Dr María Sánchez Mainar, Technical Manager, International Dairy Federation IDF, Belgium

Mr Maximilian Zellmer, Policies and Stakeholder Affairs, Bayer Animal Health, Germany

Dr Camillo De Camillis, Manager of the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) Partnership, FAO, Italy

Mr Peter Button, Vice-Secretary General, International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants UPOV, Switzerland

Mr Artavazd Hakobyan, Sr. Agriculture Economist, World Bank, Russia



During the workshop on “Traditional Knowledge and Innovative Technology. How they can be combined to ensure sustainability in the Agricultural sector”, panelists discussed on the need to build a bridge between traditional knowledge and innovation.

The debate covered the relevance of multi-stakeholder partnerships as well as the importance to combine innovation and traditional knowledge to improve climate-resilient food systems.

Farmers have been farming for centuries, adapting to changing environmental conditions.

The result is that they have developed their knowledge and techniques to adapt their livelihoods and production to increasing risks. However, it is also undeniable that the role of science and innovation is crucial in addressing global challenges and achieving sustainable development.

Innovation in the farming sector is recognized as a source of productivity and economic growth and it also plays a key role in contributing to alleviate poverty, foster social development and stimulate the generational renewal in the sector.



A TALANOA DIALOGUE: SHARING STORIES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND INNOVATIVE RISK MANAGEMENT TOOLS

MODERATOR:

Dr Ceris Jones, Policy Advisor, NFU UK, WFO Climate Change Working Group Facilitator

SPEAKERS:

Mr Ron Bonnett, President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture, CFA, Canada

Ms Agustina Diaz Valdez, Young farmer and President, Ateneo, Sociedad Rural Argentina, SRA, Argentina

Mr Bjorn Gimming, Vice-President, Norges Bondelag (Norwegian Farmers' Union), Norway

Mr Arnold Puech D'Alissac, Member of the Board, Fédération Nationale des Syndicats d'Exploitants Agricoles, FNSEA, France

Ms Nina Senhke, President, Bund der Deutschen Landjugend, BDL, Germany

Dr Theo De Jager, President, World Farmers' Organisation, WFO, South Africa

Mr Crispin Kayitare, Young farmer and Communications Officer, INGABO, Rwanda

Mr Gunsham Seeborun, President, Falcon Citizen League, FCL, Mauritius

Ms Saquina Mucavele, Executive Director, MuGeDe, Mozambique

Ms Zeinab Almoumany, President, Specific Union for Farmer Women in Jordan, SUFWJ, Jordan

Dr William Rolleston, Representative, Federated Farmers of New Zealand, FEDFARM, New Zealand

Mr Hiroyuki Kinoshita, Special Advisor, International Relations Department, JA Zenchu (Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives), Japan

Mr Mark Watne, President, NDFU, Jamestown, United States of America

Mr Nelson Godfried Agyemang, Secretary General, COFAG, Accra

Mr Sok Sotha, Managing Director, CFAP, Cambodia

Ms Irina Zodrow, Head of Partnership Unit, UNISDR, Switzerland



focus on the workshop

A FARMING TALANOA: CLIMATE STORIES FROM WFO MEMBERS ACROSS THE WORLD



Ceris Jones

POLICY ADVISOR, NFU UK, WFO CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP FACILITATOR

Ten farmers from across the WFO’s membership came together to tell their climate stories in the world’s first global farming Talanoa. This dialogue forms part of the WFO’s contribution to the UN climate negotiations.

The Talanoa Dialogue

The Talanoa Dialogue (TD) was launched at the COP23 climate summit last year as part of the process to deliver the Paris climate agreement. In this preparatory phase of the Dialogue, stakeholders are encouraged to submit information to the process before the political phase starts at COP24 in Katowice in December 2018.

“A Talanoa is a traditional word used in Fiji and across the Pacific to reflect a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue. The purpose of Talanoa is to share stories, build empathy and to make wise decisions for the collective good. Talanoa fosters stability and inclusiveness in dialogue, by creating a safe space that embraces mutual respect for a platform for decision making for a greater good.”

At Katowice, governments will take stock of their collective efforts to date and it will also inform the preparation of their nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

The Talanoa Dialogue asks three questions:

- Where are we?
- Where do we want to go?
- How do we get there?

A WFO Talanoa – where are we?

In Canada, Ron is seeing different weather patterns – extended periods of wet and dry – which is a change from the past. Different crops are also appearing, with maize and soybean replacing the more traditional grains as the climate warms.

He talked about the government’s new carbon price and the confusion caused by differential pricing by the various Canadian provinces. Zeinab said Jordan’s women farmers are having to cope with higher temperatures and lower rainfall. Agriculture in Rwanda is very vulnerable to climate change reported Crispin, a young farmer, because it is rain fed. In addition, farms are small.



In France, Arnold is one of many farmers who ‘doesn’t put all his eggs in one basket’ so diversification is already a form of insurance against some aspects of climate change. However he is also seeing changes in weather patterns. 50% of the world’s flax is grown in France but more variable weather is having an impact on its production.

Bjorn, a cereals, beef and timber farmer from Norway talked about the improvements he’s made on his farm to deliver GHG mitigation.

He’s adopted precision farming, improved feed quality and installed renewables. A period of very heavy rainfall which saw daily afternoon showers of 100mm left farmers in Mauritius not knowing how to respond said Gunsaham. Those practising aquaculture are also challenged as higher sea temperature has led to population changes.

William talked about New Zealand’s leadership of the Global Research Alliance’s work on methane which has trialled vaccines and methanogen inhibitors to reduce methane emissions from ruminant livestock.

This work has also signalled that there is a genetic basis to methane production with some individuals producing less methane than others.

A reduction in winter snow has led to less rainfall and less grass in Patagonia reported Agustina, a young farmer from Argentina. A lack of investment and illiteracy is holding back resilient farming in Mozambique where the majority of small scale farmers are women said Saquina.

From South Africa, Theo’s story was of the sons of a Maasai herder who wanted to turn their father’s business into a productive, profitable and resilient enterprise when he decided it was time to pass the business on.

The Talanoa led to questions e.g. how would farmers cope with greater unpredictability?, and identified clear needs e.g. research and technology and its implementation at farm level to help farmers improve productivity and so lower their GHG footprint.

It also provided some answers to the second Talanoa question ‘Where do we want to go?’ For example, the Rwandan government’s resilience plan includes water resources management, early warning systems and diversification options for smallholder farmers. In Mauritius, the government is drafting plans for an insurance scheme. However some French farmers are already struggling to get permission to build reservoirs so that they can improve the resilience of their businesses.

It was clearly very important to the farmers that they were telling their own stories and sharing their own experiences and good practice.

They felt that there was often a significant gap between the reality on the ground and policy and that the latter had to be based on good science.

They were confident that farmers were capable of much but that there was also much to do in building the capacity of all the farmers across the world.







DAY 1 | OPENING CEREMONY

The 2018 WFO General Assembly got under way with a sea of colours, singers and dancers starring in a glamorous opening ceremony before farmers' representatives, from all over the world, took the stage to share their hopes and expectations on the more significant event for the worldwide farming community.

Ms. Agustina Diaz Valdez, young farmer and President of Ateneo Sociedad Rural Argentina (Argentina), Mr. Ron Bonnett, President of Canadian Federation of Agriculture (Canada), Mr. Toussaint N'Guessan, President of World Cocoa Producers Organisation (Côte D'Ivoire), Dr William Rolleston, representative of Federated Farmers of New Zealand (New Zealand) and Mr. Juha Marttila, President of Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (Finland) fascinated the audience with their inspiring presentations.

Mr. Vladimir Plotnikov, president of the WFO Russian member organization, AKKOR - the Association of Peasant Farms and Agricultural Cooperatives of Russia, brought the ceremony to a close with his speech, welcoming the hundreds of participants from all over the world, as well as representatives of the Russian authorities, such as the new Minister for Agriculture H.E. Mr. Dmitry Pátrushev, economics and academia.

Special thank to AKKOR, that hosted WFO and its member organisations making them feel part of a big family.









DAY 2 | INTERNAL SESSION

The second day was dedicated to the Internal Affairs Session, during which the General Assembly endorsed the “farmers’ driven climate change agenda”, based on the best practices that farmers are already implementing as practical solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Farmers play a leading role in providing a global sustainable future and they want to be the real leaders of the political process on the climate change in agricultural sector.

The relaunch of the bottom-up approach by the WFO member organizations was a tremendous achievement as it set the principle that will guide WFO activities over the next years, well beyond climate change.



Several decisions have been taken during this year General Assembly and one of these is related to the revamp of the activity of the working groups to make WFO advocacy successful.

The existing working groups and committees on Climate Change, Food Security, Value Chain, Livestock and Women Farmers were reconfirmed and new working groups

and committees on Cooperatives, Innovation and Young Farmers were created.

Moscow 2018 General Assembly also established an ad hoc committee, led by the WFO Vice-President, Mr. Dave Velde, to present proposals for the revision of the Statutes.

A lot of work is waiting for WFO and its member organizations but also a lot of results to achieve.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE WFO WORKING GROUPS AND COMMITTEES FACILITATORS



FOOD SECURITY WORKING GROUP

Maximilian Dieter, DBV, Germany

Maximilian Dieter works as a Policy Advisor at the representation of the German Farmers' Association in Brussels. He studied Politics, International Relations and European Law and holds degrees from Institut d'études politiques Paris and Lancaster University in the UK. In the past, he has interned with the German Embassy in London, the European Commission, the European Parliament and the United Nations. Coming from a region of winegrowers in Southern Germany he is delighted to serve German farmers in Brussels and contribute to the success of the WFO Working Group on Food Security.



LIVESTOCK WORKING GROUP

Gary Wertish, NFU, USA

Gary Wertish was elected Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) President in January of 2017. Previously he served as MFU Vice President from 2009 until his election to President. With a long history of Farmers Union service, President Wertish has been on the Farmers Union Industries Board of Directors, past MFU and National Farmers Union policy committees, and worked as MFU Field Representative and Renville County Farmers Union President.



CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

Ceris Jones, NFU, UK

Dr. Ceris Jones is the NFU's climate change advisor. She has a background in national and international research and industry, covering agricultural and environmental issues. She has been with the NFU for eight years dealing with all aspects of climate change. She is the facilitator of the WFO's climate change working group and is the focal point for the Farmers Constituency in the UNFCCC process.



INNOVATION WORKING GROUP

Nelson Agyemang, COFAG, Ghana

He specializes in Innovation Science and Research, hatches innovative ideas develops models, frameworks, strategies, Institutional framework and mobilizes finances to execute them. He also designs Financial Innovations through Entrepreneurship and Investment. Hailing from a family farm and cooperative background Nelson has served the Ghanaian and African farming communities pro bono, including being Secretary General of Coalition of Farmers Ghana (COFAG) and CEO of West Africa Farmers Alliance (WAFA) among others.



VALUE CHAIN WORKING GROUP

Paolo Di Stefano, Coldiretti, Italy

Since December 2017, Paolo Di Stefano is the Head of the Brussels' office of Coldiretti, the biggest Italian and European farmers' organization. With his office, Mr. Di Stefano represents Coldiretti at EU and International level, working closely with European institution on agri-food dossiers. Previously, he had been the Head of Confagricoltura Brussels' office from 2013 to 2017.



YOUTH COMMITTEE

Denis Kabiito, UNYFA, Uganda

Denis Kabiito is biologist, a farmer, fisheries scientist and aqua culturist of 33 years.

He is the national coordinator / CEO for the Young Farmers' Federation of Uganda formally referred to as National Young Farmers Association, an umbrella body for all young farmers and aspiring young entrepreneurs in Uganda. UNYFA has intentions of improving the livelihoods of rural youth country wide and thereby build a young vibrant force of farmers that will fit into the national farmers union (UNFFE).



COOPERATIVES WORKING GROUP

Seok-Yong Khang, NACF, South Korea

Mr. Khang is General Manager of the International Cooperation Office at National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF). He has great passion towards improving the livelihood of farmers and raising the annual income per farming household. Additionally, he strongly believes that cooperatives can be a substantive alternative to businesses and that 'cooperation among cooperatives' will create more business opportunities and enable cooperatives to grow altogether.



COMMITTEE ON THE WFO STATUTES AND RULES OF PROCEDURE REVISION

Dave Velde, Vice-President, WFO

Dave presently serves as Vice president of WFO and Chief Counsel and Vice President of International Relations for NFU. He is also the owner of the Velde Moore Ltd. in Alexandria, MN. Dave serves as a United States Bankruptcy Trustee and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the First State Bank of Alexandria.



WOMEN COMMITTEE

Kati Partanen, MTK, Finland

Ms. Kati Partanen is farmer in the family farm located in central Finland. The farm is producing mainly grain and oilseeds. She is facilitator and chair of the WFO Women's Committee and member of the board in the Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners, Finland (MTK). She's also member of the board in Local Tapiola General Mutual Insurance Group. Kati is also working as a senior lecturer of farm economics in Savonia University of Applied Sciences. Her education is M.Sc in agriculture economics.

working groups facilitators
perspective

AGRICULTURE IS COMMITTED TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE RESOLUTELY



Maximilian Dieter

POLICY ADVISOR, DBV, GERMANY,
WFO FOOD SECURITY WORKING GROUP FACILITATOR

At the General Assembly of the World Farmers' Union (WFO) in Moscow, farmers from all over the world were discussing the contribution of agriculture in responding to the challenges posed by climate change.

The members of the World Farmers Association (WFO) have met in Moscow from 28 to 31 May 2018 for their annual General Assembly. This year, the meeting was thematically dedicated to the combat against climate change as agriculture worldwide sets out to take on the manifold challenges that climate change poses.

The GA explored strategies for WFO member organisations to better highlight agriculture's contribution to the climate change agenda and to promote a leading role for farmers and their organisations in the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement. This is for a reason: No other economic sector in the world is similarly exposed to climate change than agriculture.

Farmers are at the forefront of weather events that challenge them in their day-to-day work and endanger both their production and revenue in various places.

According to many experts, there are clear indications that climate change will further challenge agricultural productivity, production stability and incomes, especially in areas where food insecurity is already high.

At the same time, a rapidly growing world population requires more food production, which puts increasing pressure on agricultural systems worldwide. It is therefore of fundamental importance that agriculture is fully involved in the international climate dialogue and can participate in all relevant decision-making processes.

change agenda' at all levels - local, national and international. Exchange amongst WFO members on the role of agriculture in combatting climate change and how to further promote it were hence given center stage at this year's General Assembly as it marked the beginning of a new long-term strategy. In kicking this off, representatives from WFO member organisations seized the opportunity to give testimonials from „what actually works in practise“.

The President of the German Farmers' Association (DBV), Joachim Rukwied, highlighted in this regard, for instance, that German agriculture has already taken decisive steps in direction of taking on climate change as it has just recently presented its Climate Strategy 2.0 committing itself to contributing to the reduction unavoidable greenhouse gases from agriculture in order to achieve the German climate goals. Other WFO member organisations reported similarly on their local experience.

Exchange and cooperation

Thus, the WFO General Assembly also served the exchange between WFO member organisations. Through numerous thematic discussions and workshops, knowledge and experience were shared as participants debated and listened to each other. WFO Working Groups had a chance to hold valuable in-person meetings and discuss the agenda of the upcoming year. Especially from the point of view of a Working Group facilitator this proved particularly precious as the General Assembly is probably the place where relationships between colleagues are strengthened and ideas for the future projects of the Working Group can be bounced off in an informal manner as Working Groups look forward to design the next set of priorities for the year ahead.

Besides great colleague-to-colleague networking, the General Assembly also provided an excellent opportunity

talk to partners of modern agriculture, for example from industry. This exchange is particularly important in view of the fact that global climate change requires broad alliances and joint efforts to find effective solutions for mitigation and adaptation measures.

Reinforcing efforts

The impetus from the General Assembly must now be harnessed and an in-depth debate with the entire value chain, the research and development world and the multilateral institutions needs to be promoted. The aim must be for agriculture worldwide to contribute to the successful implementation of the Paris Agreement by

devising tailor-made solutions for each country, but also for each sector of the agricultural system.

The WFO as the voice of agriculture on a global scale plays a key role in this. It should continue to participate actively in global discussion processes, such as in the context of the international climate dialogue or the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) of the FAO.

In addition, the WFO should continue on its path and consolidate its international role as a priority point of contact for international organisations in the field of agriculture. The WFO Working Groups will stand ready to play an important part in this process.

working groups facilitators perspective THE NEW WORLD FARMERS ORGANISATION



Nelson Godfried Agyemang

SECRETARY GENERAL, COFAG, GHANA,
WFO INNOVATION WORKING GROUP FACILITATOR

The tone of the Welcome Speeches of the Leadership of WFO-President Theo De Jager and Secretary General Arianna Giuliadori- and their respective reports -set the stage for the momentum and crescendo of the Statutory/ Political sessions of the 2018 WFO GA.

The new WFO Leadership exude a lot of hope to members and participants of the GA in light of the changes which had taken place in the 6-9 months leading up to the GA, which required decisive Visionary and foresighted leadership and actions.

President Theo De Jager's remarks about the need to have farmers be subjects of all interventions that affect them, instead of being passive objects, in such a manner that in the matter of the Theme of the GA, Farmers need to sit in the driver's seat and drive climate debates and actions at local, National, Regional and Global levels and

the need for Farmers to own and manage their data as a valuable resource, indicated the policy direction of the WFO.

Secretary General Arianna Giuliadori's proposed changes at the WFO Secretariat and its modus operandi indicated the operational framework for deepening bottom up farmers' ownership and Leadership in all WFO affairs, as an indication of how WFO would like its partners to treat farmers and Farmers Organizations (FO) going forward.

The World Farmers Organisation (WFO) held its 2018 Annual General Assembly (GA), on 28th -31st May, 2018 in Moscow, Russia. Coalition of Farmers Ghana (COFAG), was represented by its Secretary General Nelson Godfried Agyemang.

The GA Theme was 'Towards a farmers driven climate change agenda'. It was structured around regional constituency meetings, thematic workshops on different aspects of Climate

change theme, High Level panels on the Theme, Working Groups and statutory and political discussions by registered member FOs of WFO, informal discussions and Farm visits. It was attended by about 173 people from 55 countries.

I presented a paper on the Theme:

BOTTOM-UP CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ENHANCING FARMERS' ACCESS TO FUNDS FOR CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION.

There were several lessons from the thematic workshops, such as agricultural insurance which I believe will be relevant and can be adapted to Ghana and Other African and developing Countries from the Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan, called the Nosai. The Interesting lessons are:

1. Most of the farmers in the insurance programme are smallholders with less than 2 hectares;
2. The premium is mainly contributed by farmers, and re-insurance by Government of Japan.
3. This example needs to be further studied as to whether it can be adapted to Ghana, Africa and the developing world.

I was selected as Facilitator of Innovation working Group. Facilitators are nominated by Secretary General, approved by the Board and announced and presented to the GA. I did not know that I had been noted for capacity for Innovation. Innovation working Group also works across all other themes, including climate change. The Innovation working Group is to develop its own Terms of Reference (TOR) and working methods to deal with all innovations that will enhance farming and Agriculture.

There is room for hatching and developing creativity, tracking originality and harnessing existing and emerging innovative potentials, opportunities and initiatives, best practices, lessons learned not only in terms of technology by artefact but also processes, models, frameworks and workable and results oriented approaches for efficient and effective impacts on farmers progressive bid to be productive, profitable and sustainable rural entrepreneurs capable of affecting their personal, family, community and National and Global food and Nutrition security, livelihoods and incomes.

The GA debates were lively, engaging, participatory, constructively critical and serious. They all pointed to a new WFO in which the visibility of Farmers was going to be more apparent, and the grassroots mandate of farmers to WFO shown in bottom-up structures and operational approaches is going to be the order of the day. Structures for follow up were strengthened with the Regional constituencies, Working Groups and Committees in meetings, networking and informal interactions.

A key feature of the momentum for follow up implementation of Decisions was the strengthening of existing Working Groups and Committees and the creation of new ones. All these were aimed at mopping up more members at National levels in many more Countries and linking with regional Organizations as basis to shore up Global Representation, Networking, Policy Development, Advocacy and Capacity Building as a basis to implement the WFO 2018-2028 Strategic Plan in favour of Farmers and their Representative Farmers Organizations(FOs).

Some factors have contributed and propelled this current situation, including Visionary Leadership, Decisiveness, Changes and Action. These were shown in the format and deepening of GA content and processes, Secretariat Changes in set up and modus operandi, the decision to deepen bottom-up membership engagement and communication, strengthening of structures especially Regional constituencies, Working Groups and Committees. The Continuing successes of WFO is going to be dependent on these factors as well as identifying its Human Capital Characteristics within the Movement and utilizing them to the advantage of WFO, FOs and Farmers.

I have attended three WFO GA on behalf of COFAG that is 2011 in Rome, 2017 in Helsinki; COFAG President attended South Africa and Japan. Moscow is by far the best WFO GA for me, not only because of the superb organizing and hospitality of Russia, but also the moment in history, the debates, the decisions, momentum and the aura of seriousness indicating after all that we will not shelve whatever has happened in Moscow. I came out of the GA with the impression that the WFO is at a Turning Point in its history, and that the decisions will be followed up and implemented.

No doubt I took my selection as Facilitator of Innovation Working Group Seriously. This explains why I dedicate time, energy, resources and momentum in what I do for WFO Thereon. The International Secretariat (IS) will already attest to this, sometimes I drive everyone crazy with my multiple communication and requests for information. Ofcourse they recognize the efforts and help as much as they can. So far I have the impression that the IS is ready for the New WFO.

A two way communication and engagement between IS and members and vice versa is going to be key to our successes in the ensuing year and beyond. And members need to be proactive not waiting for IS, Board, Working Groups or any others to act before reacting. The Organization is member based and members need to show commitment in participation in all activities, structures and frameworks.

WFO is Strategically Placed to achieve more now and years to come I believe!

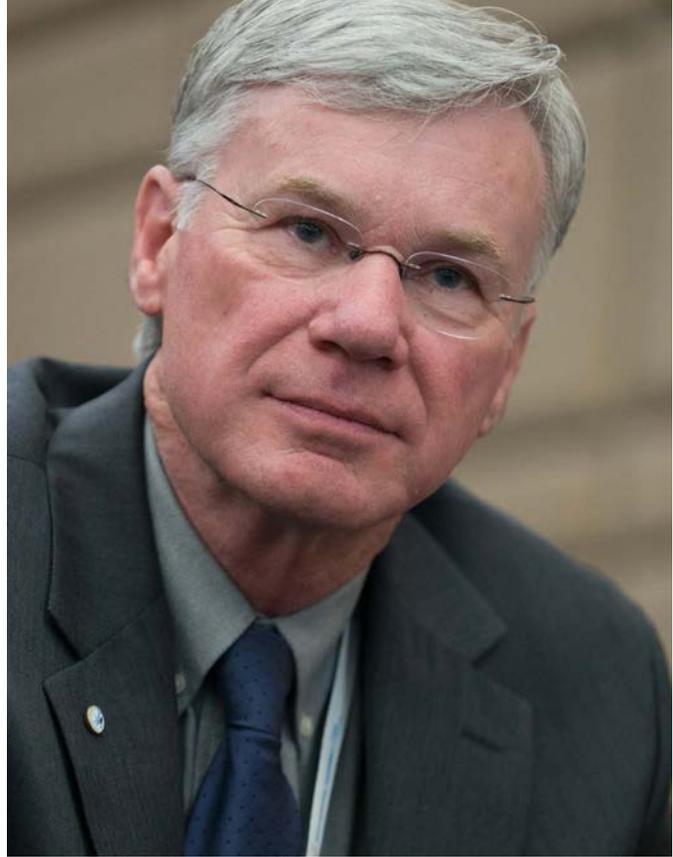


working groups facilitators
perspective

A BROADER KNOWLEDGE TO CREATE WORKABLE SOLUTIONS

Gary Wertish

PRESIDENT, MFU, MINNESOTA US,
WFO LIVESTOCK WORKING GROUP FACILITATOR



Farmers from around the world gathered in Moscow this May for the World Farmers Organisation (WFO) 2018 General Assembly (GA). As the agriculture sector continues to face growing demands, the GA is an important venue for policy debate and discussion of best practices.

This year's GA saw the creation of several new working groups that will focus on the strategic goals of the WFO, including representation, networking, policy development, advocacy and capacity building. I personally was appointed facilitator of the Livestock Working Group, along with members from Zimbabwe, Cambodia, Ireland, Denmark, and Argentina.

As a member of the United States' National Farmers Union (NFU) Board of Directors, I attended the WFO GA to represent the views of tens of thousands of family farmers in our rural communities across the United States. We face challenges such as a declining rural population, low agricultural prices, and land access for beginning farmers. Talking to other farmers at the GA, these challenges are not unique to the United States.

Farmers around the world want to be able to contribute to the economy, raise a family, and have the ability to pass the farm along to their children and future generations. We are working towards better, more sustainable policy for all types of family farms, knowing that more brings us together than keeps us apart. With the continuing globalization of agriculture, the relationships strengthened at the GA could be especially impactful on the international scale.

Climate change was the focus of this year's GA, including the many ways that diverse farming systems are uniquely situated to address it and the need for governmental cooperation to regulate environmental standards.

I talked with farmers from Africa, Europe, and many other areas experiencing volatile environmental conditions. Locally, we have seen crop loss and infrastructure damage due to heavy flooding from 10 inch or more rainfalls in a short time frame.

A sampling of the WFO recommendations on climate change include increasing financing and investment, developing strategies for resilience and risk management, and promoting productivity and emissions intensity for mitigation. Occasions like the GA provide opportunities to learn about and combine successful, innovative climate change solutions from different countries that can help us reach international sustainable climate goals.

By focusing on this important issue at the GA, we become a stronger voice for agriculture and are able to go back to our national governments as better advocates for farmers across the world.

In addition to sharing ideas through networking and speakers, the WFO GA provides opportunities for learning through site tours in the host country.

In Moscow, GA participants travelled to a local dairy with on-site cheese production. High quality infrastructure, such as newly paved roads and up to date equipment, suggested a high level of government support for a relatively small operation. If scalable, this level of investment in agriculture could have a huge impact on strengthening rural economies.

At the recommendation of another participant, I also had the opportunity to support one of Moscow's local foods restaurants, Lavka Lavka, for dinner one evening. Lavka Lavka is a cooperative that has several grocery stores and a restaurant all serving local food from small farms across Russia, with a focus on classic Russian dishes.

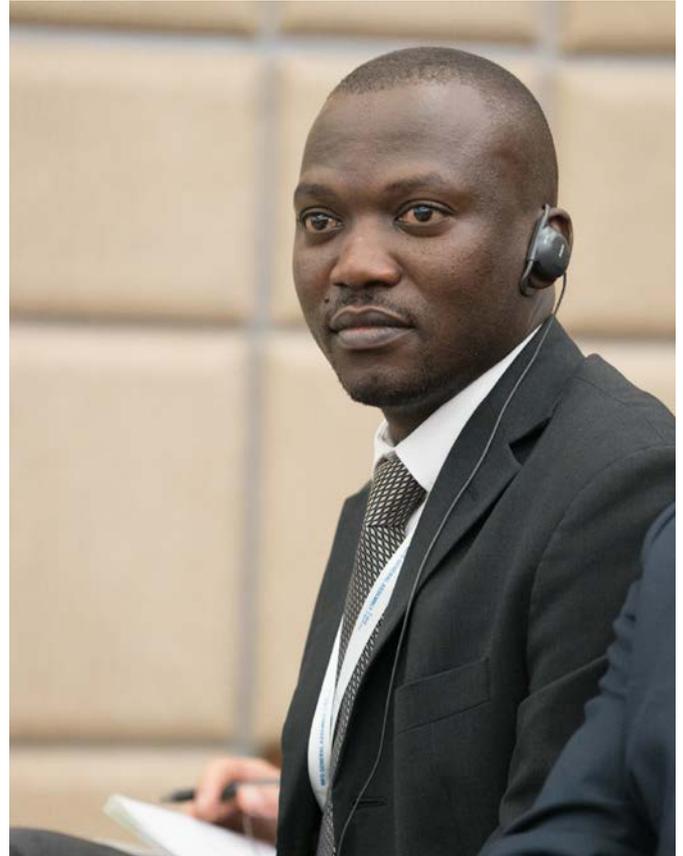
All the products they carry have the name of the farmer on them, making products traceable to their origin. Just as Farmers Union works to support farm to table restaurants and direct marketing in the United States, increasing consumer awareness and the desire for traceability make Moscow's local foods a growing market opportunity for Russian farmers.

With the 2018 GA having ended, I can say that the Livestock Working Group will expand on what we learned there to build international communication around climate change and other issues impacting livestock.

Across all economies, but particularly in developing countries, livestock has a sizeable impact on farm profitability. While we may face many challenges, there are also many issues that working group members can advance to help all farmers.

Successful outcomes from the GA stem from the broad knowledge of its speakers and representation of its participants. The more people we bring to the table, the more likely we are to create workable solutions to these challenges, and I look forward to continuing this work with the WFO in future years.

working groups facilitators
perspective
**YOUTH
AND THEIR
LEADERS
IN RUSSIA**



Denis Kabiito

NATIONAL COORDINATOR, UNYFA, UGANDA,
WFO YOUTH COMMITTEE FACILITATOR

It was virtually two weeks to the opening ceremony of the most prestigious and global sport of the football World cup in the Luznik Stadium in Moscow that I and other youth set foot into Russia for the World Farmers Organization General Assembly.

Many people right from home in Uganda to airports and colleagues on travel planes, all had one question; what takes you to Russia, what is the business or you going early for the world cup; my simple answer to their astonishment was that; "I am attending the biggest Assembly that brings out the voice of farmers of the World."

From 26th of May to the 1st of June 2018, I travelled to a far off land. It was one full of insights as I experienced a beautiful city with friendly people, Many Vodkas and an ecstatic atmosphere. This is verified in the way, I found the

city of Moscow and how developed, all its systems were. To a new traveler; get this; few people especially in the general public speak English fluently. Therefore make sure you get a local sim card to access the abundant Wi-Fi all over the city and use the local app/ translating app to find your way. Back to WFO General Assembly: that had a theme; "Towards a Farmers Driven Climate Change Agenda."

A really befitting theme for the Global phenomenon since there is no sector more impacted by climate change than agriculture sector. Farmers from all over the world had to sit, dialogue, debate and find farmer led solutions to this Global phenomenon. It's through this General Assembly that farmers from all walks of life, be it old, youth, small, medium, large scale, family farmers or sole proprietors sit and put their differences aside but stick to their common business issue, "farming" since it is the biggest employer globally.

Concerning the participation of the youth on global Agenda, this was the first General Assembly, that had over 20 youth leaders from the different continents especially under the Auspice of WFO youth gymnasium to come and attend this great fora, participate in panel discussions, be elected in different positions and committees and finally play a role in the General Sessions /plenary. To be fair, I have attended about 6 of WFO GA'S since its inception and we have been isolated; finding 4-6 youth delegates in the GA was hard. Thank you WFO for this change and the special focus on the youth

In its reforming process, the board and WFO management decided through this year's G.A to finally commission and institute the WFO youth committee/(youth working groups.

I went to Russia as the CEO of UNYFA (the umbrella body for youth in agribusiness for Uganda) I left Russia nominated and forwarded by the Assembly as the facilitator (coordinator) for this youth working group. Am humbled and privileged to lead a team of vibrant youth from all sorts of backgrounds but all determined to change or shape the future of farming.

The youth working group was commissioned but its composition is still work in progress since it is supposed to have delegates from all global continents. The beauty about this is that; the Gymnasium, a mentoring session that was commissioned a year back in Rome by WFO, has capable candidates to come and fill the positions of this committee. We hope in our next session of Gymnasium in October 2018; we can work out our plans, internal regulations and have a formidable and vibrant youth brand.

As I sum up the impression in the 2018 Russia WFO G.A, there is need to highlight the major insights of this General

Assembly for all to know what transpired there;

a) The rebrand and restructuring of the WFO Administration/Management; in MS. Arianna Giudori, the new S.G, WFO has brought in an energetic, eloquent and astute lady to drive the secretariat. We as youth (since she was in yester years a youth leader in Italian farmers Organization) are ready to seat in the WFO bus and drive with her on our journey.

b) Establishment of an adhoc committee led by Mr. Dave Velde WFO vice President to put up proposals for the revisions of the statutes. I am member of this; therefore the youth voice will not be left out.

c) Adoption of the farmer driven climate change Agenda"; this will help in setting guidelines for individual farmers Organizations to employ as they fit into their National climate change strategies.

d) The organizers for the General Assembly; AKKOR did a tremendous job; it was the most delightful G.A, I have attended and one I may not easily forget. To Luxembourg (host of 2019 G.A) you have to put up 200% gear to supersede the Russian food, drinks, transport, accommodation, guidance and hospitality received that was extreme.

Conclusively, as a football fan though a youthful farmer, I had the opportunity to have a glance on the football stadia especially the Luznik National Stadium in Moscow that was to host the opening and final match of the 2018 world cup. I can't therefore forget Russia since it was another venue that fulfilled my two (2) passions, uniting me as a farmer but also giving me an insight on the football show piece





DAY 3 | HIGH-LEVEL SESSION

The third day was dedicated to the High-Level Session. Michael Hoewel, Managing Director of Marchmont Communications and Coordinator of Farming First, moderated the debate.

The spotlight was once more on farmers that had the opportunity to tell their own stories of climate change, presenting their best practices to tackle it. Key stakeholders illustrated what they are currently doing or plan to do to support the farmers to develop resilience to the climate change or implement effective actions to mitigate it.

The third day featured also the participation of one of the strongest voices in the global food industry, Danielle Nierenberg of Food Tank, a no-profit organization founded in 2013 to highlight sustainable ways of alleviating hunger and poverty.



**FARMERS
ARE THE
SOLUTION.
THE FOOD
MOVEMENT
MUST LISTEN
TO THEM.**

DANIELLE NIERENBERG
PRESIDENT
FOOD TANK

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

MODERATOR:

Mr Michael Hoevel, Managing Director of Marchmont Communications, Coordinator of Farming First, UK

SPEAKERS:

Mr Vladimir Plotnikov, President, AKKOR, Russia

Mr Joachim Rukwied, President, DBV, Germany

Dr Devra Ivy Jarvis, Principal Scientist, Bioversity International, and Research Coordinator, Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research, Italy

Ms Yvonne Harz-Pitre, Director Communications & Public Affairs, IFA, France

Mr Mikheev Vladimir, Communication Specialist, FAO Liaison Office with the Russian Federation, Russia



During the first session, innovative solutions for a sustainable agricultural sector, farmers' leaders, representatives of private sector and multilateral organizations discussed on how innovation can be applied at farm level to reduce the impact of climate change.

The role of science and innovation is crucial in addressing the climate change challenge and achieving a sustainable agricultural development.

Farmers can extensively contribute to the Paris Agreement implementation by applying innovative methods at farm level that may significantly help reduce the CO2 global emission and contribute to the climate change mitigation. Reducing CO2 emissions and tackling climate change issues is a benefit for the overall society and for which farmers stand ready to take the burden.

Solutions will have to be science based and applicable at farm level.



stories from the field
focus on Asia

KNOWLEDGE SHARING BENEFITS SMALL-SCALE FARMERS



Sok Sotha

LEAD FOUNDER & MANAGING DIRECTOR, CFAP, CAMBODIA

High Level Session during the General Assembly of the WFO is one of the most important sessions that all farmer leaders/representatives and relevant stakeholders participated and they have accessed to direct information, experiences, knowledge and opportunity to discuss problems of farmers by farmers themselves and heard at the international level.

In the case of Cambodia, when we talked about agriculture then we also talked about climate change because the climate change has more and more impacts on farming practices, especially smallholder farmers that they are not able to adapt to the quick changes of weather. Flood, drought, storm and high temperature have increased notably i.e. in dry season (Nov to Apr) between 28 oC to 41oC. Though, there are negative impacts and challenges on climate change, smallholder farmers who received technical support from development partners have now changed gradually from old practices to new practices. Smallholder farmers in Cambodia still do not profit properly and regularly from agriculture.

Capacity building for farmers and staff members of farmer organizations, especially new knowledge and skills on Geographic Indication (GI), Good Agricultural Practice (GAP), Organic Farming and Contract Farming which is new to the context of Cambodia and now needed. This will help sustaining farmers and farmer organizations.

Enabling farmers, especially smallholder farmers access to water regularly for sustainable agricultural production is one of the most important things beside capital, market and transportation. So far, CFAP had developed and designed a household pond model for smallholder farmers. We provided household ponds for farmers, so they can produce crops and veggies in a year round, unfortunately there were only 35

household ponds provided because we do not have sufficient fund to support them, though we know it is very helpful for rural poor farmers.

To ensure that farmers and farmer organizations are sustainable, therefore involvement of FOs in other development projects/programmes at country and international level is very necessary. This is not only help smallholder farmers, but also help building positive capacity of staff members effectively for their direct services extension to farmer members later.

In developing country like in Cambodia, farmer members and farmer organizations are not very strong in term of finance, all of farmer members live in rural areas and they are poor and they do not pay an annual membership fee regularly, so that to enable them access to grant/loan with low interest rate is very helpful to transit them in a this period. In response to this situation, it is required to diversify incomes for FOs through creation of businesses at FO level to ensure that FOs have money to continue its activities with farmer members.

CFAP is very active in policy participation because we realized that when there is no policy to support farmers and agriculture, then it is hard to ensure agricultural sustainability now and in the future. We participated so far on climate change, agriculture, water, agricultural land reform, food safety, export and laws on agricultural cooperatives etc. nevertheless, we also faced problems with finance to support this activity.

Knowledge sharing is one of the most important programmes within CFAP to share knowledge to farmer members, relevant stakeholders and young farmers. We conducted this activity through a so called "Knowledge Sharing Workshops...". From 2018 onward, we need to conduct at grassroots level, provincial level and national level. Hopefully in the future, more young people get interested in agriculture.

Because CFAP is the FO-led in Cambodia, therefore the organisation can share knowledge and experience received from other FOs as members of the WFO, especially those good practitioners come from developed countries to our FO members, non-members and relevant stakeholders to get to know for their knowledge and information for their lessons learned and innovation.

Knowledge Management (KM) is another important programme within CFAP, so we would produce this in our annual report for others to study/research.

Through this valuable experiences and knowledge got from the participation in WFO GA in Moscow, and elsewhere in the coming future, therefore CFAP will translate it well with respect to the context of Cambodia to ensure that received knowledge is beneficial to farmers, especially small-scale farmers.

We hope our voices through the High Level Session during the 8th WFO general Assembly heard to the public and expected positive intervention from policy makers to support farmers, especially smallholder farmers in developing country in the future.

stories from the field
focus on North America
**BEST PRACTICES
IN CANADIAN
AGRICULTURE
FOR
SUSTAINABILITY**



Ron Bonnett
PRESIDENT, CFA - FCA, CANADA

A At the 2018 World Farmer's Organization (WFO) General Assembly, Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) President Ron Bonnett delivered a presentation outlining the best practices in North America for sustainable agriculture.

The presentation was part of a series which outlined the best practices from continents around the world.

The WFO is an important opportunity for farmers, industry experts and stakeholders from across the globe to share their success stories, perspectives and ideas on sustainability, and Ron was happy to have the opportunity to present.

The presentation was focused on on-farm practices and organizational efforts in Canada to increase agriculture sustainability.

The on-farm practices had one thing in common: getting the most out of the land in a responsible way. Ron outlined how farmers were working to reduce their carbon footprint in Canada through methods such as no-till farming and using alternate energy sources like solar, wind and biofuels to power their operations. Increasing the efficiency of their operations in a sustainable way is also a primary concern for Canadian farmers. Several of the practices to accomplish this were outlined. Nutrient management planning, integrated pest management and the 4R nutrient stewardship principles are all practices that use data and technology to reduce inputs while ensuring that farmers' crops are still receiving essential nutrients and protection from pests.

The second part of the presentation focused on agriculture organizations in Canada that are proactive in finding ways to create a more sustainable agriculture sector. The crux of this is the Government-Industry relationship in Canada. By

working together, industry can identify priorities, problems and solutions in the sector which the government can support through policy, research and funding. Soil and crop associations as well as commodity groups across Canada work within their areas to conduct research and studies for further innovation, and help provide farmers and the government with data to help their decision making. An excellent example in Canada is the development of Environmental Farm Plans (EFP). These programs cost only a nominal fee, are delivered by non-profit organizations and are funded through the government.

They allow farmers to highlight their farm's environmental strengths, identify areas of environmental concern, and set realistic action plans with time tables to improve environmental conditions. The EFP can then be used in conjunction with cost-share programs to begin implementing these action plans. These have been such a success that there is now an effort to try and develop a National EFP to standardize across the country.

Another interesting partnership outline recently developed in Canada is between purchasers and commodity groups. Recently McDonalds worked with the Canadian Cattlemen's

Association and the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef to develop a plan for McDonalds to only use certified sustainable beef.

They worked with industry to identify their needs but also fleshed out what would be feasible and economically sustainable for farmers to implement. In the end beef farmers who want to sell to McDonalds will have to adhere to standards based on more than 60 indicators covering animal care, nutrition and environment. Participating producers must meet the standards and undergo on-farm certification audits. Participants also need to manage grasslands and grazing in a way that maintains or improves soil health and protects watersheds.

These types of practices, organization and programs are key to what Ron considers one of the most important issues in Canadian agriculture today, public trust.

The public can lose faith in the agriculture industry's ability to provide food sustainably while supporting the environment. It is crucial that the industry gets in front of this problem and be seen as proactive and always searching for improvement and solutions.

stories from the field
focus on Oceania

NEW ZEALAND'S GLOBAL SCIENCE APPROACH TO BIOLOGICAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

William Rolleston
REPRESENTATIVE, FEDFARM, NEW ZEALAND



The popular notion is that the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate change is simply about mitigation and adaptation to climate change. But unlike the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement recognises another major challenge facing humanity - that we have a responsibility to feed a growing population.

Some might argue "why produce more food only to encourage a further expansion in our population?" But in fact the opposite is true. Couples, who know their children will be fed, who have access to capital and technology, reward that security with fewer children.

Agriculture is a contributor to global warming through its

use of fossil fuels and the production of biological emissions (methane and nitrous oxide).

New Zealand's approach to these competing goals of "more food, less gas" has been to recognise that the greatest contribution we can make is to investigate ways to maintain or increase food production while reducing the emissions per kg of product (emissions intensity).

New Zealand's initiative to create the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA) in 2009 has resulted in an increase in science activity toward reducing emissions intensity.

Agriculture in New Zealand, in particular our grass-fed livestock, is the main contributor to our economic position in the world and in this sense we are unique among developed countries. With 50% of our emissions coming from biological sources we share our greenhouse gas profile with many developing countries.

We can use this commonality to demonstrate to others how to decouple food production from biological emissions.

The GRA really is a global initiative with 50 countries signed up and growing. New Zealand has pledged NZ\$65million in support of it, targeting in particular research to reduce the production of methane from ruminant animals. It is also investigating nitrogen cycling, soil carbon, and inventory and measurement.

The GRA works closely with our national research efforts including the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre (NZAGRC) and the Pastoral Greenhouse Gas Research Consortium (PGgRC) where the New Zealand government and our farmers are investing about \$100 million.

You can't control something if you first do not understand it, so research projects include:

- understanding the microbes which live in the rumen where methane is produced
- understanding the relationship between forage and methane production
- undertaking a census of rumen microbe populations around the world.
- looking for genetic and microbial markers in sheep and cattle linked to methane production.

Potential interventions which will flow out of this work include the development of methane inhibitors, vaccines, forages and animal breeding programmes all aimed to reduce methane while maintaining productivity.

Apart from methane it has been shown in both New Zealand and Ireland that waterlogged pastures produce more nitrous oxide, but that this can vary between countries and soil types so national or even region specific approaches may be needed to mitigate emissions.

Soil carbon has been talked about enthusiastically in many international forums, not least during the Paris Climate negotiations where many bold claims were made. While

New Zealand is progressing research in this area, we are cautious about this approach. New Zealand is a geologically young country meaning it already has high levels of soil carbon and a significant risk of erosion. Not only is soil carbon difficult to accurately measure it is now being recognised that the potential for soil to store carbon may have been overstated. In addition it takes a long time for soil carbon to build but it can be easily reversed creating real issues for sustainability and resilience.

The New Zealand Government is currently considering its policy response to climate change and is proposing a Net Carbon Zero target by 2050.

How that will be interpreted is still up for debate but options range from net zero carbon dioxide emissions (while keeping biological emissions stable) to net zero for all emissions. The latter would of course be a huge imposition on our agricultural sector but farmers are ready to make a contribution through reducing emissions intensity and offsetting.

To make offsetting truly work at farm scale the government will need to recognise the carbon contained in small tree lots used for shelter, erosion control, riparian management and even amenity planting. Key to a successful outcome is that the government has already recognised that not all gases are equal so need to be dealt with separately and that the real incentive comes at the farm, not the industry level.

The GRA is an international initiative because global warming is an international problem – atmospheric gases do not respect borders. It is not enough for New Zealand farmers to be carbon efficient and indeed there is "low hanging fruit" to be found in other countries via increasing productivity of production, something that farmers the world over strive for.

We consider agriculture greenhouse gases to no longer be a competitive area but rather an area of international cooperation and collaboration. This was also the conclusion of the recent GRA supported workshop in Costa Rica which was a worldwide conversation backed by science.

That is why the GRA has, along with the New Zealand government, the World Farmers Organisation and Federated Farmers of New Zealand, run since 2014 the GRA farmer study tour to share knowledge on emission mitigation in farming systems. Last year the tour was in Italy which also saw the launch of the Young Scientist Fellowship Programme.

This year the tour will be back in New Zealand. The study tour is open to invited farmer representatives from WFO member organisations. Enquiries can be made through the WFO secretariat.

Climate change is a science problem and solutions must be based on science and evidence while governments around the world need to ensure farmers have access to technologies if they are to make a real difference. New Zealand's science approach is part of an international conversation because we are all in this together.

USING INSURANCE SCHEMES AS DATA HARVESTING MECHANISM

MODERATOR:

Mr Michael Hoevel, Managing Director of Marchmont Communications, Coordinator of Farming First, UK

SPEAKERS:

Mr Mark Watne, Member of the Board of Directors, US NFU, US

Mr Hiroyuki Kinoshita, Special Advisor, JA Zenchu, Japan

Mr Ishmael Sunga, CEO, SACAU, South Africa

Mr Roberto Moncalvo, President, Coldiretti, Italy

Ms Irina Zodrow, Head of Partnership Unit, UNISDR, Switzerland

Ms Hannelore Beerlandt, CEO, Agricord, Belgium



The second session focused on Using Insurance schemes as data harvesting mechanism.

High risks are not easily insured by formal market mechanisms. Credit and insurance markets are typically absent or incomplete in developing countries, either for good theoretical reasons or because of bad policy.

Saving in good times and depleting assets when the going gets tough are commonly observed consumption-smoothing strategies. Its effectiveness, however, is restricted by the circumstances faced by many of the poor in developing economies.

The presence of significant income risk in developing countries and the limited ability of poor households to smooth resulting shocks have implications for measuring poverty. Furthermore, it begs the question whether alternative measures capturing risk and vulnerability should be developed



VIABLE AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT FOOD CHAIN FOR A SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

MODERATOR:

Mr Michael Hoevel, Managing Director of Marchmont Communications, Coordinator of Farming First, UK

SPEAKERS:

Ms Liza Leclerc, Lead Technical Specialist, Environment and Climate Division, IFAD, Italy (*via video link*)

Mr Robert Hunter, Executive Director, Corp Protection at Crop Life International, Belgium

Mr Toussaint N'Guessan, President, OMCC-WCPO, Côte D'Ivoire

Mr Khang Seok Yong, General Manager, NACF, South-Korea



The third session on Viable and climate-resilient food chain for a sustainable agricultural sector was an exchange among the different actors of the value chain on the importance that all rings of the chain be sustainable to order to address climate change.

Farmers are ready to be the leaders of the new agenda on climate change and demand the support of the other stakeholders in the global agricultural sector.

The entire value chain plays a role in the success of the Farmers Driven Climate Change Agenda and is therefore invited to join forces: agricultural machinery, food processing companies, retailers, insurance companies. In this respect, farmers and industries will have to collaborate in the search of effective solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in agriculture.



stories from the field
focus on Europe

HOW WE REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINT FROM DAIRY FARMING



Lone Andersen
VICE-PRESIDENT, DAFC, DENMARK

I recently had the pleasure of speaking at the WFO General Assembly in Moscow.

Here I told a about agriculture and food production in Denmark mainly focusing on how we work with reducing the carbon footprint from dairy farming.

Denmark is a food exporting country known for quality products that are both delicious, nutritious and safe. But we are also a world leader in agricultural and food technology, with solutions to global issues ranging from how to feed at growing population to how to tackle climate change.

Danish food production is highly efficient yet has a low use of resources, and the environmental and climate footprint is small.

From 1990 to 2014, the value of Danish agricultural production increased by 22 per cent and at the same time the emission of greenhouse gasses decreased by 16 per cent.

The reason for this is, that - From farm to fork - we have optimized all processes and made sure that our resources are used efficiently. We continue to be innovative in many areas, and that puts us in the lead of productivity. For example our advances in agro-technology have improved fertilization. And at the same time the quality of feed has been constantly improved. Beside this, we also have a unique on-farm consultancy setup in Denmark owned by farmers. Here the close cooperation between scientist and consultants ensures that there is only a short way from research to action.

One of the foodcompanys in Denmark that are active working with reducing the carbon footprint from dairy farming is Arla Foods.

Arla is a farmer owned dairy-cooperative with more than 11,000 farmers spread over 7 countries (Denmark, Sweden, Germany, United Kingdom, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg). Arla Food is where I supply my milk and I am proud to be a part of a cooperative with many owners, which I hope will continue to develop and grow strong.

As part of Arla's environmental strategy the company continue to work on the subject of climate, nature and animal welfare. And take positive steps towards even more sustainable dairy farming. Reducing the carbon footprint from dairy farming is an essential part of this strategy. This is why Arla offer free carbon assessments for the owner farmers on a voluntary basis

In the on-farm assessment a trained independent consultant goes through the farm systematically to identify key areas: Areas where the farmer can improve sustainability and at the same time cut costs.

Having completed more than 4300 carbon assessments in the UK, Sweden and Denmark, Arla's farmer owners have taken a significant step towards reducing their carbon footprint. In 2015 the carbon footprint from Arla farms had reduced by 23 per cent compared to 1990.

An important part of the carbon assessment is the identification of strengths and development points for the individual farm to become more climate efficient. At my farm, 90 hectares of land, 30 hectares of land leased in cooperation with other farmers and 110 dairy cows, we had a trained consultant to go through the farm to point out, where we could improve sustainability.

One of our biggest assets is that we have our fields close to our farm. This means that we can save fuel for transport and machines, and thereby reduce our carbon emissions.

We also have a high-technological production which is efficient and brings a high yield.

For example we have a milking robot allowing to milk the cows three to four times per day, which is really good for both the animal- and human welfare. We also have a feeding robot which ensures an efficient feeding management. Unfortunately these robots also results in a high power consumption. So there are dilemmas with having a high-tech farm.

We recently had a new climate-assessment on our farm. After the meeting we identified three main areas, besides from reducing our use of electricity, that we have to work on to become more climate friendly:

- Produce more milk pr. Cow
- Fewer born heifers by cross-breeding
- The cows have to live longer

In general we are proud of the carbon assessment. It is a way to benchmark our farm against other farms.

Now, by getting a carbon assessment at my farm I get to know my strengths and weak points. Things that help motivate me to become a better farmer and constantly improve my milk production.

The more improvements I am able to identify and implement through an Arla carbon assessment, the healthier my finances get. Sustainability and financial benefits are well interlinked.

But doing the carbon assessment is also important for Arla - their customers have ambitious carbon reduction goals and expect Arla to deliver reductions too. And sustainability is an important license to produce.

So doing the carbon assessment is a win-win situation for both me, Arla and our climate.



stories from the field
focus on Latin America

LEARNING FIRST TO HEAL AND THEN TO PRODUCE



Balbino Benitez Escobar
VICE-PRESIDENT, UAN, PARAGUAY

I will try to summarize what was presented at the WFO General Assembly in two key words: healing and learning.

Why healing?

Healing, and more specifically, social healing, because our action as farmers does not take place within a policy framework in accordance with the conventional trends of our economy. We do live in a situation that is neither favoured nor rewarded by the actual governments.

We have grown with the experience and the spirit of decent survival. Farming seems to be closer to a spiritual pilgrimage, rather than to a business activity!

In our region, we speak about healing ourselves as a society, as farmers, in the sense of recovering from the emotional, moral and physical wounds produced by the condition of inequality, lies and systemic corruption.

That reality generates greater damages every day.

Today, in my country's experience, there is no space for an economic activity that does not imply a personalized support of those involved to overcome their fears, prejudices, anti-values and psychic reformulations.

This is a prerequisite for any production, in any of its forms.

Not only we come from a state of crisis or so called "developing country".

We come from the desolation and the unsuccessful visibility.

Therefore, we try to listen to our fellow farmers, to understand them all.

Causes

In this part, I will not talk about technical causes but rather about the environmental and socio-geopolitical ones that affect the life of family farmers.

As I already stated during my speech at the WFO General Assembly, since 1945 and the end of the war, a new global order was established.

The South American people were contaminated by a culture, or sub-culture, that we could define as the one "of the mental dispersion".

The only objective at a first sight was to prevent people from joining, at least in a formal or "legal" way.

In this way, the "Latinos" (as we are called in Europe) reached mutual isolation: unable to talk or discuss, they just argue and become fanatic.

This leads first to an authoritarian mentality that goes throughout the society penetrating in all social and business structures.

Consequently, the organization does not consist in the mutual agreement but in a vital opportunism, where the ones who rely on the support of "those at the top" take the best part.

The farming activity that sustains the farming family economy, is not alien to this reality.

On the contrary, it has received the worst of the attacks, converting our borders into a supermarket of balances and remnants of our neighbours, unprotecting all family farmers that were forced to subcontract, indirect subsidies and loss of autonomy, by not creating an agrarian environment.

The implantation of a rote learning system in the schools, mainly in the rural ones, together with an already merciless insecurity, led to an average of functional illiteracy in the population, left to its fate as merchandise, ready only to buy and sell.

Production is relegated to mere utility, to consumption. No planning for development and well-being, even less for the common good.

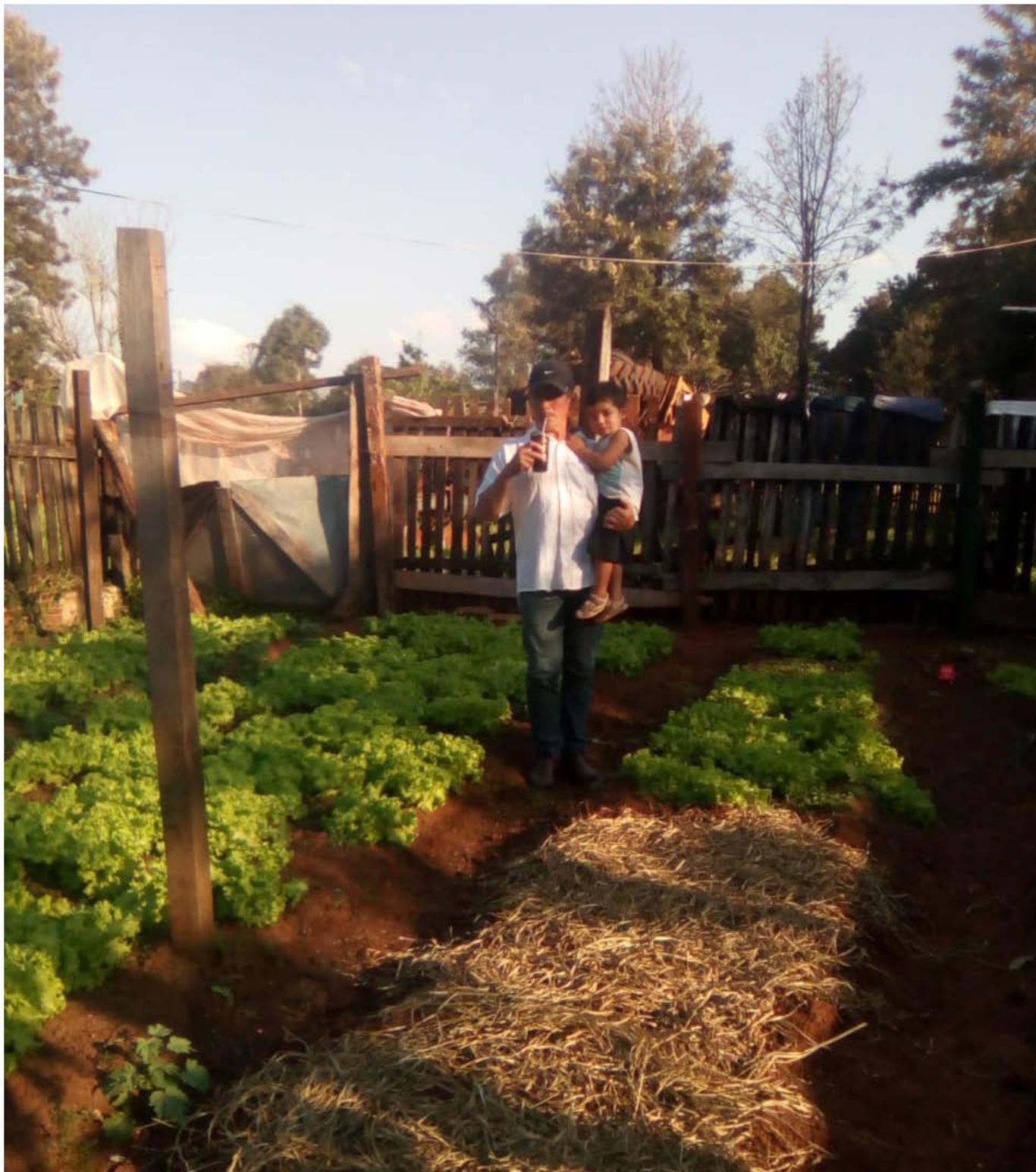
For all these reasons, I am asking you to understand us, as if we were your younger brothers.

Not inferior, but aware of our need of learning and social healing.

That is why we promote talks to learn how to produce, while living with nature, without destroying it for simple commerce.

A centennial mentality that is eradicated in the country but that we hope to change with the new generations towards a more ecological awareness.

The road is not easy, but the will is there.





DAY 4 | FARM VISITS

The General Assembly culminated in the farms visit around the Moscow Area, during which the discussions about the different issues continued. Once more the different perspectives concerning organic agriculture, innovation, profitability and relationships with partners, processors, trade, etc. were at the heart of the debate. During the visit Russian farmers shared their experience in solving these issues with other farmers from all over the world.

“We are not all the same, we represent farmers from literally every corner of the globe and all of us have different languages, different traditions, different methods of farming and the General Assembly represents the meeting place of all these different cultures” said Theo De Jager during his closing remarks to underline that WFO strength really lies in its composition and in its capacity to act as a catalyst for the voices of world farmers in the global agenda.



THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS A “FARMERS DRIVEN” PROCESS



Martin Märkl

SENIOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER,
BAYER AG, GERMANY

First time in Moscow, first time attending the WFO General Assembly. And it's been a noticeable different experience from any other international event I have been attending so far.

I witnessed a different tone and attitude compared to platforms facilitated by Governments or multilateral bodies such as FAO, different from conferences for the agribusiness, different from NGO platforms.

I was impressed by the pragmatism of the debates and the openness to science and innovation. There was a great openness to learn from one another and to work in an international context.

It all came together in the powerful speech by Vladimir Plotnikov, President of AKKOR, which truly impressed me with its very clear and ambitious key messages: international cooperation, science driven approaches towards sustainable agricultural systems.

Bayer is proud to partner with the WFO on the Gymnasium Program; members of the Gymnasium were very visible and actively involved in various panel discussions.

It is impressive to witness the steep development of the participants of the Gymnasium; there is a promising new generation of leaders coming up. It will be wonderful to take them to the next step.

I am looking forward to seeing them all again in Rome during CFS in October 2018.

This year's WFO General Assembly was a first step towards a farmers' driven climate change agenda.

This is a visionary project by the president of the WFO, Theo de Jager. It takes a man of his charisma and courage to get such an initiative started.

The private sector through its industry associations IFA and CropLife will be happy to partner with the WFO on this initiative and hope to be able to contribute to the next milestones for the upcoming 12 months.

The new initiative will offer opportunities for a close cooperation on specific topics which could also lead to targeted breakout sessions at the WFO General Assembly.

Specific breakout sessions on topics such as insurance schemes, digital farming or seed technology can be jointly organized by WFO, Representatives of National Farmer Associations and the Agribusiness according to an agreed overall strategy.

This would allow the participants of the panel discussion to identify the critical aspects early on and to have a focused discussion.

Last but not least I would like to thank AKKOR and WFO for the fantastic organization of the General Assembly. Moscow made a big impression on me, it's been stunning and in perfect condition, on top we had wonderful weather. Very much looking forward to next year's WFO General Assembly.

A JOINT LOBBY AGENDA FOR FARM LEADERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

Hannelore Beerlandt
CEO, AGRICORD



What a joy it was for AgriCord to participate in the WFO General Assembly in Moscow. For AgriCord, mandated by farmers' organisations and supporting farmers' organisations in developing countries, it feels as coming home to this house where both are present.

This year was different – for several reasons. The improved governance, transparency, member consultation and the increased focus of WFO was tangible. With that, the commitment and motivation of members seemingly overruled the doubt of the past years. This has contributed to in-depth discussions, openness to each other's opinions and to concrete consensus seeking. Farm leaders from developing countries participated and took the floor. They addressed concerns of young farmers at several moments. Women were well represented in the panels.

The choice for the topic of climate change made the General Assembly where it should go, in a straight line to farmers on their fields and in their businesses. Farming and farming businesses becoming prey of volatile whether conditions - often without being properly insured or having access to the necessary innovations. Farmers and their businesses not being recognised to contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Finding a joint lobby agenda for farm leaders from all over the world, seems to have never been so easy. The meetings also inspired members to take up their lobby agenda in their own countries.

AgriCord supports capacity development of Farmers' organisations on climate change, mainly on data registration, adapted inputs, production itineraries and water management, and on access to innovative finance mechanisms. AgriCord has intensified its actions on climate and is promoting the role of farmers and their organisations as essential contributors to the climate change agenda and as leverage towards the actions of other stakeholders. AgriCord is planning tests in four countries on data registration and getting access to funding and finance for innovation, insurance in adaptation and mitigation, together with regional platforms of Farmers' organisations. Farmers' organisations are also strengthened for lobby and advocacy capacities and their leadership in this matter. Seeing that two Farm leaders from AgriCord's partners (Ghana and Uganda) now take the lead in the WFO committees on 'innovation' and on 'youth' respectively, illustrates their capabilities.

The most important takeaways for AgriCord from the WFO General Assembly are the following:

- Having access to insurances or emergency funds and having access to investment funds will not be possible without improved data registration capacities of Farmers' organisations. The registered data should be an asset to the Farmers' organisations, and can be used in a lucrative way, also in markets.
- There is strong call for contextualisation of the precise measures and mechanisms. We talk not only of dealing with local system changes but also adapting the exact measures to local values and beliefs of the farmers.
- Climate change adaptation is not about looking back in the past but going forward for smart innovations.
- The climate change agenda is pre-imminently intersectoral. The dialogue of Farmers' Organisations with the ministries dealing with natural resource management needs to be strengthened in the majority of developing countries. Partnerships with the private sector appear as necessary as when we talk agricultural value chains and marketing. And WFO managed to have the private sector present through some of their 'Body's'.

The road is being paved to intensify the partnership between WFO and AgriCord on the climate change agenda.

Despite the call to be recognized for their contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and to be financed against the great risks that destroy their productive assets and thus their future, I hope that farmers' organisations from developing countries will resist the attempt to become too dependent on climate aid.

Or, as nicely summarized by the Persian poet Saadi (about 1212-1295), known for his "sober wisdom" and expressing AgriCord's vision: *"Some vinegar with the vegetables, earned by yourselves, tastes better than meat that is freely served to you".*

TOWARDS NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY: LUXEMBOURG 2019

This year's General Assembly was particularly intense for the number of sensitive decisions that all of members were called to make, in order to enhance the organization, its governance and activities for an effective implementation of the 2018-2028 strategic framework.

A lot of work is waiting for WFO and its member organizations but also a lot of results to achieve. A number of changes have already happened, and more is yet to come. Moscow 2018 will be remembered as the beginning of a new path to take WFO to its pole star, making the farmers the true leaders of the global political processes on agriculture.





We are already on our way to 2019 General Assembly.
Luxembourg is waiting for us all for another amazing experience,
to pave the way towards an even stronger farmers driven agenda.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you in Luxembourg
from May 20th to 23rd 2019.

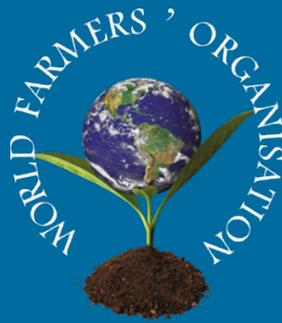
SAVE THE DATE!

World Farmers' Organisation

wfo-oma.org

Subscribe to

the monthly F@rmletter
by sending an e-mail to
info@wfo-oma.org



International Secretariat

via del Tritone, 102
00187 Roma

TEL +39 06 42 74 11 58
MAIL info@wfo-oma.org

FOLLOW US ON

