

Farmers' Dialogue International

Dialogues from 1994 to 2016

Cambodia 2016
The resilience of farmers and the future of the ASEAN farmers

India 2016
Modifying Environment into Predictable Harvests

Mayotte 2015
Together promoting individual initiatives

India 2014
Empowerment of Women, remunerative technologies and suicide in Agriculture

DR Congo 2013
Feeding the world, feeding DR Congo

Kenya 2012
Training for Trainers. Equipping Farmers' to Train others

Rwanda 2011
Farmers, men and women working together for food

Rwanda 2011
Developing leadership skills

Uganda 2010
Responding to the challenge of feeding Africa

Ukraine 2008
What limits agricultural production in our country

Kenya 2008
Beyond subsistence farming, finding the means and the motivation

Poland 2007
For a revitalised Agriculture

France 2007
Facing the challenge of sustainable development and globalisation

Tanzania 2006
Poverty alleviation through training Farmers.

India 2006
Exploring the contribution of small scale farmers

India 2005
New models of rural development

Thailand 2004
Seeking ways to secure farmers livelihoods

Cambodia 2003
Farmers meeting policy makers

India 2001
A blueprint for agriculture and for society

Germany 2000
Exploring the next steps

Poland 1998
A growing EU, its effects at home and in the world

USA 1996
Strengthening links, North America and

Switzerland 1995
The role of farmers in the world

Switzerland 1994
How farmers can best work together in Europe



International Farmers' Dialogue
<http://www.farmersdialogue.org/>





Kenya

FARMERS' DIALOGUE

A commitment to feed the world and care for the planet.



Tanzania

Farming is for feeding people. The world relies on Agriculture to feed a hungry world, for this we need to create hope and vision for the future.

Farmers' Dialogue is mobilising farmers to bring solutions and act on the changes needed personally and globally. It aims to reinforce the values that make farmers everywhere partners rather than competitors, to take responsibility to ensure there are adequate supplies of food in the world, to take care of the soil and of the environment in order to secure the future of generations to come.

Meetings to share practical experiences and stimulate commitment and progress.
Frank exchanges between farmers and consumers.
Work with agriculturalists, scientists and political leaders.
Engage in the major debates that affect world agriculture.

A farmer is someone getting their income from working on the land, planting crops or rearing animals for home consumption or commercial purposes. As trustee of the land, the farmer must maintain the quality of the soil and pass on his land to the next generation as a sustainable unit.

A dialogue is an exchange of facts, views and opinions; leading to a better outcome for all parties. According to Mr. John Ntimba, a former Ugandan ambassador to India who presided at the official launch of the African Farmers' Dialogue in November 2009, *"The concept of dialogue means that one listens twice as much as one talks."*

Farmers' Dialogues began in 1994 in Switzerland at an international conference centre, where farmers discussed ways to meet the growing challenges of feeding an expanding world population.

They are coordinated by committed people, voluntarily responding to the perceived needs in agriculture.

Vision, where farmers become the change we want to see in the world.

Where we think globally and act locally.
Where science and economics are geared to human need.
Where we base our actions on the principles of the International movement Initiatives of Change, and the four absolute standards of Honesty, Purity, Unselfishness and Love.
These ideals are proved to be essential for any process of human development.



Italy





Myanmar

Objectives

To create fresh thinking in the agriculture industry.

To empower farmers through their commitment and vision for the future.

To recognise that farming can be a way out of poverty.

To exchange ideas in order to master the challenges concerning water, soil erosion, environment.

Strike a proper balance between farming, forestry and mining in maintaining our soils.

Mobilize farmers for a united approach to agricultural development locally and internationally.

Open minds to our challenging fast changing world.

Give a voice to farmers in decision making and policies in agriculture.



India

Dialogue Activities

Share with urban based people the realities of food production.

International and regional dialogues.

Workshops and seminars on specific agricultural topics and practices

Capacity building training.

Field visits to see first hand the successes and failures in rural life and agricultural development in their own and other parts of the world.

Exchange programmes.

Challenges

There are many challenges facing farmers. Farmers' Dialogue stimulates farmers to find solutions, and concentrates on the role each person has to play.

Partnerships in achieving these goals:

Governments.

Non Government Organizations (NGO's) charities.

Farmers' Unions and agricultural organisations.

Educational Institutions.

Individuals.

Farmers' Dialogue is associate member of IofC international, which has Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and Participatory Status at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.



United Kingdom



France



Costa Rica

Farmers' Dialogues

Farmers' Dialogues are arranged at the request of farmers who see a need in their country. Dialogues can either be local, national or international. Previous Farmers' Dialogues have taken place in the following countries: -



Kenya

Year	Theme	Location	Country
2016	"The resilience of farmers and the future of the ASEAN farmers"	Battambang	Cambodia
2016	"Modifying Environment into Predictable Harvests"	Maharashtra	India
2015	"Together Promoting individual initiatives"	Mamoudzou & Acoua	Mayotte
2014	"Empowering women, remunerative technology and causes of suicide"	Maharashtra	India
2013	"Feeding the world, feeding DR Congo"	Bukavu	D R Congo
2012	"Training for Trainers. Equipping Farmers' to Train others"	Nyahururu	Kenya
2011	"Farmers: Men & Women working together for food security"	Ruhengeri	Rwanda
2011	"Developing Leadership Skills"	Kigali	Rwanda
2010	"Responding to the challenge of feeding Africa"	Kampala	Uganda
2008	"What limits agricultural production in our country"	Krynychky	Ukraine
2008	"Beyond subsistence farming, finding the means and the motivation"	Bungoma	Kenya
2007	"Building links between farmers"	Rzeszow	Poland
2007	"Facing the challenge of sustainable development and globalisation"	Angers	France
2006	"Poverty alleviation through training farmers"	Tanga	Tanzania
2006	"Exploring the contribution of small scale farmers"	Jharkhand	India
2005	"Exploring new models for rural development"	Panchgani	India
2004	"Changing direction to secure farmer's livelihoods worldwide"	Chiangmai	Thailand
2003	"What farmers can do to answer poverty and strengthen the economy"	Phnom Penh	Cambodia
2001	"Indian farmers meeting farmers from other countries"	Panchgani	India
2000	"Exploring the next steps"	Dresden	Germany
1998	"Growing European Union, its effects at home and in the world"	Plonsk	Poland
1996	"Seeds of hope in a changing agriculture"	Minneapolis	USA
1995	"The role of farmers in the world"	Caux	Switzerland
1994	"How farmers can best work together in Europe"	Caux	Switzerland

Through events Farmers' Dialogue has arranged there is a greater commitment to develop more sustainable farming methods, a greater commitment to existing systems. More trees are being planted and existing programmes improved. The role of women is being advanced, improved marketing systems for farmers, better links between town and city, a growing number of farms promoting new methods and becoming sources of inspiration to others, and where appropriate an increase of Bio intensive farming. These developments demonstrate the effect of personal change on the motivation to work sustainably for Rural development.



Uganda

To find out more contact:
International Farmers' Dialogue at internationalfd@iofc.org
or
African Farmers' Dialogue at africafd@iofc.org
or
Visit www.farmersdialogue.org



France

Farmers' Dialogue Participants



Thailand

Hajji Jamil Ssebalu from Uganda: is building links between urban and rural people. He developed the Kwami Bio Intensive Agricultural Vocational Centre, West of Kampala, where young people are taught basic life skills. The project has grown into two training schools with high technical and ethical standards and a secondary school where community leaders and farmers are learning to develop rural activities and Bio intensive agriculture.



D R Congo

Juliana Swai agricultural officer in Tanzania: Out of her concern for poverty stricken women whose husbands have deserted their wives, she trained these women in diary cattle management and enabling them to own a cow and provide food and income for their families.

Josepha Mariseli Tanzania: is one of the deserted wives helped by Juliana Swai and is encouraging others to take up dairy farming. Now she owns five dairy cows, has built herself a stone house and sends her children to school.

Claude Bourdin France: trained as an agricultural advisor. He is now involved in a number of developments in western France and is a coordinator of Farmers' Dialogue International.

George and Rebecca Kamau from Kenya: work as a team. George known locally as "Miti Mingi (Many Trees)" developed their one-acre farm demonstrating sustainable methods of land conservation and encouraging farmers to plant trees. Through his encouragement children at local schools, plant and look after a tree. Rebecca is also involved in a women's group focusing on HIV / AIDS.

Charles Gaikia Kenya: a young farmer part of George Kamau's team, is working with a group of young people helping them face the issues of HIV / AIDS, raising rabbits and sustainable farming methods.

Alice Wanja Kenya: practices what she has learnt from George and Rebecca: her garden is used as a demonstration for other farmers and she is closely involved in health issues with women's groups.

Gérard Barbé from Tréméry Eastern France: through Farmers' Dialogue, he changed his attitude to British farmers after meeting them on their farms. He has shared his experiences widely with farmers in Poland, USA and France to improve relations with others in the food chain and guiding policy makers.

Duncan Nduhiu, Kenya: concerned about poverty among farmers and the lack of markets for milk, he played a leading role in the launch and development of the Nyala Milk Collections scheme, now the largest milk collection scheme in Kenya. Commencing in 2000 with 210 members it has now grown to over 30,000 bringing new vitality to village life.

Jean-Pierre and Sylvie Emeriau France: They have become widely known for their GAEC, an association where farmers share their resources of land, livestock and equipment and work together in running their farms. He is president of the local branch of the Chambre d'Agriculture, dealing with all questions concerning rural and local development in his area. Both have been closely involved in Farmers' Dialogue in Asia and Africa.

Dr Kessy Tanzania: a man with a great concern for and care about farmers. With his sensitivity and wisdom, he helped farmers move from old established ways to more productive systems. Dr Kessy is instrumental in teaching young children to take part in their family's farming activities very early in life.

Julius Khakula Kenya: says he is challenged by the phrase "think global - act local". Acting locally on his farm, he is developing a bamboo plantation planning to use the fibre as a resource in making textiles. His wife who runs a school now cooks using biogas sourced from a bio gas plant using the effluent from his dairy cows. He also grows vegetables and maize and has ponds for fish production.

Chey Tech Cambodia: is a passionate promoter of the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) that is part of the National Strategic Development Plan. Through Farmers' Dialogues in Cambodia in 2003 and Thailand 2004, he talked about (SRI). He was permanent secretariat of SRI at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in 2005. By end of 2011 over 150,000 farmers were using SRI methods.



Rwanda

Shailendra Mahato India: He is a pioneer in his state of Jharkhand where he was one of the first to try new ways of growing rice using the SRI method and encourage others to take it up. He apologised to his political opponent, resulting in a new level of teamwork and greater success in their farming activities.



France



Cambodia

Troy Roush Indiana the United States: farms wheat, soya-beans and corn. He was vice president of the American Corn Growers Association and is a passionate campaigner for the rights of the family farm working for a vibrant farm sector in his country.

Martin Simtenda Tanzania: Senior lecturer at Buhuri Livestock Training Agency near Tanga. He has contacts with many agriculturists and farmers across his country and actively supports Farmers' Dialogue. He is a founding member of the African Farmers' Dialogue.



Tanzania

Jim Wigan, UK was raised on a farm in Suffolk. At the age of 25 he worked in Kenya for 4 years on a training scheme, teaching basic farming techniques. For the last 12 years Jim has given all his time encouraging the farmers he has met in many countries and is a coordinator of Farmers' Dialogue International.

Rosemary Namatsi is an expert in agriculture, both conventional and Bio Intensive farming. After gaining a B.Sc. in Agriculture in 2001 at the University of Nairobi, she applied for a post at Manor House Agricultural Centre in Kitale, Kenya. She says her contact with Farmers' Dialogue has helped her build unity with those she works with.

David Atodo Kenya: through taking responsibility for the situation in his area, he is supporting tree planting on Mount Elgon. He is also demonstrating plots of improved types of Millet and running a school for local children.

Alphonse Bisusa Democratic Republic of Congo: is involved with many initiatives, among them tree planting. He has recently giving up his right to family land, bringing peace and unity among his many relations.

Tawan Hangsoongnern from Thailand manages a farm that has developed organic rice growing to the point where it is as productive as conventional rice, without the cost of expensive chemical in-puts.

Bill and his late wife Phyllis, John and Jenny Bocoek farm near Edmonton, Alberta, Canada: Approaching retirement and wanting to save their land from urban development, in 2007 they sold 777 acres at a fraction of the appraised value to the University of Alberta, creating the St. Albert Research Station. It is now the site of experimental plots for the University, the Provincial and Federal Departments of Agriculture, 70 acres is leased to the Federal Department of Forestry for trials of fast growing hybrid willow and poplar varieties. In recognition the University established a 'Bocoek Chair' in Agriculture and Environment.

Jayashree Rao from Panchgani, India is closely involved in GRAMPARI, a project designed to overcome the barriers to development in Indian villages. It combines values-based training with a grassroots approach to rural development. Grampari is one of the few programmes that seek to inspire personal change, It has shown to be a powerful formula because it appeals to one's inner character. Grampari gives training in health and hygiene, water management, organic farming, sewing classes, computer classes, leadership skills and conflict resolution.

Phil Jefferys Australia: raised on a 50,000 acre sheep grazing property in an arid area of the country, now lives on a smaller farm and gives much of his time to support farmers. He has developed friendships with farmers in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas.

Khoun Chhoeut Cambodia, a country still recovering from the time of Pol Pot when most educated people were sent to the countryside and many were killed. He survived and is involved in helping poor families, enabling them to develop skills and raise their income. **Didacienne Mukahabeshimana** Rwanda: at a Farmers' Dialogue held in Rwanda in 2011 with the theme

'Farmers, Men and Women Working together for Food Security', Didacienne expressed her commitment to ensure that the meeting will lead to a further step in our mission to feed humankind.

Ove Jensen, Sweden: is a founder member of Farmers' Dialogue. He and his late wife Ingalill were dairy farmers. Together they raised four children who today are all involved in agriculture. Following the IofC principals of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love and heeding his conscience, Ove found this helped in his family life and

contributed to the sustainability of his farm. He became increasingly aware of the global need for food. This helped him see the importance of farming and the work he was doing as a member of the dairy production board in his region. Now at the age of eighty-six Ove continues to assist his son Tomas who runs the farm organically.



Uganda



Switzerland