

Farmers' Dialogue International

Dialogues from 1994 to 2018

Korea 2018
The role of family farming for a sustainable biotic community

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, 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 challenges 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 blue print for agriculture and 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 Europe

Switzerland 1995
The role of farmers in the world

Switzerland 1994
How farmers can best work together in Europe

Here is a selection of the people who are and have been involved in this programme.

- The late Ove Jensen - Sweden:** a dairy farmer and founding member of Farmers' Dialogue. Living by the IofC principals of honesty, purity, unselfishness, love and heeding his conscience, he was increasingly aware of the global need for food.
- Jayashree Rao - Panchgani, India:** is closely involved in GRAMPARI, a project designed to overcome the barriers in developing Indian villages with values-based training and a grassroots approach. A strong boost for one's inner character.
- Bill and his late wife Phyllis, John and Jenny Bocock - farm near Edmonton, Alberta, Canada:** 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.
- Alphonse Bisusa - Democratic Republic of Congo:** is involved with many initiatives, among them tree planting, for which he has been presented a United Nations award. He has great concern for the welfare of children and future generations.
- Jean-Pierre Emeriau - France:** has become widely known for his work with GAEC, an association where farmers share their resources of land, livestock and equipment and work together in running their farms, caring for their soil and livestock.
- G rard Barb  - 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.
- George and Rebecca Kamau - Kenya:** George known locally as "Miti Mingi (Many Trees)" developed their farm demonstrating sustainable land conservation. Rebecca is also involved in a women's group focusing on HIV / AIDS.
- Claude Bourdin - France:** trained as an agricultural advisor. He is now involved in a number of developments in Western France and works as a coordinator of Farmers' Dialogue International - visiting farmers from many diverse backgrounds.
- Juliana Swai - Tanzania:** an agricultural officer who out of her concern for poverty-stricken women, trained them in dairy cattle management enabling them to own cows and provide food and income for their families.
- Hajji Jamil Ssebalu - 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.
- Martin Simtenda - Tanzania:** Senior lecturer at Buhuri Livestock Agency in Tanga focusing on dairy cow management.
- Duncan Nduhiu - Kenya:** had a leading role in the development of the Nyala Milk Collections scheme, one of the largest in the country. Commencing in 2000 with 210 members it has now grown to over 30,000 bringing new vitality to village life.
- Phil Jefferys - Australia:** a retired farmer gives much of his time to support farmers world-wide. He has developed friendships with farmers and helped facilitate Farmers' Dialogues in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas.
- Shashika De Silva - Sri Lanka:** He believes we were born with the responsibility to serve others, maintaining the connection between the environment and human activity to make the world a better place. Food is the main connection. He is working to involve farmers and consumers in the task of accessing clean healthy food.
- Nob Nun - Cambodia:** is a leader of an Agricultural Cooperative, which is the most successful in the country. He has been a vegetable grower for 20 years. He trains farmers in his community about growing crops, food security and food safety. He also provides opportunities for university students and NGO workers to experience life on a farm.
- Monica and Colin Haworth - UK:** retired fruit growers, Monica joined the local agricultural chaplaincy team after the suicide of her eldest son. Part of her role is supporting farming families who are experiencing hard times. The care offered by the team made an immense contribution in helping people handle difficult personal issues.
- Dr Milton Melingasuk Lado Mogga - South Sudan:** chairperson of the board of Farmers' Dialogue, Dean of the school of natural resources which is running a programme to plant a million trees. He is curate in St. John Parish Juba.
- Biplab Mahato - Jharkhand, India:** Works with friends to solve 3 issues in the villages through Personal Change, Social Change and skills Development of Women and Youth Empowerment with health camps and nutrition awareness classes.
- Pierre Lokeka - Bukavu, DR Congo:** is active in FD-DRC and Centre Kitumaini, stimulating socio-economic integration of small farmers, especially abused women, helping rebuild their lives through health and school programs and agriculture.
- Jacinta Wanja - Kenya:** Started farming with Ksh 5000 renting 2 acres. Since then she has been helping poverty-stricken women improve their lives through farming and what she calls 'table banking' as a means of raising funds.
- Rosemary Namatsi - Kenya:** She trained people in Bio Intensive Agriculture built on the basis of "Think Global - Act Local". Her work influenced many people at home and in every country she visited before her untimely death from cancer.
- Jim Wigan - UK:** was raised on a farm in Suffolk. At the age of 25 he worked in Kenya for 4 years teaching basic farming techniques to Kenyan farmers. For many years Jim has given much of his time as a coordinator for Farmers' Dialogue International encouraging farmers in their endeavours to produce food using the latest sustainable systems.
- Mohamed Salif Ouedraogo - Burkina Faso:** a fruit-processing farmer. He is chairman of an organization training farmers in production and value adding. This program helps protect women and children from poverty. He values Farmers' Dialogue's approach in stimulating exchanges between farmers concerning sustainable farming systems.
- Dong-yeol LEE - South Korea:** believes organic farming should be a normal practice not an alternative to chemical farming. He grows sweet potatoes and mandarins and runs an organic bakery using farm products to make bread and jam. He wants to put farmers' names on products believing it is a way to build trust with consumers selling products direct to them.



Poland

The world's population depends on agriculture for its survival. Based on current agricultural experiences we need to expand global food production and the sustainable use of natural resources, building hope and a vision for the future as we ensure everyone receives their fair share.



D R Congo

The sustainable future we hope for needs to be built on trust, sharing and cooperation through all levels of society. The foundation for a secure future for humanity comes through the character of people who, to quote Mahatma Gandhi "Decide to be the change we want to see in the world". A guide to this are the personal standards of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love accompanied by times of quiet reflection as expressed by Initiatives of Change.

Farmers' Dialogue offers a platform for farmers, to exchange ideas, gather evidence and put into practice policies that improve the environment and repair climate change, producing the food the world needs whilst helping provide an adequate income for every family.

The following are some of the important issues affecting everyone directly or indirectly.

Climate change and extreme weather events are occurring while social unrest following unprecedented droughts, dramatic shortages of potable water and low crop yields is resulting in political upheaval and open warfare destabilising whole regions and governments.

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Uganda

Farming is the world's biggest industry – why in an industry that the world's population absolutely depends on for its very survival, is there so much poverty among its farmers?



Ukraine

Poverty-stricken farmers are leaving their land. Declining soil and water quality, steadily increasing soil erosion around the world combined with social and religious differences are creating conflict and mass migration with an estimated 65 million refugees seeking shelter in already overcrowded cities.

The on-going encroachment of urbanization over prime quality agricultural land removes this soil from agricultural use, as do the cases of uncontrolled extraction of coal and natural gas not only destroy food producing land but also contributing to the concentration of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere.

Over-allocation and use of surface water causing the levels in rivers and lakes to fall and, in many places, totally dry up, leading to the demise of native fish and fauna. This has the damaging effect of increasing demands on underground water resources, drastically lowering water tables and creating pollution and resulting in human migration to already over-crowded urban areas.

As we seek to build a sustainable future there needs to be trust through and from all levels of society. While profit for any business is an essential out-come, this focus must be environmentally and sustainably achievable with equity for all involved.

Economics and science should be geared to human need. Political, corporate and business leaders, must consider the needs of people and the natural environments incorporating sustainable management practices demonstrating how barriers can be broken down, trust and goodwill can be rebuilt.



Kenya



Cambodia



East Germany

The causes of these events need to be addressed at local level in an attempt to keep farmers and others on their homelands, giving them security of tenure. Farmers have a pivotal role in this massive task and their determination, experience and practical knowledge must be taken seriously when planning new policies.



Costa Rica

Farmers and policy-makers need to recognise that farming can be a way out of poverty. Opening minds to a challenging and rapidly changing world could give a voice in policy-making for agriculture and empowering farmers, men and women through their commitment and vision to produce food for our future generations with the vital security of land tenure.

Many consumers are sympathetic to the plight of farmers and need an understanding of what is involved in producing the food we depend on to survive. Visiting farms to experience first-hand the successes and failures of agricultural food production encourages users to buy locally grown food.



India

Farmers' Dialogues began in 1994 at an international conference centre in Switzerland, where farmers from around the world began to develop an understanding of how they could contribute to the



Thailand

changes needed to sustainably feed the increasing global population in rapidly changing and culturally diverse situations.

Dialogue activities include meeting farmers from other countries and cultures to see first-hand the similarities and sharing differences and challenges that land holders have in producing the food which many urban dwellers take for granted will be available.

These committed people are thinking globally and acting locally, voluntarily responding to the needs in agriculture. The values discussed attempt to break down barriers and build responsibility where a deficit of trust has become common in the modern world.



Tanzania

Farmers' Dialogue aims to create a safe place where farmers can discuss openly and honestly their hopes and concerns for farmers and the future of soil protection and food production and to encourage personal change in attitudes and commitment in order to demonstrate the potential for a new approach of sustainable agriculture and food



Rwanda

Future Dialogues are being considered to take place in South Sudan and Uzbekistan

To find out more contact:

International Farmers' Dialogue at internationalfd@iofc.org
or visit www.farmersdialogue.org

"Farmers' Dialogue International" is a legal association under Swiss law based in Geneva. It is an associate member of the International Association of Initiatives of Change, an NGO with Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations and Participatory Status with the Council of Europe.