

Dated 20 January 2017

Statement of Young Farmers GFFA 2017

We, as young farmers, are ready and motivated to face the challenge to feed a growing world population. We also need to ensure, however, that our futures are viable, sustainable, and profitable.

The importance of what we produce as farmers is critical for food safety and food security and water is central to this. The need for access to sustainable water is a social responsibility and is not just a necessity but a right.

Water is a global problem with local solutions. Policy makers must work together to fill information gaps, learn from one another and ensure that farmers, consumers, scientists and policy makers have access to the information they need.

We, the young farmers, propose the following:

1. Involve farmers and especially young farmers in the decision making process. As young farmers, we are educated, connected and innovative. Therefore, we are more inclined to work together and find solutions.
2. Agriculture has a role in every part of government. It therefore needs to be a central part of government policy making and should be appropriately funded.
3. Water, energy and food are integrated ecosystems. Incentivizing sustainable management of water and its ecosystems is crucial for sustainable production of food by farmers.
4. Give more opportunities to young farmers to access land, credit, markets, technology, innovation and education. We need to make the rural areas more attractive to avoid their abandonment, taking in consideration the role played by farmers in protecting the environment and its resources.
5. As farmers, we are the local resource for global policies to be implemented. The future of food security is dependent on farmers on the ground.
6. Ensure that the economic value of each drop of water is maximized.
7. Policies need to be introduced that promote the responsible use of water for all citizens.
8. Consumers need to be educated on where their food comes from and how it was produced.
9. Measures need to be introduced to improve water quality coming from alternative sources such as groundwater, waste water or cities.
10. Measures need to be introduced in each country to improve the storage capacity of water such as traditional methods like reservoirs or innovative methods to improve soil fertility.

We, the young farmers of GFFA 2017, would like to thank the German Ministry of Food and Agriculture for the invitation to take part in this special event and thank all of you for the opportunity to present our vision to you.