



Nuffield International Farming Scholars to invited to attend, participate in United Nations Committee on World Food Security (CFS) 2018 Plenary Session in Rome, Italy, October 2018

The Nuffield International Farming Scholars program holds as a core principle the idea that agriculture is the foundation of a stable society. As Nuffield International expands its global footprint by selecting Scholars from developed and developing nations, there is increased opportunity to have these farmers and leaders in the agriculture industry to be part of the conversations and activities that address hunger, food security, production, and community development around the world. This includes an increasing participation by Nuffield Scholars with platforms such as the United Nations Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

The CFS is the United Nation's forum for reviewing, following up on, and crafting international policies concerning food security and nutrition. It was established as a result of the food crisis of the 1970s and reformed in 2008 to become the most inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders, including farmers, to work together to ensure food security and good nutrition for all. CFS is comprised of participants representing the private sector, civil society, research organizations, philanthropic institutions, member states, and others.

Each October, CFS convenes a weeklong plenary session at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, Italy. During this free to attend, public gathering, there is a plenary session, side events organized by attendees, poster sessions, networking events, bilateral meetings with member states, and more. It is an extraordinary opportunity to connect with leaders in world food security and to form personal and professional connections with people from all over the world.

Nuffield International is a member of the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM), the platform by which private sector participants, including farmers and agricultural small and medium enterprises (SMEs), engage with CFS both during the October plenary session and in its work throughout the rest of the year. As a member, Nuffield International contributes to PSM's work in Nutrition, Agroecology, Youth in Agriculture, Partnerships, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and other key workstreams. All Nuffield Scholars are welcome to [register for](#) and attend CFS as members of the PSM delegation.

At CFS45, which will take place October 15-19, 2018 in Rome, Nuffield Scholars will have a range of opportunities to play an active part in CFS activities. There are two side events focused on youth in agriculture which have in the past featured Nuffield Scholars in panelist positions. The Side Events that Nuffield International will participate in this year are: *Agripreneurship Policy and the Future of Agriculture*, and *Challenges and Opportunities for Youth in Agriculture: Perspectives from Future Leaders*. Side events are attended by a large cross-section of CFS delegates and [a very well-attended side event](#) co-hosted by Nuffield International in 2017 had almost 85 attendees.

Another highlight of each CFS plenary session is the High Level Dinner, an even organized by the PSM. The theme for the 2018 dinner is “Engaging, Recruiting, and Retaining Youth in Agriculture,” and as such there will be ample roles for Nuffield Scholars. Young ag leaders from several exceptional organizations, including Nuffield International, will guide roundtable discussions on key challenges inhibiting meaningful engagement of young people in farming and agricultural professions.

PSM will have several opportunities to make comments during the plenary session of CFS45. The PSM members who deliver these remarks volunteer to do so, and many Nuffield Scholars have already expressed interest in taking on this incredibly important and high profile role.

In addition to the formal activities of CFS week, there are also numerous organized and impromptu opportunities for networking. Historically, Nuffield Scholars have brought a great amount of energy and relevance to these gatherings, since they are people with true personal experience in farming and agriculture. (To underscore the impact of this, note that there were no private sector actors – including farmers! – at CFS until 2011.) These opportunities range from connecting with peers to being invited to represent PSM at a meeting with the Director General of FAO.

Nuffield International engagement with the Committee on World Food Security via the Private Sector Mechanism has increased each year. Current Scholars have built CFS into their travel schedules, and other members of the Nuffield network have returned year after year, setting aside this week in October despite their own full work schedules. The fact that busy farmers, business owners, researchers, and entrepreneurs make time to attend CFS is a testament to the event’s important role in situating the Nuffield experience within a larger context. International food policy affects farms and businesses, but too often it requires unreasonable effort to understand the inner workings of these complex and bureaucratic processes.

CFS is a way to get a grasp on the key highlights of food policy and take that information back home for implementation and preparation. Nuffield Scholars are at the forefront of putting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into real practice, and CFS provides knowledge and connections to amplify their impact.

As we all look to feed a growing world population, being part of these global forums and efforts focusing on food security and production is more critical now than ever before. It is particularly imperative that the voices of those active in the agriculture industry be part of the conversation.

We encourage Nuffield Scholars to consider participating in the CFS session October 15-19, 2018 in Rome, and to engage with PSM to stay connected to the efforts happening around the world on food security, agriculture, and the SDGs.

For more information on the Nuffield International Farming Scholars program, contact Dr. Jean Lonie, Nuffield International Relationship Manager, by emailing jean@nuffieldinternational.org.

For details on the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM) or the [International Agri-Food Network](#) (IAFN), contact April Dodd by emailing april@emergingag.com.