



# NGIN ANNUAL REPORT



**NGIN**  
NextGen Ag Impact Network

# 2024

## ANNUAL REPORT



***Dear Reader,***

*In 2024, NGIN ran its third cohort of ambassadors. NGIN is no longer a 'start-up' initiative but has continued to evolve and professionalize. While there were some growing pains along the way, we never lost sight of why NGIN is on earth. Youth are not only the future; they are the present. It is our duty to support their journey to becoming even stronger changemakers in collaboration with today's leaders. This shared belief unites us and keeps the energy flowing.*

*Transitioning from an NGIN ambassador to a member of the NGIN organization team, I have experienced firsthand the importance of that shared belief. Whether as a board member, partner, secretary, treasurer, co-chair, or youth ambassador, we all invest in NGIN alongside our jobs or studies. Many hours of work go unseen, such as the efforts of our treasurer. What drives us is an inner motivation to contribute to something beyond personal growth - something that serves the collective good.*

*This Annual Report will guide you through NGIN's year in 2024. You'll find a summary of achievements in the section "NGIN in Numbers." However, the true meaning behind these numbers can be found throughout the report. Co-chair Ebunoluwa shares her reflections in an interview, while incoming chair Mario provides an outlook for 2025.*







*Throughout the year, numerous leadership sessions and NGIN T contributed to the knowledge and skill development of both ambassadors and NGINeers. The diversity of the NGIN network is reflected in the wide variety of topics covered during these sessions.*

*Key milestones we are proud of include the NGIN Flagship event, co-hosted by the World Food Forum during their Flagship, the NGIN delegation that participated in the Africa Food System Summit, and the delegation that attended the World Seed Congress.*

*NGIN would not be NGIN without our ambassadors. Their reflections, captured in quotes, are featured throughout the report. Don't forget to look at their faces and remember: each and every one of them is a changemaker of today and tomorrow. Together with them, thousands of young people are striving for a better food system. Our work is far from done.*

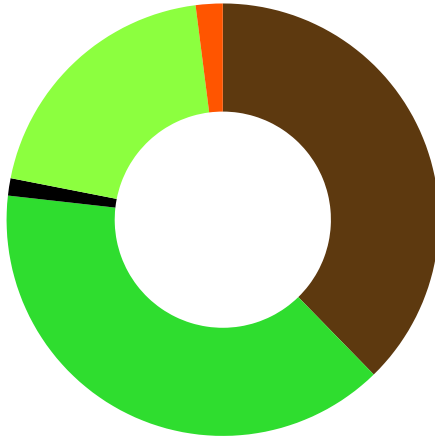
*Together, we can create a ripple effect and build the future we want.*





# NGIN in numbers

## Reach



### Instagram

1424 NGINeers

### LinkedIn

1476 NGINeers

### Facebook

49 NGINeers since  
september 2024

### Newsletter

752 NGINeers

### NGIN App

76 NGINeers

## 10 Leadership sessions

TOPIC	SPEAKER	ORGANISATION	DATE
Futuristic Framework	Jack Keays	IFAMA	January
Future leadership in transitional challenge	Xander Beks	I4Nature	February
Importance of seeds	Priscilla Zúñiga	IICA	March
		ISF	April
Ignite your spark	Magan Lewis	Bayer	May
Elevator Pitching	Simon Pampeña		June
Exploring permaculture for sustainable farming and community build	Giuseppe Sannicandro	GCSAYN	July
Leadership & soft skills training for advocacy	David Bermudez	AHA	September & October (3x total)





## 4 NGIN Talks

TOPIC	SPEAKER	MODERATOR	DATE
How to communicate science to a broader audience	David Spencer	Grace Tiwari	March
Empowering Youth in Agriculture through Public Speaking and Social Media	Katia Hougaard	Siti Muniggar Nurul Farhain	April
Unlocking the Heart & Mind of Effective Stakeholder Affairs in Social Entrepreneurship”	Ingrid Pámanes	Alina Weinbrenner	July
Get engaged! UN Youth Participation Mechanisms	Omar Farhate	Maria Jose Calderon	September

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## 3 International Events

World Seed Congress  
Africa Food System summit  
World Food Forum

## 60 Ambassadors



**2024**

15 ambassadors

**2023**

20 ambassadors

**2022**

25 ambassadors



## 18 Organisations:

### 10 Board Members

Bayer  
CSAYN  
Youth Alliance for Zero Hunger  
IICA  
I4NATURE  
SDSN  
Generation Africa  
IAAS world  
Nuffield  
IFAMA



### 5 Partners

Wikifarmers  
Thought for food  
Industry disruptors  
ELFIN consulting  
World Food Forum

### 4 Projectpartners

ISF  
Rijk Zwaan  
Andreas Hermes Akademie

**“The Flagship event strengthened my resolve to continue advocating for just transition and sustainable practices in agriculture.”**

- Winnie, Wambugu, NGIN ambassador 2024





# About NGIN

The NextGen Agriculture Impact Network (NGIN) is a transformative platform designed by and for emerging leaders in agriculture. It empowers young innovators to actively participate in global agricultural ecosystems, driving progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). NGIN fosters inclusivity, collaboration, and diversity, creating a multistakeholder and intergenerational environment for co-creating impactful programs.

NGIN's uniqueness lies in its broad network, uniting diverse actors such as corporate entities, nonprofits, think tanks, farmers' collectives, policymakers, and youth groups. Together, they advocate for and implement transformative actions in agriculture and food systems. By amplifying young voices and equipping them with opportunities to shape decisions, NGIN builds a future where next-generation leaders spearhead sustainable, science-driven transformations in agriculture.

## Vision

Our vision is that young changemakers in agriculture become the agricultural leaders of the future who impact on the ecological, economic, and social transformation of food systems.

## Mission

Our mission is to empower a purpose driven NextGen Ag Leadership movement with the ultimate goal of creating a more sustainable and prosperous future in agriculture.

## NGINeers

NGINeer [noun] | [en-jə-'nir] a young person in agriculture dedicated to putting good agricultural and food systems knowledge to practical use towards the UN SDGs. Comes up with big, hairy, audacious ideas to change the world on a regular basis. Typically, never gives up until a problem is solved and will insist on making agriculture attractive for future generations.







# What is NGIN through the eyes of Ambassadors?

After three years of NGIN, we hope that you all know what NGIN stands for. But what is NGIN for the ambassadors?

"NGIN is a dynamic platform where young professionals and innovators in agriculture come together to drive sustainable change. NGIN offers incredible opportunities to learn from global experts, gain hands-on experience in policy and advocacy and connect with like-minded individuals dedicated to transforming the agrifood system. It goes beyond knowledge-sharing; NGIN fosters real skill development, from leadership to technical expertise, empowering you to make a tangible impact in your field."

"NGIN advances youth participation and engagement in agriculture through meaningful networking learning events."

"NGIN is a dynamic network that unites agricultural youth leaders from around the globe. It empowers young individuals to become transformative leaders in the agri-food sector by providing access to resources, training and networking opportunities. Through NGIN, we are equipped to drive innovative solutions, advocate for sustainable practices and influence policy changes that address urgent challenges in food and climate resilience. Joining NGIN means being part of a collective effort to shape a more sustainable and equitable future for agriculture."

"NGIN allows youth to connect with inspiring people from around the globe, share ideas and work towards innovative solutions for global food and agricultural challenges. NGIN's commitment to empowering young leaders has been invaluable and motivated to continue making a difference together."

"NGIN with its strategic collaboration and partnerships, empowers each and every one of the youth to reach their maximum potential. Thereby contributing to decisions in all aspects of the food system on a global, holistic level while involving regional-level analysis. The network of 'family' among ambassadors, while also being connected with global mentors and leaders, is invaluable to move forward."



# Meet the ambassadors

The Ambassadors Group is a dynamic team of young leaders from agricultural backgrounds, representing diverse regions, expertise, and perspectives. This group works collaboratively to amplify the voices of youth in global discussions, bridging the gap between local perspectives and international decision-making platforms. As ambassadors, they embody the spirit of advocacy, innovation, and inclusivity, striving to implement positive changes to address global challenges such as food security, climate change, and sustainable development. They serve as key stakeholders in driving impactful change within their respective communities and beyond.



**Siti Muningggar**

Indonesia

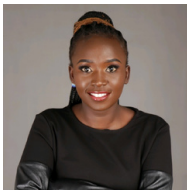
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**Anita Giabardo**

USA

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**Winnie Wambugu**

Kenya

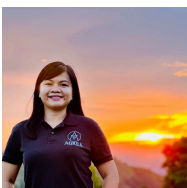
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**Crescentia Mushobozi**

Tanzania

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**Christine Jodloman**

Philippines

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**Nikita Sonkar**

India

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**Abdullah Maruf**

Bangladesh

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# Meet the ambassadors



**Nanahauwa Zubair-Abdulrahman**

Nigeria

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**Johan Sebastian Chavez**

Colombia

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**Harbert Mawejje**

Uganda

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**Maria Jose Cervantes**

Costa Rica

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**Victoria Laird**

United States of America

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**Bruno Ferreira**

Bolivia

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**Andrea Villalba**

Argentina

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**David Mornout**

The Netherlands

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# NGIN - ISF Delegation

For the first time, NGIN participated in the World Seed Congress (WSC), hosted by the International Seed Federation (ISF). A delegation of ambassadors from the 2022 and 2023 cohorts, as well as some selected youth from partner organizations, was formed. Unfortunately, two of them were unable to join in person due to visa issues, despite having all the correct documents.



**Md. Mahadi Hasan Tushar**

Bangladesh



**Tulisha Malichi**

Zambia, located in Costa Rica



**Nimesh-kumar Gorani**

India, located in Germany



**Nick Blumenthal**

USA



**Lian Biar Kuoirot**

South Sudan, located in Costa Rica



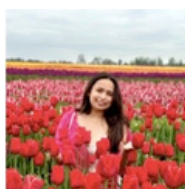
**Jhanira Nancy Rodriguez Torrez**

Bolivia



**Jean Claude Niyomugabo**

Rwanda



**Grace Tiwari**

Nepal, currently USA



# NGIN - ISF Delegation



**Ebunoluwa Ajobiewe**

Nigeria, located in Italy



**Alperen Öztürk**

Turkey, located in Japan



**Rabi Raut**

Nepal



**Abdulkabir Omeiza Abdulmalik**

Nigeria, located in Germany



**Gugulethu Mahlangu**

South Africa



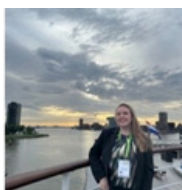
**Lucy Chioma Aniagolu**

Nigeria



**Claire Taylor**

UK



**Courtney Davies**

New Zealand



**Emiliano Agustín Barbero**

Argentina, located in the EU



# Chair interview - Ebunoluwa Ajobiewe

**On a scale of 1-10, how much do you feel NGIN has advanced in its mission to empower a purpose-driven NextGen Ag Leadership movement? Could you elaborate on your rating?**

My rating is 9. The mission to empower a purpose-driven NextGen Ag Leadership movement to create a more sustainable and prosperous future in agriculture has come a long way. Young changemakers in agriculture who have gone through the Ambassadors program bear witness to the fulfillment of the NGIN vision so far. The rocket effect in the NGIN logo represents accelerated growth and this holds when you look at the truly global leaders NGIN has impacted in the short space of three years, every one of them is still impacting the ecological, economic, and social transformation of our agri-food systems. I think this is commendable and it is thanks to the leadership, support, and partnerships that have been put in from the beginning.

**Reflecting on your tenure as NGIN Co-chair 2024, what were the greatest challenges you faced, and how well is NGIN prepared to overcome similar challenges in the future?**

My time as co-chair has been an invaluable experience for me, reflecting as far back as when I applied for the role. I proposed to work on the model of engagement so that everyone who comes in contact at any point can know where we are and easily identify with NGIN. So, when we started as co-chairs with my colleague Sophie, we identified the gaps and set our goals, I focused most of my efforts on improving internal engagement and activities, and although we did not arrive at the 100% mark, I am pleased with the progress made and the existing opportunities for the new leadership to consolidate it. Furthermore, one of the ways NGIN makes a difference in the world is by elevating young agricultural leaders to meaningful fora and important policy dialogues to achieve global youth capacitation, advocacy, and Impact. This needs increased funding as well as increased support and enablement from the different visa- issuing authorities. I have high hopes that the new year comes with new opportunities and partnerships to grow NGIN for the accelerated and amplified impact that sees young people continue to have true seats at the decision-making tables.



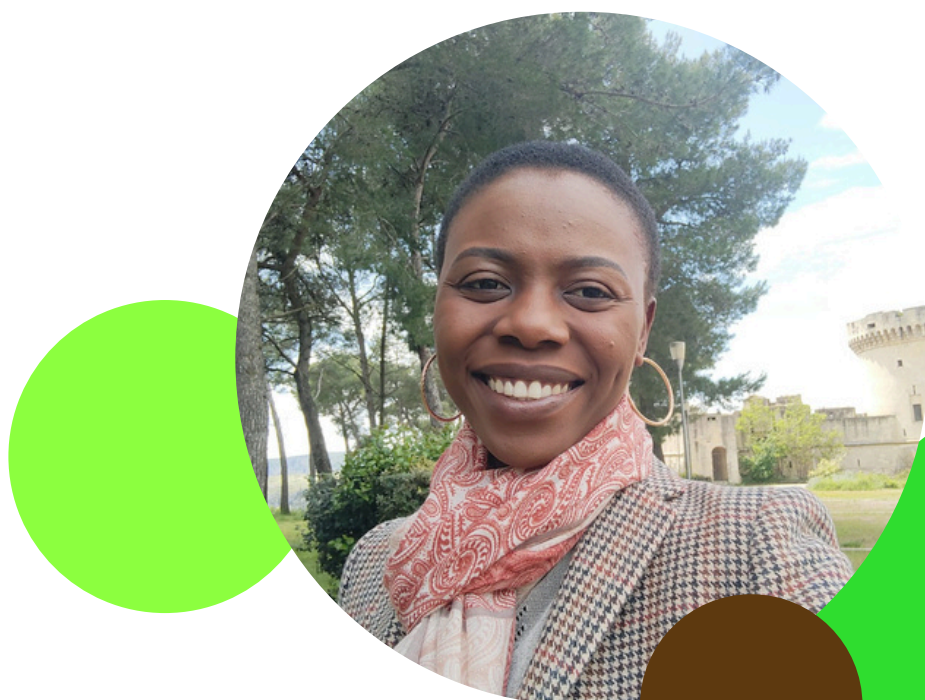


**NGIN has made significant progress in the last year, during which she clocked three years of impact. What do you envision for NGIN's future?**

The kind and quality of young leaders that NGIN has rallied in its short time of existence, has made the network stand out as the go-to network for advocacy in agriculture globally. NGIN is the first global platform including all relevant stakeholders across the agricultural system and most importantly the voice and ideas of youth in global advocacy spaces, propelling advocacy and action for the UN SDGs and a fertile ground for intergenerational and multistakeholder connectedness.

The next few years should see, in line with the laid down strategy, the strengthening of the key NGIN milestones like the annual flagships and partnership programs for effective advocacy, leadership capacitation plus youth-led webinars and projects, case studies, and more, UN accreditation and participation, initiatives for local impact, continuous mentoring and open-minded co-creation, all the while taking a well-informed approach from the starting years and forging ahead with ample opportunities for innovation.

I would love to highlight the Joint Advocacy Statement co-created and launched in Rome by the 2024 NGIN Ambassadors which is a well-crafted and concrete positioning output that serves as a compass for all who are engaging and advocating for better policies toward a sustainable and prosperous future of our agricultural and food systems. Like this, are the 2022 Ambassadors' Manifesto and 2023 Ambassadors' Call to Action. I am confident that it can only get better from here and I extend my best wishes to the new leadership team as they receive the baton to take NGIN to the next level.





# Milestones

## Selection of 2024 ambassador

Over 350 young people applied to become an NGIN ambassador. The selection process was challenging, requiring over five extensive meetings to carefully and critically select ambassadors with diverse backgrounds that align with NGIN's principles and objectives. It is inspiring to see that NGIN has reached so many young people from all over the globe. Even more so, it is remarkable to witness how many of them are eager to contribute to a better food system. In the end, we selected 15 young people, each from a different country and collectively representing five continents.

The ambassador community is truly exceptional, with ambassadorship being a lifelong role within a growing network of individuals who are taking on key positions in the global agricultural nexus.





## **Advocacy, leadership & soft skills training**

The leadership sessions are an essential part of NGIN. They encompass a comprehensive range of knowledge and skills training, provided by board members and partners. These sessions are tailored to meet the needs of the ambassadors and support their growth as future leaders.

For example, the Andreas Hermes Akademie (AHA) facilitated three online workshops and one in-person session to guide the 2024 cohort in developing their Joint Advocacy Statement (see page 26). Starting from their own experiences with barriers and opportunities in agriculture within their regions, they worked towards a shared vision of transforming the food system. The workshops offered valuable training in active listening, collaborative leadership, and much more.

**I will bring home the message that strong interpersonal skills are just as crucial as technical knowledge in creating impact, especially when engaging diverse stakeholders in global discussion.**

- Winnie Wambugu, NGIN ambassador 2024







## NGIN Talks

NGIN is not only for our ambassadors but for everyone who identifies as an NGINeer. Through the NGIN talks, we engaged with and strengthened the entire community. As part of the NGIN Science2Seed initiative, David Spencer shared insights on effective science communication. Katia Hougaard led an energetic, hands-on session on public speaking, boosting participants' confidence to take the stage.

NGIN partner ELFIN Consulting demonstrated the power of social entrepreneurship through the practical example of "Laptops Con Causa." With the message, "Emotions create connections, connections create change," Ingridt Pámanes emphasized the importance of building meaningful relationships.

Lastly, Omar Farhate shared strategies for effective youth engagement within the UN system. This session empowered participants to navigate UN structures and foster meaningful participation with decision-makers.

TOPIC	SPEAKER	MODERATOR	DATE
How to communicate science to a broader audience	David Spencer	Grace Tiwari	March
Empowering Youth in Agriculture through Public Speaking and Social Media	Katia Hougaard	Siti Muniggar Nurul Farhain	April
Unlocking the Heart & Mind of Effective Stakeholder Affairs in Social Entrepreneurship"	Ingrid Pámanes	Alina Weinbrenner	July
Get engaged! UN Youth Participation Mechanisms	Omar Farhate	Maria Jose Calderon	September





# Flagship event & World Food Forum

The annual Flagship Program is the cornerstone of each cohort's experience. Ambassadors gather in one specific location to actively participate in a significant food forum, creating a platform for advocacy. This year, the 2024 cohort joined the World Food Forum (WFF), organized by the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), from October 10th to 19th, where our NGIN Flagship was co-hosted.

The program began with NGIN training specifically designed to enhance leadership skills. It included a field trip, two workshop days focused on leadership, and a tour of the ancient city of Rome. The result: a well-prepared and highly engaged cohort working together to achieve collective goals and meaningful impact, ready to shine at the World Food Forum, an FAO event emphasizing youth participation.

During the World Food Forum, ambassadors actively participated in various sessions and side events. To give you a glimpse of the week: NGIN ambassador chair, Maweije, delivered an inspiring speech during the Opening Ceremony of the WFF. Additionally, Johan Sebastian took the stage and delivered an impressive pitch during the AgX Fair Finals.

NGIN, organized by David, Bruno, and Inggar, hosted its own side event on Just Transition. Alongside IAAS and IFSA, another side event on integrative land management was held, with Christine as a key speaker. This session was one of the few that allowed everyone in the room to actively participate in the dialogue. Maria José, who is also part of WFF's Youth Policy Board, played an important role in the Youth Assembly and the Global Youth Action Plan. NGIN was also represented in the exhibition show. Between sessions, impactful meetings took place.

The co-creation of the flagship event with the ambassadors was evident in the informal meetings they organized themselves, such as those with the Deputy Director-General, the head of the WFF, and UN youth representatives. The teamwork was exceptional: sharing contacts, networking for one another, supporting speakers, and amplifying the power of being united as a group.



# Flagship in Numbers

- 1 field trip: Hosted by Bayer
- 2 workshops:
  - Advocacy and soft skills hosted by AHA
  - Connective leadership hosted by I4Nature
- 1 NGIN side event: The Road to Agri-Food System Change: Just Transition and Biotech in Action
- 1 collaborative side event: Organized with I4Nature, IAAS, and IFSA on AFULO Integrative Land Management for Food Sustainability, where Christine was one of the panellists.
- 1 Launch of the Joint Advocacy Statement by Tori
- 1 Meeting with the Deputy Director-General
- 1 Speech in the Opening Ceremony by Maweijie
- 1 pitch AgX Fair finals by Johan Sebasation
- Participation in over 6 side events by Andrea, Winnie, Maweijie, Maria José and Lian.
- 5 social dinners, featuring cuisines from Italy (hosted by Rijk Zwaan), Mexico, Malaysia, India, and Nigeria.

**The social activities and dinners were the important spaces where I got to bond more with other NGIN ambassadors. It's during these times where we got to learn more about each other, our favorite food or sport, and what we like to cook for example.**

Christine Jodloman, NGIN Ambassador 2024





# World Seed Congress

In May 2024, the first NGIN-ISF delegation joined the World Seed Congress (WSC) in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. From the 2022 and 2023 cohorts, 14 ambassadors were selected to be part of the delegation: Rabi, Emiliano, Alperen, Ebunoluwa, Claire, Jhanira, Nick, Courtney, Lucy, Jean Claude, Tulisha, Tushar, Abdulkabir, and Gugulethu. In partnership with the International Seed Federation (ISF), preparatory workshops were held to explore the world behind seeds. Additionally, NGIN ambassadors co-organized some of the events. The preparation paid off well, as the participation of NGIN ambassadors at the WSC was a great success. All ambassadors were actively involved in nine different side events, either as moderators or panelists.

On the first day, Lian kicked off the week by delivering a powerful keynote speech during the Opening Ceremony, leaving a deep impression on the audience. Inter-generational exchanges took place during the Future Generation speed-dating networking session. The interactive "Organized Chaos" session resulted in various scenarios for the future of the seed sector. A burst of energy and fun filled the room during the Biotechnology Quiz—truly capturing the youth spirit!

Not one, but two major NGIN announcements were launched at the WSC! First, NGIN introduced the Science2Seeds group, an initiative led by ambassadors to promote science communication to the public. Second, NGIN is going local! I4Nature initiated the Dutch NGIN network to address regional challenges and kick-start activities for forming a Dutch NGIN Chapter.

## Reflection of ISF

Having the NGIN delegation join us during our centennial celebration was one of the highlights of the Congress. They provided fresh insights and fostered a two-way exchange. Their energy, especially at the Future Generation Corner, reminded us to welcome the voices that will shape our future.







## Meeting the King

One extraordinary moment was the meeting with the King of the Netherlands, offering a unique opportunity to emphasize the importance of youth participation. His Majesty even signed (with a smile) the NGIN mascot, further empowering the voice of youth.



## WSC in numbers

- 15 Ambassadors
- Meeting with the King of the Netherlands
- Opening Speech by NGIN Ambassador Lian
- One Future Generation Speed Dating Network Session
- One "Organised Chaos" Session to sketch different future scenarios with the audience
- Launch of NGIN's Science2Seed Initiative
- Launch of the Dutch NGIN Chapter
- One Energetic Biotechnology Quiz
- Participation in 9 different sessions:
  1. ABS for DSI
  2. Access to Seed
  3. Clever Minds Got Dirty Hands
  4. Consumer Perception
  5. Designing the Future
  6. IP
  7. Seed Resilience
  8. Sowing Social Responsibility
  9. Women's Luncheon
- One Field Trip Day





# Participation in the Africa Food System Summit (AFS)

The Africa Food Systems Forum (AFS Forum) 2024, held from September 2-6 in Kigali, Rwanda, gathered over 4,900 participants, including 1,400 youth. With the support of AGRA, four NGIN ambassadors – Maweije, Winnie, Nanahauwa, and Crescentia – joined this five-day event focused on Food System Transformation in the Digital and Climate Era. The ambassadors engaged in networking, exchanged ideas, and gained exposure to groundbreaking innovations shared by young leaders, solidifying their role as champions of change for African agriculture.

A key highlight was the Youth Dome, a dynamic space where many sessions were held on food security, climate resilience, and innovations. The launch of the African Youth Position on Agriculture, Policy, and Climate underlined the importance of youth-inclusive policies, improved access to finance, and climate-smart agricultural practices.

During the Youth Hackathon, NGIN ambassadors contributed innovative ideas: Maweije led his team in developing the “Ubuntu Youth Agri-Incubation Hub,” while Nanahauwa collaborated with her team to design a platform focused on Decent Work. Nanahauwa’s team won the Hackathon prize of \$1,000, showcasing the practical value of their solution. Crescentia played a key mentoring role and shared her expertise on several panels.

In addition to the activities in the Youth Dome, there were plenty of opportunities to connect with other stakeholders, such as the FAO’s youth coordinator and representatives from the International Vegetable Centre.

The AFS Forum left the NGIN ambassadors inspired and motivated to continue championing sustainable agriculture, youth empowerment, and climate action.





# Board members



## Silvia Castellano Saco

IICA  
Treasurer

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## Xander Beks

I4NATURE  
Board Member

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## Alperen Öztürk

IAAS  
Board member

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## Bev Flatt

Bayer  
Board member

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## Domenico Vito

CSAYN  
Board member

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## Mario Nabuliri

Youth Alliance for Zero Hunger  
Board member, next chair for 2025

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## Sophie Nabuliri

AGRA  
Co-chair

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## Ebunoluwa Ajobiewe

Youth Alliance for Zero Hunger  
Co-chair

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## Maria Gabriela Cordova Diaz

SDSN  
SDSN representative

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# Board members 2024



“What inspired me were the words: “the seed (youth) can only flourish when there is good soil (enabling environment)”. Often there is a lot of pressure on youth that “they can do it all”; but without resources and an enabling environment, this is not possible.

- David Mornout, NGIN Ambassador 2024







## Partners 2024



**WIKIFARMER**



**thought  
for  
food**



**ELFIN**  
CONSULTING



WORLD  
FOOD  
FORUM

GLOBAL  
YOUTH  
ACTION

GOOD FOOD FOR ALL, TODAY AND TOMORROW

## Projectpartners 2024



**ISF** International Seed Federation  
Seed is Life



ANDREAS  
HERMES  
AKADEMIE



Meaningful connections fuel success—surround yourself with those who believe in your dreams. A heartfelt thanks to the incredible ISF - NGIN team for empowering young people and shaping a brighter future through unwavering dedication and impactful leadership!

- Lian Biar, Helping Create a Food Secure Future for All  
|Global Youth Ambassador | Entrepreneur



# Call To Action - Joint Advocacy Statement

## Introduction

Our agricultural and food systems face immense and interwoven challenges that threaten our future. Across the globe, we are being asked to feed a growing population with fewer resources, while also navigating ever-evolving crises and changing landscapes. Our agri-food system must innovate and transform to meet these obstacles under increasing uncertainty and risk while at the same time ensuring all are included.

As NGIN Ambassadors, we believe youth can create positive change to address these insurmountable challenges. As the leaders of tomorrow, it is our responsibility to innovate, advocate, and act now to create a more resilient and sustainable agri-food system for future generations. Our response to today's challenges should not amplify tomorrow's challenges; rather, it should mitigate negative impacts, reduce barriers, and build resilience.

In this statement, we outline the challenges affecting us in social equity, food security, climate change and sustainability, innovation and entrepreneurship, and research and technology, while calling forth the transformations we seek in our agri-food systems.

Together, we can ensure a future that offers a better world for everyone.



**We learned to become effective leaders and value others.**

- Siti Muninggar (Inggar) Nurul Farhain, Ambassador 2024





## **Social equality and just transition**

Our agri-food systems are crucial to global food security and rural livelihoods, yet they exhibit a stark gap in social equity that surpasses other sectors. The current demographic trends reveal an aging producer population, compounded by a decline in generational exchange. Gender disparities persist, with women in agriculture facing systemic challenges that perpetuate inequalities. Despite some progress, women continue to receive lower wages and encounter significant barriers to land ownership, access to financing, and fulfilling pre-established caregiving roles, all exacerbated by entrenched patriarchal systems.

These inequalities are exacerbated in marginalized and indigenous communities, who face additional layers of discrimination. These groups experience limited access to land, loss of ancestral knowledge, inadequate financial resources, and systemic biases that further hinder their participation in our agri-food systems. The urgency of these challenges is amplified by a triple planetary crisis characterized by climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, which need a response from our primary and secondary sector. However, this transformation often overlooks the needs of vulnerable populations, especially young and women producers, who often lack access to the necessary resources and opportunities to adapt.

Addressing these multifaceted challenges requires a deep commitment to inclusion and social justice within the transformation of agri-food systems. Effective inclusion of young people is essential, promoting the transfer of knowledge and rights to empower future generations. Moreover, it is vital to recognize and uphold women's rights and to address existing inequities across genders. Marginalized and indigenous peoples' rights must also be prioritized, valuing their knowledge and practices as integral components of sustainable systems.



Policymakers and institutions play a crucial role in this process. To achieve these goals, inclusive policies must be developed, alongside the recognition of rights and the establishment of networks and strategic alliances that bridge various sectors, including academia.

Specific solutions can facilitate further transformation. These include not only creating platforms for dialogue between indigenous populations, government, and private sectors, but also facilitating youth access to essential knowledge and support to engage meaningfully in the transformation and resilience of our agri-food systems.

Social equity must also guarantee women's rights and recognize their work, improving fair remuneration and access to resources, while guiding equitable and horizontal social relations between men and women. Dignifying the agricultural workforce will also help attract the next generation to this vital sector by providing fair incomes, incentives for transformation, access to services that promote well-being, and opportunities for innovation linked to indigenous and local farming practices.

It is imperative to collaborate to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable populations within agri-food systems. By fostering inclusivity and recognizing the diverse contributions of all stakeholders, we can pave the way for a more equitable and sustainable future.



**Farmers are the world's greatest artists. Seeing this message everywhere at the World Food Forum, made me proud to be there as a farmer.**

- Johan Sebastian Chavez Mosquera, NGIN Ambassador 2024







## Food Security and Food Waste

Food security goes beyond simply producing enough food. It encompasses managing food production and distribution systems to ensure consistent access for all individuals to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their daily dietary needs and preferences, allowing them to live a healthy and active lifestyle.

The current global food system struggles to feed the ever-growing population, predicted to reach over 10 billion by 2050. Traditional food production practices would require an additional one billion hectares of land to feed this growing population. At the same time, 1.05 billion tonnes of food waste was generated worldwide in 2022. This staggering dissonance in the global agri-food supply chain calls for urgent action, and young people must be at the forefront of finding sustainable solutions.

To meet this growing demand, our agricultural systems must produce more with less resources. Increasing efficiency incorporates integrating new technologies and exploring innovations; however, these changes must be sustainable. Implementing policies to support producers while minimizing market distortions helps reduce risk and build out the farm safety net necessary in these uncertain times. In addition, farming must be an attractive career path for the next generation to ensure the transfer of generational knowledge and the seamless continuation of ag production across the world.

**We Came, We Advocated and We Contributed to the global conversation on food systems transformation for today and our tomorrow.**

- Femi Adekoya

previous NGIN ambassador 2023, present at WFF 2024

We advocate for improving distribution and promoting trade to alleviate food insecurity. By identifying missing links and bottlenecks and improving infrastructure, our agri-food supply chain can become more effective from the local level to the global level. This also means reducing food loss within the supply chain with improved post-harvest management, storage capacity, logistics, and transportation. Concurrently, our international relationships are key to facilitating free trade across borders, enhancing cooperation and creating opportunities to supply food where it is needed most through the seasons.

Everyone has a role to play in reducing food waste along the agri-food supply chain. As youth, we lead by example by consuming food responsibly and encouraging others to do the same. These actions involve educating consumers, promoting food rescue solutions, and incentivizing local consumption and production. In addition, promoting new innovations in marketing and waste management can bridge the gap.

As the leaders of tomorrow, it is our responsibility to innovate, advocate, and act now to create a more resilient and sustainable food system for future generations.

### **Climate Resilience and Sustainability**

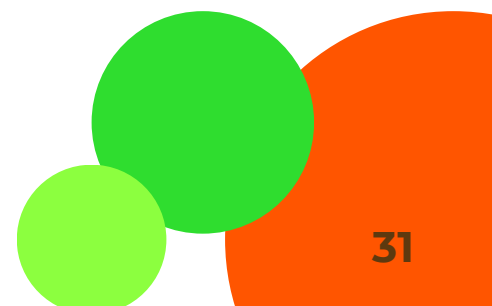
Globally, our agriculture and food systems are under pressure. Agriculture today faces unprecedented challenges from the extreme effects of climate change to soil degradation, biodiversity loss, and the pressure to increase food production in a sustainable way. Climate change affects food production and livelihoods of our food producers, while reducing the availability, affordability, and accessibility of food. Vulnerable groups in agriculture are more exposed to the effects of the changing climate and the most affected economically.



With ever growing and changing demands, there is an urgent need to tackle these challenges at scale, sustainably contributing to the resilience of livelihoods and agri-food systems. With sustainability, our responses to today's challenges should not amplify tomorrow's challenges but instead reduce them. With resilience, we refer to agri-food systems that can handle changes and extreme climate events. Resilience and sustainability extend beyond the climate domain, encompassing economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Together, resilience and sustainability create systems that can adapt and thrive in the face of diverse challenges, while ensuring long-term food security and equitable growth.

Water should be embraced as an engine of climate change adaptation. As climate change is mainly felt through water (e.g., droughts, floods, extreme events), it is urgent that we work together to make water the engine of climate action. To do so, we must first make water availability central to our economic planning and decision-making, which means rethinking where and how we grow our food. Secondly, we must restore and protect natural freshwater stocks, our buffers against extreme climate events.

While mitigation is of global scope and adaptation has a regional and interdependent character, we should not forget about the potential for local climate management. Preserving and managing local climates, which can be measured in, on, and around agricultural areas, can complement global mitigation and adaptation as another way to address the effects of climate change. Embracing this concept means that more actors can contribute to improved climate resilience and sustainability and we can reach scale together.





Promoting climate-smart agricultural practices such as agroecology, regenerative agriculture and efficient water management can help facilitate a sustainable transition in terms of raw materials and energy. Young people have the potential to lead innovative projects using precision agriculture, biotechnology and renewable energy, contributing to a more resilient agricultural system adapted to different circumstances. The adoption of digital technologies and the use of artificial intelligence are also valuable in these sectors. In addition, collaboration between public and private sectors, NGOs and civil society to develop new solutions is essential to create a supportive ecosystem.

Young people have a fundamental role to play in transforming agriculture in the face of climate change and sustainability challenges. Youth are uniquely positioned to offer fresh ideas and innovative approaches while also ensuring a future where agriculture can thrive in harmony with our planet. It is crucial to promote policies that involve them in decision-making and provide them with the necessary tools to lead change. We must work together to ensure that young people's voices are heard and valued at all levels, recognizing their role as agents of change towards a climate resilient and sustainable future.

### **Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

Young entrepreneurs face significant challenges that hinder their success, including limited access to land, technology, and markets, which affect their ability to secure capital and sell products. High collateral requirements make obtaining startup capital particularly difficult, especially for young farmers, while a lack of deep market understanding and substantial gaps in knowledge and technology further impede their efforts. These challenges are interconnected and often magnified in international contexts, where trade barriers - legal, political, cultural, and economic - come into play.



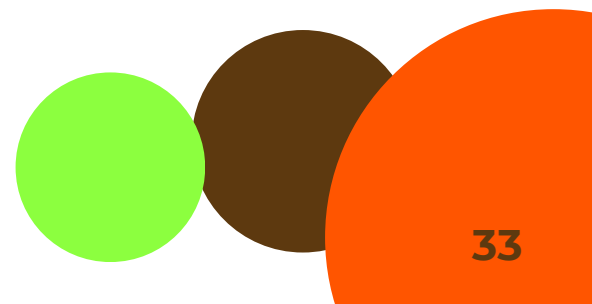


To confront these pressing issues, immediate action is necessary. Exploring alternative funding options beyond conventional sources, such as grants, crowdfunding, microloans, and climate finance can empower youth, innovators, and entrepreneurs. Governments should provide accessible financial products with lower collateral requirements, while NGOs and international organizations can assist in developing viable business plans and connecting youth with funding sources. The implementation of tailor-made financial solutions, including "early career" funding for startups, should be prioritized.

Creating a supportive policy environment is essential for facilitating youth entrepreneurship. Governments should design youth-centered policies, supported by international organizations like the World Bank and the UN, to enable youth-led ventures. Additionally, fostering national and international networking will facilitate the exchange of ideas, with youth networks and the private sector working together to create collaborative platforms.

Setting up innovation hubs can further assist young entrepreneurs by providing business incubation, technical support, and funding. These hubs require collaboration between governments and private companies, with backing from international organizations.

Finally, ongoing mentorship and role modeling, internships, and educational opportunities are crucial for building the skills needed for entrepreneurial success. By addressing these interconnected challenges and implementing targeted actions, we can empower young entrepreneurs, fostering innovation and driving economic growth.





## Research, Technology and Knowledge Transfer

Research, transfer of knowledge and technologies are critical to overcome challenges in our agri-food systems. There is a constant need for new insights through sound research in all dimensions to respond to emerging problems and reach global food security and safety.

New technologies are being developed to increase productivity, enhance food quality, and address challenges such as disease resistance and environmental sustainability. However, we far too often see large barriers in the adoption of research and technology, along with a lack of information and understanding passed onto the next generation of farmers and stakeholders.

In research, we call for public and private actors to continuously prioritize research in agri-food systems. Research should not just focus on immediate challenges but faces the evolving, long-term complexities of food security, climate change, and resource management. We urge stakeholders to commit to continuous, stable, and reliable funding. Agriculture and food systems are highly dynamic, requiring sustained investment in research that anticipates and mitigates future crises, such as water scarcity, soil degradation, and crop diseases. It is crucial to ensure that research does not stay confined to academic settings but is translated into real-world applications. Public partners must allocate research funding specifically for dissemination activities, which can bridge the gap between scientific discoveries and practical implementation by farmers and food system professionals.

**The Flagship event strengthened my resolve to continue advocating for just transition and sustainable practices in agriculture.**

- Winnie Wambugu, NGIN ambassador 2024



In technology, we recognize the opportunities for sustainable solutions offered by new and emerging technologies such as biotechnology. However, as these technologies emerge, they often become contested topics, raising ethical and environmental concerns. We call for balanced discussions, grounded in science, and encourage further research where needed to tackle these concerns. Discussions must engage the public and policymakers in open conversations about the potential benefits and risks of these technologies.

In addition, we advocate for clearly defined and harmonized regulatory frameworks for evaluating genome-edited crops and other technologies, enabling innovation and fostering collaboration across borders while ensuring safety, transparency, and public trust. Additionally, promoting open access to technology innovations and knowledge can accelerate progress toward global food security.

To adopt these new findings and technologies, knowledge transfer across sectors, disciplines, generations, and stakeholders is of pivotal importance. We recognize that different actors within our agri-food systems have distinct knowledge needs.

To strengthen agricultural knowledge, we must foster intergenerational knowledge transfer, ensuring that experiences, methods, and innovations are passed down to younger farmers. We also advocate for greater awareness and funding to support vertical learning (from experts to practitioners) and horizontal learning (peer-based) methods, particularly within rural and agricultural communities where access to formal education may be limited. In education, programs should be designed to ensure professionals remain grounded in the realities of agriculture, and innovations are relevant and actionable in real-world scenarios.



Outside of agriculture, improving food systems literacy is crucial for fostering a deeper understanding of how food is produced, processed, distributed, and consumed. We call for global efforts to enhance citizens' awareness of the complexities of food systems, including the trade-offs involved in food production, sustainability, and consumption while also empowering their informed decision making.

Actively supporting these efforts can help bridge the gap between consumers and the realities of food production, fostering greater awareness and engagement in building sustainable food systems.

## **Conclusion**

The future of our agri-food systems depends on the decisions and actions we take today. Young people are not only the leaders of tomorrow, but also key actors in the present, with the potential to drive transformations that ensure sustainability, equity, and resilience. To address the interlinked challenges of research and technology, innovation and entrepreneurship, climate change, food security, and social equality, it is essential that the voices of all are heard and included in decision-making processes.

Access to resources, adoption of innovations, and respect for traditional knowledge are critical components in building inclusive and sustainable agri-food systems. By recognizing our responsibility and the role we must play, young people can be catalysts for change, creating solutions that not only face today's crises, but also build a more equitable and prosperous future for all.

Together, we can transform the present to ensure a better tomorrow.

**NGIN Ambassadors**  
**Rome, Italy**  
**October 2024**





## Closing Remark by Mario

Reflecting on 2024, I am immensely proud of the strides made by this year's ambassador cohort. The selection process was particularly tough, and those who joined us this year brought powerful voices that resonated not only within our organizations but also across the FAO building during the World Food Forum. Their impact has been profound, driving inspiration and even influencing policy recommendations that align with NGIN's mission and values.

I'd like to extend a special note of gratitude to our partners at I4Nature and their collaborators. Their dedication to operational activities, especially given the complexities of this year, has been invaluable. Their support has enabled us to stay effective, allowing NGIN to thrive in what has been a fast-paced year.

Looking forward, as we step into 2025, we will take a moment to reflect on the legacy of our work, revisiting the impact we have made not only in 2024 but also over previous years. This reflection will fuel our vision as we recalibrate NGIN's strategic direction towards even greater empowerment of purpose-driven agricultural leaders. We aim to harness the momentum of current youth initiatives, channeling it into more impactful and sustainable transformations.

Best Regards,  
Mario

