



2017 Youth Ag-Summit

Application Guidelines



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Summit Background

The 2017 Youth Ag-Summit, to be held in Brussels, Belgium, will be a unique opportunity for young leaders from around the world to hear from global opinion leaders, create a vision and deliver actions to “Feed a Hungry Planet”.

The movement started in Canada in 2013, together with the youth development and empowerment organization 4-H Canada, and continued in Australia in 2015, in partnership with the Future Farmer Network of Australia (FFN).

In 2017, the Summit will move on to the old continent, Europe, and takes place in its heart, namely Brussels in Belgium. Under the theme “Feeding a Hungry Planet” young adults are invited to submit an essay outlining their understanding of and possible solutions for the agricultural, social and environmental challenges facing our planet. The ability to demonstrate original ideas and passion will be the key selection criteria for the Youth Ag-Summit.

The key driver for this conference is the fact that the world’s population is increasing by ~ 233,000 people each day, and is projected to grow from 7.2 billion people now, to 9.6 billion by 2050. With competition for declining resources, and climate change, solutions are keenly debated both in rural and urban communities. Farmers and the modern technologies they use are at the center of these debates and these are under increasing scrutiny.

Solutions will require visionary thinking, creativity and leadership to execute. As young leaders committed to the area of agriculture, sustainability and food supply issues, you will be responsible for both defining, communicating and delivering these solutions of the future.

The core purpose of this meeting is to build understanding and trust around these complex and challenging issues. We hope to create lasting networks, and define real solutions, either small or large, that you can implement in your future careers for the betterment of society as a whole, and your own personal growth.



Essay Objectives and Use

Applicants are invited to submit an essay to allow the selection of the best candidates for each participating country.

The primary purpose of the essay is to allow the applicant to develop his or her ideas, and to demonstrate their ability to communicate a clear and logical plan that can deliver results. This will allow the selection committee to select the applicants they feel can bring the most to the meeting.

The secondary purpose of the essay will be to provide a starting set of documents that can be used in the conference. Depending on the balance of the winning essays, the conference program will be adapted to meet the interests of the delegates. Some of the best ideas will be highlighted during the conference to stimulate discussion.

Applicants are asked to build their ideas based on their own experience, country and region. This will increase the chance of delivering and defined actionable outcomes.

Essay Topic

In the next 40 years, it is projected that the world population will grow from 7 to almost 10 billion. However, 1 billion people today still do not have enough safe and nutritious food to eat. Demand is rising while resources are dwindling. Solutions are strongly debated across rural, urban and international communities.

In September 2015, the world's leaders came together to agree on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all.

In the context of "Feeding a hungry planet" and using your own village, town, city or country as your point of reference, tell us on which SDGs youth can have the most impact in the next one to five years, both at a local and global level.

You should explain how working on these SDGs youth can bring real change to agricultural or food chain practices, or personal and community behaviors, that could help feed 10 billion and create a more sustainable local and global society.



Application Submission Format

Please use the online form to submit the essay. Any other format cannot be submitted and is not eligible. The online form can be found on the YAS website www.youthagsummit.com

Essay must be no more than 1500 words in length. No minimum. Essay must be typed and written in English only. In addition, the essay must be wholly the original work of the applicant, written solely by the applicant; not have been previously published or otherwise distributed or disseminated in any media or format; not be in the public domain.

The following headings/categories provide a suggested structure:

- **Introduction**
This should be short (about 150 words) simply explaining your location and your point of reference, what you will discuss in the rest of the essay, and in less than 2 sentences, what will your conclusion be.
- **Your impact on the SDGs on Food Security**
Explain how youth can have an impact on food security taking into account the SDGs. Which SDGs are most relevant to you? How do they have an impact on the YAS theme “how to feed a hungry planet”? Explain how youth can contribute to change the status quo of agriculture and the food chain practices.
- **The Global/Widespread Connection**
Explain how the issue(s) and SDGs you’ve identified affect a more wide-spread population. Are they locally and globally relevant?
- **Solutions**
Explain what you think the solution(s) is/are to solve the issues.
- **How would you use the Youth Ag-Summit to address and advance these issues/solutions?**



Application and Selection Timing

Application entry start date:	September 7, 2016
Application closing time/date:	January 13, 2017, 11:59 pm (GMT)
Successful applicants notified:	March 31, 2017
Formal acceptance by successful applicants:	April 15, 2017
Unsuccessful applicants notified:	April 30, 2017
Successful applicants announced:	After May 15, 2017

Participant Criteria

- a. As of October 8, 2017, participants must be a legal adult in the participant's home county (for which the participant holds a passport or permanent residency) and not younger than 18 or over 25 years of age.
- b. Legally able to travel internationally.
- c. Holding a valid passport, with at least six months validity after October 7, 2017. Participant is solely responsible for obtaining any and all necessary travel documents to travel to and from his or her home country. Please note: Should you not hold a passport when applying to the YAS, use any other document number in the application field. However, kindly be aware that you need to acquire a passport should you be selected for the YAS. Otherwise, you will not be able to travel.
- d. Proficient level of English/able to communicate orally in English
- e. Comfortable with cultural diversity
- f. Have strong leadership qualities
- g. Some public speaking skills would be an asset
- h. Have a demonstrated passion for agriculture, environmental stewardship, food, world hunger, biotechnology, and/or farming and/or animal husbandry
- i. NOT an employee of a Bayer entity or direct family member (e.g. spouse, son or daughter) or live in the same household of a Bayer employee, consultant or Essay Selection Committee member.
- j. NOT a previous delegate to the 2013 or 2015 YAS.
- k. Participant is responsible for compliance with all applicable laws in your jurisdiction for participation in the 2017 YAS, including any and all laws with respect to obtaining a valid passport, visa or other government-required document or permission to attend the 2017 YAS.



- l. Essay must be solely the work of the entrant. Plagiarism will result in disqualification. Essays must not infringe on any third-party rights or intellectual property of any person, company or organization.
- m. Bayer and (PARTNER) as sponsor reserve the rights to terminate, modify or suspend this essay submit due to any cause.

Submission Method

Essays must be completed online using the essay submission tool found at www.youthagsummit.com.

In the case of difficulty in completing the online form, please contact info@youthagsummit.com. We will be happy to assist you!

Assessment and Selection Process Guidelines

The assessment and selection process will be run separately in each country. The following information is provided as a guide for applicants, as it may vary slightly from country to country.

Selection will be conducted by a multiperson committee, including representatives from Bayer, the partner youth organization (where applicable) and additional independent topic experts. Please note that decisions of the judges are final and binding.

Selection will be based chiefly on the submitted essay and short additional questions found within the application form. A follow up interview also may be conducted by the local Essay Selection Committee.

Further information may be obtained by contacting applicant's local Bayer affiliate.



Terms and Conditions

Payment of travel and accommodation expenses for the 2017 Youth Ag-Summit will be organized and paid in accordance with Bayer's then current travel policy for the Summit. Bayer will pay for economy airfare from the participant's permanent address as listed in the section "personal details" in the online application form to the Brussels venue, as well as for accommodations and meals provided at the Summit and travel insurance for the Summit. Delegates are responsible for incidental room costs (minibar, movies etc.) as well as any additional travel expenses incurred. Bayer may reimburse visa fees, where applicable, on presentation of receipts. Any variation to the dates and routes of travel to and from the Summit must be discussed with your local Bayer affiliate and payment for such expenses discussed and agreed upon in accordance with Bayer's travel policy for the Summit. Please note that any extension to travel dates will require the delegates to assume travel insurance costs for the entire period, including during the 2017 Youth Ag-Summit.

Participation is subject to all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Void where prohibited or restricted by law.