



# *Agricultural Education Program: Inspiring youth and young scientists for agriculture*

## **Bayer is committed to educate young people about agriculture and science**

Innovations stem from knowledge, creativity and passion. This is why Bayer actively promotes education and science around the world. We support young talents who want to contribute to our mission “Science For a Better Life” and who want to help to address the global challenge of feeding the growing world population.

As a research-based company, Bayer depends heavily on recruiting well trained scientists and on society’s acceptance of technology. Furthermore, as education is a vital factor in achieving sustainable prosperity, Bayer places tremendous emphasis on supporting education and research within its social environment.

## **What is the Agricultural Education Program?**

The Agricultural Education Program is a holistic approach which encourages and empowers young people, aged 18 to 28, to think and discuss about agriculture, food supply, and thereby increasing appreciation for agriculture and science. The Program aims to inspire and engage the next generation to learn more about modern agriculture and its role in sustainably feeding the world, by engaging with young farmers, scientists and opinion-leaders and by strengthening their interest in the major challenges facing our society, such as food security.

The Agricultural Education Program was launched in 2014 and includes the following pillars:

- 1. Youth Advocate Summit:** Connecting and empowering the next generation of thought leaders in agriculture at the international youth conference.
- 2. Jeff Schell Scholarship:** Growing the next generation of agricultural scientists.
- 3. Partnerships:** Partnering with youth-ag organizations.
- 4. Advocate Community:** Overarching pillar which empowers young leaders of Agricultural Education pillar 1-3 to build networks and advocate on behalf of agriculture & its role in our society.

## **1. Youth Advocate Summit**

The Youth Ag Summit (YAS) is a global platform and biennially organized, week-long conference where 100 young leaders, aged 18 to 25, from around the world meet to share perspectives and explore solutions to one of the world’s most challenging questions: how to feed a hungry planet? Till date, three editions (2013: Calgary, Canada; 2015: Canberra, Australia; 2017: Brussels, Belgium) of the Youth Ag Summit have taken place. In 2019, the YAS will be hosted in Brasília, Brazil from 4 to 6 November.



## **2. Jeff Schell Scholarship**

The [Jeff Schell Scholarship](#) for Agricultural Science supports international students with pioneering ideas in agricultural engineering and plant- & biotechnology. The scholarship is designed for university students aged 18 to 28 to follow individual research projects abroad. Applications for the 2019 Scholarships are open again in June 2019.

## **3. Partnerships**

Bayer partners on a global and local level with agricultural youth organizations to ensure different perspectives and knowledge transfer. These partnerships are often established in light of the Youth Ag Summit, as this event is co-hosted by local, independent organizations. However, partnerships established on a global level also go beyond the YAS, which are e.g. sponsorships or knowledge partnerships with well-known global organizations.

## **4. Advocate Community**

As an overarching pillar of Agricultural Education pillars 1-3, the Advocate Community is a network which consist of YAS delegates, former YAS participants (alumni), Jeff Schell fellows, and partners. They stay connected through various online social platforms and are regularly invited to Bayer and non-Bayer events all over the world to join e.g. as participant, speaker or panelist. Members do not only exchange within the community, they are true advocates (advocates for agriculture) and address agricultural topics and challenges also within their broader network.

For more information about the Agricultural Education Program or one of its pillars, please contact the Global Program Lead, [Kristina Hildebrand](#) (phone: +49 2173 38 2351).