

United Nations Environmental Program
2023-2024 Farmers Major Group Facilitating Committee Annual Report
Submitted February 12, 2025

Dear UNEP Civil Society Unit,

As one of nine Civil Society Major Groups (CSMG), the Farmers Major Group Facilitating Committee has been actively reorganizing itself beginning in May of 2023 with the election of two new Co-Facilitators, Mr. Paul Temple and Mr. Arthur (A.G.) Kawamura. During this time of leadership transition and committee restructure, the Co-Facilitators have been gradually getting up to speed on their MGFC roles and responsibilities. With assistance from the Civil Society Unit (CSU), they have participated with a series of trainings and on-boarding events both virtually and in-person. The lack of continuity between successive Farmer MG Co-Facilitator teams has led to a slower but more deliberate and transparent transition. Nonetheless, good progress has been made for the FMG, and as UNEA-7 approaches the Farmer Constituency is building momentum and constituency accredited membership and expects to participate at a greater level of alignment and collaboration at the upcoming events and pre-meetings leading up to UNEA-7. This Annual Report reflects that period from May of 2023 through the end of 2024. Recognizing that UNEA-6 took place in early 2024, the effective engagement of the Farmer MG (FMG) in UNEA-6 was limited by that lack of continuity and policy development timing.

2023:

Beginning on June 13, 2023, Mr. Paul Temple & Mr. A.G.Kawamura were introduced to the MGFC and CSU by Co-Chairs Mohamed Abdelraouf & Dalia Marquez during a monthly Major Group conference call. Days later, the scheduled 162nd meeting of the CPR on June 16th took place in Nairobi, Kenya with no virtual participation options for the new Farmer Co-Facilitators. A few weeks later, the Major Groups Consultation in Rabat, Morocco took place on July 7th and again the new Co-Facilitators were not able to register in time to participate. Former Farmer MG Facilitator, Mr. Wali Haider attended the event representing the Farmers MGFC. Farmer MG travel support and participation was documented, although there were no recorded interventions reported during the deliberations.

On Sept. 7 the UNEP CSU hosted a virtual orientation session for new MGFC Facilitators. Later that month on Sept. 28th the UN Working Group on Nitrogen was convened in Nairobi. Farmer MG participation was virtual and not well documented although members of the Farmer MG and CSU staff acknowledged the importance of Farmer participation in the deliberations. The Co-Facilitators addressed their frustration to the CSU of having a steep learning curve with limited guidelines, blueprints or internal structure for capacity building. With assistance from CSU staff, they organized the first Farmers MG conference call for accredited Farmer stakeholders on Oct. 23rd working with an “on-boarding” PowerPoint presentation. This initial meeting helped to establish the first working member baseline list of the Farmer Constituency and prioritize a monthly conference call.

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During November, the Regional Consultative (RC) Meetings were held. Mr. Temple participated in person at the European RC in Bratislava, Slovakia with travel support from the UN CSU. Mr. Kawamura participated virtually at the North American RC. Both Co-Facilitators participated virtually at the 10th Annual Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR). On Nov. 19th, The Third Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-3) was held in Nairobi. With limited interaction between the other Civil Society MG's and the need for improved guidelines for consensus statements, there was no formal Farmer MG intervention recorded in any of these proceedings. Although there were opportunities for observations and informal comments on nitrogen/fertilizer use in agriculture from Mr. Temple and an introductory commentary on the challenges from Invasive Species that affect all the different UN platforms from Mr. Kawamura.

The Open Ended Working Group-2 (OEWG) meeting on Chemicals and Waste on Dec. 11-15th in Nairobi addressed many topics, including the rising concerns on plastics. The Farmer MG does not yet have a written policy statement about plastics specifically and chemicals and waste in general, but plans to put together position statements ahead of UNEA-7. The Farmers MG leadership began the process of creating a template of Guiding Principles (GP's) and Terms of Reference (ToR's) through which the MG would begin to build consensus positions and statements leading up to various 2024 and 2025 events and opportunities for interventions.

2024:

A good example of building consensus and establishing a Farmer presence was Mr. Temple's in-person attendance in Nairobi, Jan. 9-10 at the Nitrogen work shop. He was the only actual farmer at the session and was able to share his real-time experiences and observations about soil fertility and crop production. In advance of the upcoming UNEA-6, the Farmers MG continued to pursue a more formal structure through which it could convey the challenges and opportunities for agriculture. Monthly Farmer MG calls helped to build the platform where the 'voices' of Farmers (understood to include farmers of all sizes, ranchers, pastoralists, foresters, fisherfolk and other stewards of life system management and production) might be heard.

On February 19th, Farmer Constituency member Ms. Kelly Sheridan delivered a Farmer MGFC Statement at the Opening Plenary of the Open Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR) in Nairobi in advance of UNEA-6:

*Opening Plenary of the Open Ended Committee of
Permanent Representatives (OECPR) in preparation for UNEA-6*
Farmers MGFC: Statement for inclusion in deliberations
Presented by Farmer Co-Chairs, Paul Temple and Arthur G. Kawamura

“My name is Kelly Sheridan and I am speaking on behalf of the Farmers Major Group. The Farmers MGFC seeks to improve our level of participation in the deliberations of the UNEP and UNEA. The Farmers Major Group members are united in our shared goal to enhance the capacity of countries to design and implement environmental policies that foster all dimensions of sustainability and advance agricultural solutions to global challenges.

The term “Farmers” represents all ‘farmers, ranchers, foresters and fishers’ who increasingly face both old and new environmental challenges in their endeavors. The perpetual challenges that ‘farmers’ face with invasive pests, zoonotic diseases, global conflicts, trade disruptions and changing climate can generate some of the greatest real threats to humanity.

Farmers must be at the center of all discussions and decision-making about the environmental pressures facing our food system. Significant input will be needed from a wide range of farmers and farmers’ organizations who play a key role in the implementation of the global environmental agenda and yet they often find themselves at the receiving end of decisions taken elsewhere. Science-based decision making, in conjunction with farmer and indigenous innovation, must be the foundation for the adoption of accessible and locally appropriate technologies and practices for sustainable agricultural production.

The Farmers MGFC will work to convey the importance of agriculture to UNEP and UNEA-6. Recently, an international “call to action” document emerged that quietly replaced the terms “agriculture” and “farmers” with “food system” and “front line actors”. The following is a ‘feedback’ reply that provides a more straightforward framework for the Farmer’s narrative:

“A reliable food supply has never been more essential for humanity to be able to live and thrive on earth. Agriculture, in all of its many dimensions and forms produces that supply, day after day, against a long list of challenges, disruptions and misunderstandings by those who often feel entitled to have access and control of it and its distribution. Farmers are not “actors” on the stage of humanity. Farmers have built the stage that allows humanity to exist and act out the tragedy, drama or enlightenment of our existence.”

Thanks to hard work, indigenous and local knowledge, innovation and technology, and uncommon collaboration among farmers, including ranchers, fishers, and foresters, who make their living off the land, agriculture is poised to bloom, grow, and emerge as a primary solution pathway towards the achievement of all sustainable development goals.”

UNEA-6

UNEA-6 and the Global Major Group and Stakeholder Forum (GMGSF) was held in Nairobi from Feb. 26th to March 2nd. Mr. Kawamura participated in person and was able to deliver an Opening Statement from the Farmers MG:

February 26, 2024

*UNEA-6...Opening Plenary
Nairobi, Kenya*

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Farmers MGFC

Farmer Statement

*Presented by Farmer Co-Facilitators, Paul Temple and Arthur G. Kawamura on Behalf of UNEP
Farmer MGFC*

Madame Chair, Your Excellencies, Honored Guests and Colleagues,

The Farmers MGFC seeks to improve their level of participation in the deliberations of the UNEP. The term “Farmers” represents all ‘farmers, ranchers, pastoralists, foresters and fishers’ who increasingly face both old and new conflicts in their endeavors. The term “conflict” often describes disruption caused by wars, but the perpetual conflict that ‘farmers’ face with invasive species, zoonotic diseases, global trade disruptions and changing climate can generate some of the greatest real threats to humanity.

The Farmers MGFC will work to convey the importance of agriculture to UNEP and UNEA-6. Recently, in another UN platform, an international “call to action” document emerged that quietly replaced the terms “agriculture” and “farmers” with “food system” and “front line actors”. The following is a ‘feedback’ reply that provides a more straightforward framework for our Farmer’s narrative:

“A reliable food supply has never been more essential for humanity to be able to live and thrive on earth. Agriculture, in all of its many dimensions and forms produces that supply, day after day, against a long list of challenges, disruptions and misunderstandings by those who often feel entitled to have access and control of it and its distribution. Farmers are not “actors” on the stage of humanity. Farmers have built the stage that allows humanity to exist and act out the tragedy, drama or enlightenment of our existence.”

The Farmer MGFC values the use of good science and indigenous knowledge and its application in all forms of production as global Farmers of all sizes adapt, mitigate and seek transformation as they rise to the challenge of achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals.

Additional opportunities to speak at side events and special MGFC meetings with UN officials and staff were provided during the Assembly. MGFC members and CSU Staff met every morning in the Green Room for updates and information sharing between Civil Society Groups. Farmer Constituent members who were able to attend both virtually and in person were able to get a separate daily morning update from the “Green Room”. Interventions and consultative opportunities allowed for input from the Farmer MG in response to other Nation State resolutions. During Cluster D deliberations, the Farmer MG submitted observations on the Draft Resolution from Republic of Cuba:

Cluster D, submission from Farmers MGFC

Draft Resolution from Republic of Cuba: Circularity of a resilient and low-carbon sugar cane agroindustry.

Meeting of the Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP

Item 2: Introduction and Presentation of draft UNEA-6 Resolutions and Decisions

Thank you for giving us the floor Mr. Chair.

The Farmers MGFC wishes to make a general assessment regarding the presentation of the Draft Resolution presented by the distinguished delegation of the Republic of Cuba on "the circularity of a resilient and low-carbon sugarcane agro-industry".

- 1. We are encouraged by the scope and main objectives of the resolutions made in the presentation by the Cuban delegation. In addition, the background information in Technical Note prepared by the UNEP Secretariat helps to broaden the understanding of the multiple benefits of 'crop to energy' systems in support of the forthcoming consultations and negotiations on the submitted draft resolution.*
- 2. The Farmer MGFC recognizes that the pathways of renewable energy production are many: From crops, crop residue, animal manure and by-products, forest by products, aquaculture by products and other organic materials can be fermented, compressed, put through pyrolysis, recycled and other conversions to sustainable, clean fuel. Several SDG's are involved in the understanding and success of this resolution.*
- 3. The Farmer MGFC appreciates that the draft resolution calls for updating and rethinking the mode of consumption and production an integral component of the United Nations One Planet Network, towards more ecological and sustainable innovations, avoiding, minimizing or transforming the generation of waste especially hazardous waste, which will contribute to reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions, enhancing our capacity for adaptation and mitigation...and transformation.*
- 4. We also consider it appropriate that the draft resolution urges Member States with sugarcane and other crop to energy agro-industries continue to implement sustainable production and consumption approaches as outlined in the United Nations One Planet Network and It Programmes within their national strategies and action plans. In recognition that relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and differing national circumstances and capacities demonstrate that there is no one 'silver bullet' approach. The sharing of information and the focus on collaborative innovation will advance the various industries and their potential to demonstrate solutions.*
- 5. Farmer MGFC members plan to proactively participate in and contribute to the revision of the draft resolution on "Circularity of a resilient, low-carbon sugarcane agroindustry with emphasis on Biocircularity /Bioeconomy for its adoption at the Sixth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6).*

UNEA-6 provided a window into one of several UN program areas that intersect with the agricultural endeavor. The UNEP "triple threat" of Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Pollution present a clear global challenge for agriculture and the global food system in all of its many dimensions. Beyond 'the triple threat' the Farmers MG Constituents regularly raised the issues of disruption and hardship such as: War, land ownership, small holder disparity of resources, lack of market access and distribution, market instability, lack of infrastructure and threats from invasive species, to name a few. The precarious, at times unpredictable nature of

farming creates a high level of urgency for the Farmer MG, but so often, members complain of a lack of understanding and support from the rest of humanity. On February 29th, the following commentary was shared during the MG Stakeholders Dialogue:

February 29, 2024

*UNEA-6
MG Stakeholders Dialogue...Farmers MG Intervention
Conference Room 1*

Your Excellencies, Madame President, Madame Director, Dedicated Colleagues;

There has never been a greater need for an Agricultural Renaissance. The many voices of farmers, echoing across centuries of scarcity and abundance, challenge us to find new ways forward, paths that produce abundance for expanding populations while rejecting wasteful destruction of resources. We must seek these new ways to collaborate and innovate together. For if we can create an unprecedented pathway of resilience as many peoples who inhabit this small planet, we may be able to tell the remarkable story of our species as it re-learns to thrive sustainably.

Our human population of over 8 billion, has altered the landscapes on every continent to feed, clothe, shelter and protect ourselves in a multitude of cultures, languages, technical waves and governing structures. We depend on the resources of working landscapes for our survival, but we are rapidly depleting these soils, seas, rivers and forests. Any prolonged collapse of global biodiversity and food systems will create a world of scarcity and struggle wherein nations fight for resources and face the greater threat of battling the inescapable forces of nature that we have tried to control.

*Those of us who manage living systems and natural resources to produce food, feed, fiber and fuel must understand and acknowledge the past in order to embrace the present and prepare for a challenging, less-predictable future. The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 conjure a bold vision for humanity that is possible but has yet to exist. They lay out an ambitious tapestry for how humankind might come together in unity to build a better world, with systematic international cooperation and strategic design to bring our human systems into alignment and harmony with natural systems. **This vision requires participation, action and leadership from farmers, ranchers, pastoralists, foresters and fisherfolk working in innovative collaboration with Civil Society Major Groups and Governments, both national and sub-national to establish the agricultural, social and environmental foundation for the successful achievement of the SDGs.***

Post UNEA-6

In the months leading up to UNEA-6, UNEP advisors and CSU staff organized an additional outreach concept for enhanced and expanded communications between Civil Society Major

Groups, CSU and UNEP leadership. The ‘Group Of Friends’ framework was first introduced at an initial constituting meeting held on May 3, 2024

As a follow up to these statements and observations, the Farmer MG had committed to better communicate and collaborate, innovatively with the other Civil Society MG’s. For that to happen the Farmer MG continued to develop the meaningful Guiding Principles and Terms of Reference through which they could build out a policy platform of consensus and outreach.

On March 20th the Farmer MGFC introduced ‘DRAFT’ Guiding Principles (GP’s) and Terms of Reference (ToR’s) for the Farmer MG to discuss, edit and accept. Co-Facilitators Temple & Kawamura requested that the GP’s and ToR’s be finalized and adopted by consensus by July 1, 2024. The following notice to the Farmer MG provided access to the living documents and a timeframe for completion:

March 20, 2024

Dear Farmer Major Group Partners:

As your recently elected Co-Facilitators, we have enjoyed getting to know many of you either virtually or in meetings we have attended together. A number of us participated in UNEA-6 in Nairobi last month, and we were pleased and excited to see FMG members active across multiple forums. We look forward to building on these successful interventions going forward.

One of the issues we discussed at UNEA-6 was the need to forge consensus on Terms of Reference (ToR’s) and Guiding Principles (GP’s) to ensure that we operate and reach decisions in a timely and democratic manner. We began discussing both of these documents before UNEA-6 and received many helpful suggested edits which we have incorporated into the following V1.0 drafts:

- *ToRs*
- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L8G_yutliEXNTxknkqzq8DaFCvmgK3bRi/edit?usp=sharing&oid=107718556777567636050&rtpof=true&sd=true
- *Guiding Principles*
- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Vimj822Gy1EDuNAP3q7as_mh6iYAAuDG/edit?usp=sharing&oid=107718556777567636050&rtpof=true&sd=true

As we continue to work on this framework, think of the ToRs as our internal operating procedures and the GPs as foundational shared beliefs/values.

In order to meet our agreed to July 1, 2024 deadline for adopting these documents, we propose three rounds of review under the following schedule:

- *V1.0 draft (see links above) open for comment until March 31st, followed by a Zoom meeting the week of April 8th to discuss suggested edits.*
- *V2.0 produced by April 19th, with invitation for FMG members to comment by April 30th. A Zoom meeting will be held the week of May 6th to discuss suggested edits.*
- *V3.0 produced by May 17th, with invitation for FMG voting members to comment by May 31st. A final draft will then be sent to accredited FMG members for review ahead of a Zoom meeting the week of June 25th where we will discuss and adopt final ToRs and GPs.*

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Lastly, we are updating the contact information for accredited FMG organizations and invite you to provide contact information for two representatives of your organization by populating the following spreadsheet...

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ktTxzx13yVUae4fMyzKHYD6RPRnkpUYyAX1aiMIOGal/edit?usp=sharing>

Thank you for your leadership and important contributions in support of Farmers from around the world.

Sincerely

Paul Temple & A.G. Kawamura

United Nations Environmental Program

Farmers Major Group Guiding Principles to shape UNEP decisions

The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Farmers Major Group (FMG) is one of nine (9) major groups that play an important role in providing expert input and advice on agenda-setting, decision-making and implementation of resolutions and decisions of the Environment Assembly. Authorized under section III of Agenda 21, which was adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, the Farmers Major Group provides input and recommendations from farmer organizations across the globe on matters before the UNEP. FMG members are united in our shared goal to advance agricultural solutions to global challenges and have adopted the following guiding principles as the framework decision-making within the UNEP:

- Farmers must be at the center of all discussions and decision-making; significant input will be needed from a wide range of farmer and other producer organizations outside of established policymaking structures.*
- There is no “silver bullet” solution for enhancing the resilience of agriculture and food systems: policymakers must embrace a systems approach that recognizes the tremendous diversity of agricultural landscapes and ecosystems and enables producers to utilize the systems and practices that best support their farming operations.*
- As affirmed in the communique from the 8th Meeting of G20 Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS), science-based decision making, in conjunction with farmer and indigenous innovation, must be the foundation for the adoption of climate smart technologies and practices for sustainable agriculture and global food productionⁱ.*
- Since crops, livestock and production forest dominate the world’s land area, agricultural systems must be advanced that increase both production and production efficiency per unit of land and water; that meet the food and nutrition needs of the future; and that also greatly*

enhance ecosystem health by regenerating soils, watershed and habitat for biodiversity at scale, while serving as a critical sink for greenhouse gasesⁱⁱ.

- *As reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, we should mobilize innovation across all elements and participants in the food and agriculture system, unlocking solutions that meet the whole set of production, environmental and social well-being outcomes, rather than relying on predetermined technologies, production types or design components.*
- *Adaptation strategies will require system approachesⁱⁱⁱ that utilize a combination of improved efficiency, substitution (e.g. new crop varieties and breeds), and redesign/system transformation to reflexively respond to continuous short- and long-term changes in climate's impacts on cultivated and natural ecosystem conditions.*
- *Climate smart agriculture knowledge and recommendations from farmers, businesses and peer- reviewed academic research must be integrated into processes and investments.*
- *Context-specific priorities and solutions must be aligned with national policies and priorities, be determined based on the social, economic, and environmental conditions at site (including the diversity in type and scale of agricultural activity), and be subject to evaluation of potential synergies, tradeoffs, and net benefits^{iv}.*

Thanks to hard work, indigenous knowledge, innovation and technology, and uncommon collaboration among farmers, ranchers, fishers, and foresters^v who make their living off the land, agriculture is poised to bloom, grow, and emerge as a primary solution pathway towards the achievement of worldwide sustainable development goals. The FMG is pleased to join this campaign and help farmers across the world develop a wide range of goods and services in support of the attainment of climate change, biodiversity, food systems and other sustainable development goals.

¹ G20 Japan. *8th Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) Communiqué* [Press Release]. (2019). Retrieved from <http://www.affrc.maff.go.jp/docs/press/attach/pdf/190427-3.pdf>

¹ Campbell, B. M., Thornton, P., Zougmore, R., Van Asten, P., & Lipper, L. (2014). Sustainable intensification: What is its role in climate smart agriculture? *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 8, 39-43.

¹ Tittonell, P. (2014). Ecological intensification of agriculture—sustainable by nature. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 8, 53-61.

¹ North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (2015). *A platform for knowledge sharing and application of climate science to agriculture* [Report]. Retrieved from: https://www.sfldialogue.net/files/sfl_formation_plan_2015.pdf

¹ The phrase, “farmers, ranchers and foresters” encompasses farmers, ranchers, foresters, orchardists, graziers, aquaculturalists, and all those who are stewards of working landscapes. Working landscapes are agricultural croplands, grasslands, orchards and forests, vineyards, fisheries, and other lands and waters that are managed for livelihoods and the production of food, fiber, energy, and ecosystem services. The transformations that a farmer-led agriculture and food systems renaissance brings require broad collaboration with industries, academia, civil society, and policymakers to bring the best science and engineering innovations to system-level solutions.

Post UNEA-6, Member states requested and recommended that an additional outreach construct for enhanced and expanded communications between Civil Society Major Groups and Member States be established. The ‘Group Of Friends’ framework was first introduced at an initial constituting meeting held on May 3, 2024. Participants agreed that the purpose of the group was to ensure improved, informal and more regular contact between member states and major groups and stakeholders and to provide a platform for more meaningful engagement of major groups and stakeholders in UNEA processes and UNEP-led events. The Group of Friends was further refined, guided by a Revised Draft Concept Note on June 24th. Each MGFC group nominated representatives for participation. The Farmer MG nominated Ms. Kelly Sheridan to be the Farmers MG member of the Group of Friends. Regular meetings of the GOF have continued to be held throughout the year.

During April and May, 2024 Farmers MG continued to discuss and edit on-line, the living document for the Guiding Principles (GP’s) and the Terms of Reference (ToR). Additional members of the Farmers Constituency continued to be added. Co-Facilitator Mr. Temple attended the large scale, May 9-10th Civil Society event in Nairobi. His in-person participation helped to expand the depth of outreach and collaborative opportunities between the various CS MG’s and the UN Civil Society Unit.

During June and into July, a milestone was reached as the Draft Farmers MG GP’s and ToR were finalized and adopted by consensus in early July. As a living document, the Farmer MG members will be able to refine, interpret and modify the GP’s as issues and events unfold globally and regionally.

On July 8-12th, Co-Facilitator Mr. Kawamura attended the 11th ASC of the CPR in Nairobi. During the deliberations he delivered a Farmers MGFC Statement that re-introduced both terms and themes from earlier statements and communications. The Farmers MG acknowledged that the working relationship with UNEP, CSU and MGFC’s must continue to seek collaboration and cross boundary alliances:

11th Annual Sub-Committee of the CPR, July 2024...Nairobi

Farmers MGFC Statement:

The Farmers MGFC seeks to improve our level of participation in the deliberations of UNEP and we are committed to work collaboratively with all Major Civil Society Groups, seeking alignment and innovation. Indeed, the success or failure of agriculture intersects with each and every Civil Society Group and is particularly impacted by the global triple threats identified by UNEP. The Farmers Major Group members are united in our shared goal to enhance the capacity of countries to design and implement environmental policies that foster multiple dimensions of sustainability and resilience while advancing agricultural solutions to global challenges.

The term “Farmers” represents all ‘farmers, ranchers, foresters and fishers’ who increasingly face both old and new environmental and political challenges in their endeavors. The perpetual threats that ‘farmers’ face with invasive pests, zoonotic diseases, global conflicts, occupation, trade and supply chain disruptions, changing climate patterns and extreme weather events will continue to generate some of the greatest impacts to food insecurity and to the viability of humanity. As we come to acknowledge that the predictable future is for more unpredictability in our increasingly complex and interdependent world, we must strive for a clearer understanding and prioritization of those things we can do that build upon capacity, adaptation and resilience.

As an example, UNFCCC, FAO, UN Water, WHO and UNEP are all investing considerable time and resources in addressing various aspects of biodiversity loss and vulnerability. The negative impacts of “invasive species” across all of these platforms is rarely discussed as a collective problem typified by decreasing phytosanitary discipline and education that might be addressed in a more unified strategic approach. Individual pandemic events in humans, ruminants, birds, trees, insects, fish or microbes get limited, conditional attention from governments and civil society. However, as these events are collectively seen as increasing with alarming frequency, the response from nations and civil society is unfortunately lacking urgency, prioritization and new focus. UNEP would do well to elevate its UNEA-7 theme on a broader focus of biodiversity loss that crosses over into other UN platform areas of work. Civil Society Major Groups are also slow to recognize the disruptive nature of invasive species even though their negative impacts are easily described and documented. The crises of the day distracts attention away from our needed response to recognize that perhaps, humanity’s greatest vulnerability is not climate or pollution in the long run, but biodiversity loss and collapse in the short term. We should listen to the voices of those experts who have been voicing their concerns and alarm for decades. It is incumbent upon the United Nations to recognize that the 20th century model of siloed platforms to address the various global challenges needs to be updated and upgraded to a more effective 21st century alliance of multiple platform approaches and strategies that can deliver promised results towards the actual achievement of the SDG’s.

On September 2nd, Regional Consultative meetings (RCM’s) were held in Nairobi. On Sept. 12th, the 167th Meeting of the CPR was convened. Farmer MG attendance was mostly virtual with limited interventions. UNEA-7 dates are scheduled for December 8-12th, 2025 in Nairobi.

In October, expanded participation in the Group of Friends was suggested at year’s end and each MGFC was asked to nominate an additional 2 members. That nomination process is still ongoing for the Farmers MG.

During October, November and December, Farmer Constituency members continued to hold first Tuesday of the month conference calls. Members approved the UNEA-7 theme: “Advancing Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Planet”. As UNEA-7 approaches, the Farmer MG will begin to prepare for Opening Statements, interventions and collaborative alignment with other MG’s.

During December, several Farmer Constituency members were able to attend the UNFCCC COP 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Those members were able to share experiences that have relevance to the Triple Threat issues under consideration at UNEP. On December 16-17th, Mr. Temple and Mr. Kawamura virtually attended the 168th meeting of the CPR. There were no interventions delivered

and virtual participation was limited to observations. UNEA-7 preparations become the focus for the Farmer MG in 2025. At the end of 2024 and the beginning of 2025, a Farmer MG Priority Survey is under development that will provide a balanced baseline of challenges, issues and opportunities across the broad spectrum of Farmer Constituents expected to participate in the year ahead.

Submitted on February 15, 2025

Mr. Paul Temple, Farmer MG Co-Facilitator

Mr. A.G. Kawamura, Farmer MG Co-Facilitator
