

Young Farmers' World Congress

Québec Was There!

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Special Collaboration

Last July, five representatives from the Fédération de la relève agricole du Québec (FRAQ) attended the 2nd Young Farmers' World Congress held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Under the theme « Les actions d'aujourd'hui en vue des récoltes de demain (Today's Actions For Future Reapings) », more than 150 young farmers - coming from 30 countries - discussed about their concerns about the future of the profession and of their organizations.

This important event took place under the aegis of the International Federation of Young Farmer Committee. Created in 2002, the purpose of this comity is to stimulate exchanges among young farmers from all over the world and their involvement in dealing with international issues.

With this FRAQ delegation, came along eight young Quebecers farm trainees or recently-graduated framers. With fourteen young farmers, Quebec had the highest contingent of participants.

Young Farmers Do Reflect

Four themes were discussed during a working session. For each of these sessions, the convention delegates had the right to attend a series of conferences dealing with the experiences of several young farmer organizations. Thus, as for the strengthening of the organizations, all guest-speakers highlighted the need for the young farmers to focus on aspects: lobbying, communications, training and networking.

The French model was the main topic of discussion in regards to the renewal of farmer generations. Let us be aware that the French policy in matters of installation focuses on obtaining an establishment for each farmer retiring. Therefore, we are working especially with retirees having identified no one to take over their business.

Climate changes and bioenergy developments bring at the table a whole bunch of issues and challenges. Indeed, young farmers question themselves about the possibility to feed the planet and to eliminate starvation, and at the same time converting foodstuffs into energy, such as corn and ethanol. Such challenge is so great that this rush towards new energies contribute to the high cost of some productions.

Lessons To Learn From

Of course, participation to an event of this magnitude allows to draw some conclusions as for the development of agriculture. With this in mind, the FRAQ delegation will understand that access to financing and the aging of the farmers' population both constitute universal issues,

although the answer presented in response to those challenges differ from one region to another.

At the end of this convention, young farmers adopted a common declaration. This declaration invites stakeholders from the field and highlights that agriculture plays a "crucial role and must be recognized as a tool used to preserved unity all over the world". Young farmers are committed "to put pressure on those responsible for the creation of policies so that farm preservation and appropriate farming revenues both be at the heart of those same policies".

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