



## Travel & Training Bursary Report

**FFN member:** Tillie Morgan, NT

**Event:** Rabobank F20 Summit, Sydney NSW – 13 November 2014

Last November I was lucky enough to receive a Future Farmers Network *Travel Bursary* to attend the Rabobank F20 Summit in response to the G20, which would be held in Brisbane the week after.

An amazing mix of people from across the food and agricultural sector came together to listen and add their views to the discussions. I even had the opportunity to speak with some of these inspiring people!

This summit focused on discussing issues around global food security and the complexities of feeding the world more sustainably by 2050. With projections of huge growth in the global population this has been made a priority for key decision makers and achieving this will be a challenge on the entire food production system.

After being part of organising the Northern Australia Food Futures the week before in Darwin with NT Farmers, I was keen to see what was being discussed on a global scale and from a different strategic standpoint.

Throughout the day key speakers focused on increasing food availability, improving access to food and stimulating balanced nutrition. These themes were tackled from different angles and discussed with a view of meeting growing demand with finite resources. As well as pointing out that, as innovators and leaders we play a key role in making positive developments, ultimately providing more stability throughout the supply chain and in global economies. However, it's clear there are a number of sustainability issues in global agriculture and issues aren't just limited to the production of food and its value chain. Not only will we need to innovate to create sustainable production but also to communicate effectively and educate everyone about agriculture and food.

During the day one thing kept on popping into my mind, this was that the technology, stories, ideas and know how in general are already here – it's just not widely or effectively distributed.

As such it was great to see an emphasis on different forms of effective examples throughout the day from Danny Mekić's talk on "changing the game" with social media to **Dr. Renske Landeweert's** talk about the work ClearDetection are doing in Africa to make soil sample data more accessible to farmers and teach them about how to improve their properties. This is a fantastic example of how this knowledge is becoming more effectively distributed to the majority that needs it.

Likewise listening about the work being done by Youth Food Movement is an amazing example of how stories shared effectively, are positively connecting people so farmers' stories can be heard and agriculture and food can be better understood.

I thought the whole day was a great glimpse into global agriculture but it wasn't just the content that was impressive about the day, it was its delivery. What was discussed was effectively



distributed to an amazing amount of people in Rabobank's networks. The challenge now is to take this to another level.

Rabobank have made the Summit's outcomes and materials available, which I think is fantastic (I encourage everyone to check it out). The only way this can move forward as a priority global concern is by conducting more discussions, connecting with more people and turning these into actions. To better connect with consumers who have the ability to demand and fund a difference and to allow access to those without that power or knowledge to develop with a difference. It is clear we will need to share responsibility to gain "collective solutions" and be successful.

Massive thanks to the Future Farmers Network for the opportunity to attend!

*Tillie Morgan*