Bayer honors three young agricultural leaders

Three young leaders, each with a passion for sustainable global agriculture, have been named winners of Bayer's Youth Ag Summit Thrive for Change Awards. Bruno Ferreira from Bolivia, Chidinma Ezeh from Nigeria and Emiliano Barbero from Argentina will each receive a €5,000 bursary award to help put their winning Thrive for Change project ideas into action.

From September 2021 to March 2022, the awardees developed their project plans to make a difference in the fight against food insecurity and climate change.

The Thrive for Change Awards culminate the 5th biennial Youth Ag Summit (YAS) and its idea incubator, YAS University. Last fall, the global summit virtually connected 100 delegates from 45 different countries of all continents, ages 18-25, to learn from global thought leaders and exchange ideas for solving some of our planet's most pressing challenges. The delegates were selected from more than 2,000 applicants. The university program then provided each of these young leaders with further training and mentoring on how to prepare their Thrive for Change project ideas for real-world implementation.

These young people came to our program with the passion needed to make a real difference in tackling food security challenges in their communities as well as around the world," said Rodrigo Santos, member of the Board of Management of Bayer AG and President of the Crop Science Division. "They leave now with tangible plans to transform agriculture and improve the lives of millions."

Fellow delegates nominated the winning projects to compete for the final awards. A jury of innovation and agriculture experts then selected the three top winners. Emiliano Barbero's Thrive for Change project will work to improve one of the most essential elements in life - water.

"My project, Probá, is a branching project of the Food Bank of Bolivia," shared Bruno Ferreira. "It is an upcycling production plant with triple impact, by working to solve the problems of food waste, undernourishment, and poor farmer lifestyle in Bolivia. I can't wait to see it start creating highly nutritious food for those who most need it. "

This year's awards program featured speakers who share the delegates' passion to make a difference toward achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Julie Borlaug, President, Borlaug Foundation and Mina Guli, CEO, Thirst Foundation shared their insights into what actions will help this new generation of changemakers continue to create a more sustainable world.

All twelve finalists will receive a laptop or tablet to further boost their ability to create impact projects that help help build a world with health for all and hunger for none.

For more, please visit www.youthagsummit.com or follow the leaders from the Youth Ag Summit (@youthagsummit) on Instagram or #agvocateswithoutborders and #YAS2021 on any social media platform.