

# Nuffield International Farming Scholars: Contributing Public Value Through Individual Capacity Building

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## Nuffield International Overview

Nuffield International Farming Scholars inspires people to make a difference in the world of agriculture. This work is done by developing the individuals in agriculture who will shape the future of agriculture and our local and global communities.

The Nuffield International Farming Scholars program is a unique global network of farmers and agri-professionals that focuses on:

- Personal capacity building
- Excellence in agricultural production, distribution, research, and management
- Local, national, and global thought leadership

A non-profit organization with a growing global footprint, Nuffield International supports the efforts of member nations while administering the development of the scholarship program to include individuals from around the world.



## Operational Change

*“Once you believe in seeking the world’s best practices ... the whole standard of your operation changes at home.”* Scholar 1

*“One of the main benefits ... is that you learn from what you see, you learn from the people you meet, and you also learn because you have stepped away from your own business and you can look back on [the operation] with a different perspective.”* Scholar 11



Nuffield Scholars in Texas as part of their Global Focus Program: a 6-week exploration of 7 countries

*“The doors that it’s opened ... the relationships I’ve developed with people that are scholars, and the people that they know in their countries.... In one way, it’s made the world smaller, but it’s made the world bigger, too. ... it was a life changer for me in a lot of ways.”* Scholar 14

## Personal Benefit



Nuffield International Scholar Thato Moagi (South Africa) presents at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 44) gathering.

*“it gives you a huge boost in self-confidence, not only in your ability to travel, but in your ability to meet one-on-one all the way up the scale in roles in life from politicians to ambassadors to whatever, and it’s a great reconfirmation of your own abilities.”* Scholar 2

*“I think it’s really important to particularly people who were brought up on farms. That can be quite an isolated existence, and it’s really important to open your eyes to the bigger picture.”* Scholar 11

## The Value of Nuffield International

Recent research into the meaning and significance of the Nuffield Farming Scholarship experience has shown a number of outcomes, as perceived by the Nuffield Farming Scholars themselves:

- Operational change – participants expressed an increased ability to handle risk, and found that they were more willing to take on operational changes as they had increased confidence to handle change and increased exposure to technical knowledge/resources. The professional network developed during their travels provides a sense of support that encouraged them to be innovators or early adopters.
- Reciprocity – participants expressed a perceived responsibility to carry their knowledge back and share what they learned with others. This means that nothing is truly proprietary, because it can benefit other producers and the industry. Through this, individuals serve as the vehicle to help deliver new knowledge and contacts to those around them. Only one person may travel, but neighbors and others in the industry also benefit – whether because they are peeking over the fence to see what is happening or because the Scholars are playing more formal roles in leadership locally and in agriculture.
- Personal Benefit – personal growth comes through increased confidence and a broader network. This personal confidence also spurs later leadership engagement. Participants indicate a sense that following their travels, their voice and opinion was valued, and the industry and community turn to them more often for insight, advice, and leadership – increasing confidence and agency.
- Post-program engagement – following participation, there is an expressed sense of obligation to give back – to the community, to their industry, and to the Nuffield program itself – through engagement and leadership activities. There is also an increased sense of supporting those around them through mentorship and outreach, and giving back to the network they are a part of.
- On-farm management – growing as an individual requires one to figure out how to run a successful operation without being physically present every day. This encourages strong hiring decisions, empowerment of others, a sense of community around the operations, and delegation of daily decision. There is also first-hand exposure to other cultures, markets, and ideas, allowing individuals to see beyond their own operation and build resiliency and anti-fragility.



2017 Nuffield Scholars and delegates gather in Brasilia, Brazil for the annual Contemporary Scholars Conference

## Leadership Outcomes

*“Nuffield is about spreading the will and multiplying the effect of what you’ve learned through the local community and wider afield. It’s about taking those messages and then maybe in some cases accepting leadership roles, etc., and a lot of your thinking has actually been formed or shaped by your Nuffield experience.”* Scholar 11

## Reciprocity

*“... it’s not just agriculture.... If you asked what my role has been in Nuffield and what I’ve given back to the community, I would say it would be in that cultural or social aspect where I’m highly aware of what’s needed in the community. We’ve got to be socially interactive. We’ve got to do some good for the community and we’ve got to be productive to be sustainable.”* Scholar 8

## Post-Program Engagement

*“This is another way of thinking.... if you grab the innovative or the outstanding people and you develop them, they might be able to develop the whole region or the whole community.... and I think if you do both you develop the whole sector.”* Scholar 13

*“What you’re investing in ... is the potential of that individual to give a lifetime of service.... Their contribution extends outside their industry contribution.”* Scholar 2



Exploring agricultural policy and politics at European Union Parliament.



Farming, community, and conflict: on the Syria/Israel border with UN Peacekeeping forces.