



One of the biggest challenges we face in Agriculture and IFMA is succession. How do we help people to develop their skill sets and confidence so they can take on the new challenges faced. We need new people to attend an IFMA congress so they can appreciate the many benefits that come with an international network.

We started discussion over a beer in Copenhagen and it is with great pleasure that we are now in a position to formally launch:

**‘IFMA Professional Development Fund’** Nurturing management skills and personal confidence.

IFMA is based on sharing the many similarities of agricultural issues and solutions from around the world. Regardless of nationality or operational scale, there is tremendous opportunity to develop management skills and personal confidence in this environment. Providing financial incentive from this fund will help facilitate new delegates to attend an IFMA congress and experience this environment is our objective.

There are 5 geographical areas that have historically been strong supporters of IFMA. We have therefore appointed 5 interim trustees from IFMA Council to represent Africa, Australasia, Europe, North America, and South America. Additionally, the IFMA Honorary Secretary will act as fund administrator. Collectively they have agreed the award criteria and application process that will be used for the IFMA 24 awards. Trustees will formally be appointed at the next AGM in Saskatoon.

To make the fund attractive to potential benefactors, it will be ‘ring fenced’ so that we can confidently reassure them that it will be used 100% to meet the fund objectives. Any administrative expenses will be picked up by the IFMA budget.

IFMA agreed to put in seed corn of £5,000 from its existing resources to get things up and running and so enable awards to be made for IFMA 24. However, we would like this fund to grow, and we therefore ask you to help raise its awareness by passing on this information to anyone, or any organisation you know, who may be interested in donating.

Awards will not be internationally biased in any way. Emphasis will be placed on the worthiness of the candidate rather than any particular career stage, category, or gender. Candidates will not be awarded 100% funding and will have to demonstrate some financial commitment from their own resources. Additionally, worthiness will include a commitment to put something appropriate back into IFMA for the benefit of all its members. The trustee’s role is to ensure the fund’s resources are invested into worthwhile causes that meet our fund objectives. This will also need to be underpinned with a candidate’s passion for agriculture reflecting in their interests and achievements to date.

We view this as a very positive step for IFMA and one which fits well with its founding objectives set way back in 1971. It will also be a little step forward in helping answer the challenge of Agricultural succession.

Please join us in advancing the IFMA Professional Development fund and please click the following link for further information <https://www.ifma.network/congresses/ifma-professional-development-fund/>

looking forward to seeing you in Saskatoon.

Trevor Atkinson  
IFMA President

Guido van der Hoeven  
Interim Trustee Chair