

EVENT REPORT

Agribusiness Summit 2026: From the Ground Up

What happened when young people, farmers, founders and partners met in Accra for SWK Ghana's first in-person Summit.

Saturday, 7 November 2026
The GracedLife Leadership Centre, Ashaley Botwe, Accra

SWK Ghana LBG
swkghana.org

AT A GLANCE

A first in-person Summit, and a full programme.

On Saturday 7 November 2026, SWK Ghana held its first in-person Agribusiness Summit at The GracedLife Leadership Centre in Ashaley Botwe, Accra. The Summit grew out of an online webinar series that has reached more than 300 young people in over nine countries.

Its aim was simple: move young people from an interest in agriculture to a first plan for an agribusiness, in one morning, at no cost to them.

Under the theme **From the Ground Up**, the programme ran from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM and moved from listening to doing: a panel on building profitable agribusinesses, Spotlight talks from people working in the field, and a hands-on Agribusiness Model Canvas workshop.

This report sets out who came, what happened, what we learned, and what comes next.

138
registrations: 123 online and 15 at the entrance

62
people in the room, 48 of them checked in at the door

13
speakers and facilitators, 12 of them in person

6
partner organisations

11
volunteers

94%
of the 62 in the room were aged 35 or under (58 people)



The panel session, Beyond the Farm Gate, seen from the audience. Sixty-two people were present: 48 checked in at the door; three speakers, eight members of the SWK Ghana team, one volunteer, the photographer and one guest did not.

Why we held it

Many of the young people we work with are curious about agriculture but lack three things: people to learn from, a way to test an idea, and a network to start with. The Summit was built around those three gaps. It was free to attend, so that cost kept no one out.

THE DAY

Five hours, from the first welcome to the pledge.



Frank Koomson, Founder, gives the welcome address.

OPENING

A welcome, and words from our host

With **Ben Brown**, Co-Founder of SWK Ghana, as MC, the day opened with a welcome address from **Frank Koomson**, Founder of SWK Ghana, followed by a recorded goodwill message from **Mr Emmanuel N.K. Nuamah**, Chief Servant of The GracedLife Leadership Centre, and a solidarity message from **Mrs Rachael Danso** on behalf of TGLC, our host and partner.



PANEL

Beyond the Farm Gate: building profitable agribusinesses across the value chain

Moderated by **Elizabeth Kabukie Ocansey**, with **Wilfred Agbi** (Founder and CEO, Calidad Farms Limited), **Tracey Rama Osman Tia** (Agricultural Drone Pilot) and **Richard Yennunam Laarison** (Co-founder, Vehlverde Farms). The panel covered post-harvest loss and logistics, the slow uptake of technology on farms, and the room there is for people who never studied agriculture.



Wendy Dumelo, JERO Foods.

SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS

Lessons from the Field

Short, practical talks from **Samuel Yeboah** (Country Director, Dream Renewables) on solar-powered irrigation, **Tracey Rama Osman Tia** on drones in agriculture, **Mrs Sheila Cornelius** (CEO, Lam Naturals; Managing Director, Cornelius Farms), **Wendy Dumelo** (CEO and Co-Founder, JERO Foods) and **Jonathan Kwarteng** (Founder and CEO, Farmer Hut, Ada). Spoken word artiste **Jovial Hargo Tetteh** performed between sessions.



WORKSHOP

One page, one business: the Agribusiness Model Canvas

Leticia Boateng, Digital Learning Advisor at GIZ's Agri-Business Facility for Africa, introduced the free Agribusiness e-Academy and led the hands-on session with **Ernestina Gyamfi** of SWK Ghana. Working in small groups, participants mapped an agribusiness idea on a single page. The leader of each group then gave a demo pitch of the group's idea to the room.



CLOSE

"The ground is ready. And so am I."

Before leaving, each participant named one next step for their idea or their business. The day ended with the SWK Community Pledge, said together.

VOICES FROM THE SUMMIT

What the panel told the room.

> **The problem Ghana has is not production. It is post-harvest loss and logistics.**
>
> Let's get involved in agriculture. Identify your niche, map your skillset, find out what you can do, and contribute your skills.

Wilfred Agbi
Founder and CEO, Calidad Farms Limited · Panellist

> **One key challenge I have identified is adoption of technology.**
>
> In as much as drones make the work easier, most indigenous farmers do not accept the technology. They do not believe that drones can distribute fertiliser evenly to their crops.

Tracey Rama Osman Tia
Agricultural Drone Pilot · Panellist

> **Let us change our mindset about agriculture and work together from our various sector backgrounds.**
>
> You can contribute as an IT expert, a banker, a lawyer, an administrator. It doesn't matter if you do not have an agric background.

Richard Yennunam Laarison
Co-founder, Vehlverde Farms · Panellist

"My next step: start making plans towards my business."

Barbara, participant. She left the workshop with a completed Canvas and told us she feels much more confident about starting.



The panel and their moderator after the session.

Speakers and facilitators

- **Mr Emmanuel N.K. Nuamah** · goodwill message
- **Elizabeth Kabukie Ocansey** · panel moderator
- **Tracey Rama Osman Tia** · panellist, Spotlight speaker
- **Jovial Hargo Tetteh** · spoken word
- **Mrs Sheila Cornelius** · Spotlight speaker
- **Jonathan Kwarteng** · Spotlight speaker
- **Ernestina Gyamfi** · Canvas workshop co-facilitator
- **Mrs Rachael Danso** · solidarity message
- **Wilfred Agbi** · panellist
- **Richard Yennunam Laarison** · panellist
- **Samuel Yeboah** · Spotlight speaker
- **Wendy Dumelo** · Spotlight speaker
- **Leticia Boateng** · e-Academy and Canvas workshop

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Five lessons the room heard again and again.

Drawn from notes taken on the day by Lawrencia Owusu, a Summit volunteer.

01 **Agribusiness is farming run as a business.**
Production becomes agribusiness when profit and technology are built in.

02 **The technology is ready; uptake is slow.**
Drones, farm-data tools and solar irrigation are available, but a knowledge gap holds many farmers back.

03 **Records and readiness unlock funding.**
Farmers who keep no records struggle to get finance. Lenders look for businesses that are business-ready.

04 **The biggest gaps are the biggest openings.**
Post-harvest loss, market linkage and funding are problems, and businesses: an aggregator links farmers to buyers.

05 **Start small and add value.**
Choose a niche, test what sells fastest, and add value through drying, powders and processing.

FROM THE SESSIONS

Drones in agriculture
Drones apply fertiliser, spray seeds and read farm health from the air. Commercial use needs drone registration and a pilot licence. **Tracey Rama Osman Tia**

Value addition and agri-tourism
No records, no funding. Dried fruit and processed products pay, and farm stays are a growing idea. **Cornelius Farms**

Choose your niche
Production, processing or selling: pick one, start small, build skills in data, and keep an opportunity tracker. **The panel**

Solar-powered irrigation
Get an expert to assess your needs first. Shared irrigation lowers costs, and where you farm matters: land from illegal mining can contaminate crops. **Dream Renewables**

Mushroom farming
Ghana's climate suits oyster mushrooms; mushroom powder, dried mushrooms and mushroom bread are in demand. **JERO Foods, Nsawam**

One page, one business
Every business needs a Business Model Canvas; each part feeds the others. Value chains discussed included cashew, cocoa, maize and livestock. **Agribusiness e-Academy**

WHO WAS IN THE ROOM

Young, mixed, and already doing something.

What the 35 participants told us when they registered. They are students, workers and business owners, and nearly half already run a venture. Speakers, volunteers and the team are not included.

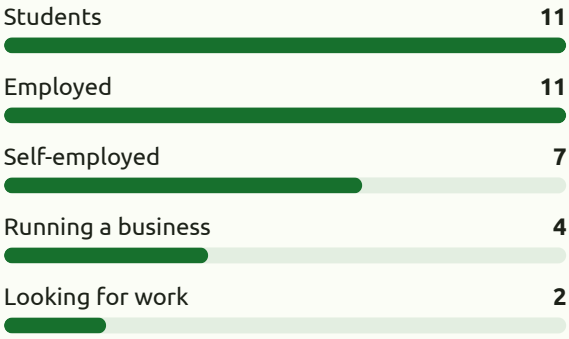
40%
women: 14 women and 21 men took part as participants

94%
aged 18 to 35: 32 of the 34 who gave their age; median 26

16
participants already run a venture of their own

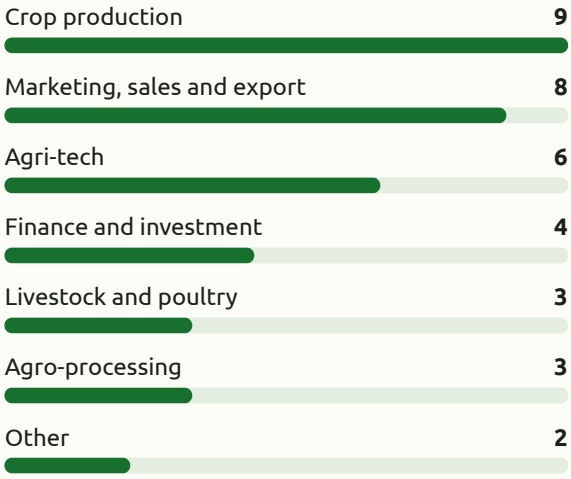
What they do now

35 participants



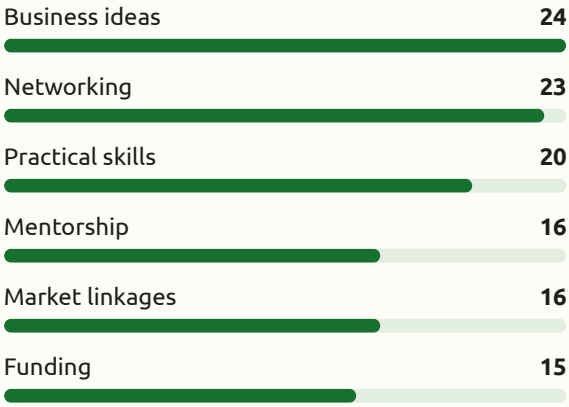
Where their interest lies

Main area of interest, 35 participants



What they came for

35 participants; more than one answer allowed



Everyone who registered

138 registrations

86 men and 52 women registered.

124 of the 136 who gave their age were between 18 and 35.

60 said they already work in agribusiness (20 did not answer), and **46** already have a venture.

Of the 35 participants, **19** heard about the Summit from a friend or referral and **12** from social media.

Source: the Summit registration form and door check-in. Of the 62 people present, 35 were participants; the others were 12 speakers and facilitators, 6 volunteers, 7 members of the SWK Ghana team, the photographer and a guest. Figures are totals only; no individual's answers are published.

WHAT WE LEARNED

Three things we are taking into the next one.

01

The demand is there

138 registrations came in for a first in-person Summit, 60 of them from people already working in agribusiness, and six more young people signed up at the door.

02

Registering is not arriving

Of the 123 people who registered online, 33 checked in. Next time we will confirm seats in the final week, share directions earlier, and plan for walk-ins.

03

Guard the clock, and the follow-up

Early feedback rated the speakers and content highly and asked us to keep better time. Sixteen participants came hoping for mentorship.

WHAT IS NEXT

The Summit was the start.

Mentorship

Participants can now request mentorship from a Summit speaker, or general guidance in their area. We are putting the requests to our speakers.

swkghana.org/mentorship

Free learning

The Agribusiness e-Academy offers free courses, including the Agribusiness Model Canvas used on the day.

Link at swkghana.org/summit

Community

Opportunities, events and peers in agribusiness are shared in the SWK Ghana WhatsApp community.

Link at swkghana.org/summit

Feedback and certificates

Participant and speaker feedback is still coming in, and certificates are being sent to everyone who took part.

swkghana.org/feedback



The SWK Ghana team and volunteers who ran the day.

OUR PARTNERS

Six organisations made the day possible.

They gave a venue, speakers, learning content and hands. Thank you.

The GracedLife Leadership Centre
Host and venue partner

Agribusiness e-Academy
Agri-Business Facility for Africa, GIZ

Calidad Farms Limited

The Food Discourse

Rotaract Club of Accra Ring Road Central

Dream Renewables

The Summit was free for every young person. Help keep it that way.

SWK Ghana is a youth-focused nonprofit. Gifts and partnerships pay for the venue, materials, and the follow-up that turns one good day into a business that lasts: mentorship, training and community.

Fund a programme. Sponsor the next Summit, a training cohort or the mentorship programme.
Bring your organisation. Speakers, farm visits, learning content, a venue, or opportunities for young people.
Give what you can. Card, Mobile Money or MoMo Pay at swkghana.org/give.

swkghana.org/give

Contact

info@swkghana.org
swkghana.org
@SWK Ghana on Instagram, Facebook, X, LinkedIn and YouTube

Photography and videography

Caleb Nuamah. Additional photos by the SWK Ghana team.

About SWK Ghana

SWK Ghana LBG is a youth-focused nonprofit founded in Accra, registered in Ghana as a Private Company Limited by Guarantee under the Companies Act, 2019 (Act 992). We empower and mobilise young people as holistic changemakers.