



Global Agritourism Conference (GAC)

Information about the process for applying to host

With the Global Agritourism Network (GAN) formed in 2023, there is an exciting opportunity to raise the profile of the network and of agritourism as a force for good by hosting the Global Agritourism Conference (GAC) in different parts of the world.

The First World Congress on Agritourism was held in Bolzano (Italy) in 2018, hosted by Eurac Research. In 2022, the University of Vermont hosted the International Workshop on Agritourism in Burlington (Vermont, USA). In 2024, the World Congress on Agritourism returned to Bolzano (Italy), once more hosted by Eurac. In 2026, the inaugural Global Agritourism Conference will be hosted in Aberdeen (Scotland) in June and plans are underway for the 2027 Global Agritourism Conference to be hosted in Quebec (Canada).

In future years, GAN, in partnership with a local/regional/national organisation, will host the Global Agritourism Conference, moving around to different countries, ensuring all world regions have the opportunity to host a conference.

Lead in Time and Conference Preparation

Considering that organising a global conference takes a significant amount of planning and resources, and to ensure that a country can prepare for hosting the Global Agritourism Conference, the application and selection process to host the next few years of conferences is underway.

Moving forward, the Events Working Group chair will serve as the primary GAN liaison for future conferences, providing continuity and coordination across past and future host countries. The Events Working Group is composed of the chair, two representatives of each upcoming conference, and at least one representative of the previous two conferences.

The Selection Process will consider the location of the Global Agritourism Conference to ensure it moves around regions of the world.

Selection Process and Timescale

Overall, the conference selection is a multi-step process comprised of 4 steps:

1. Initial expression of interest application: Public call to gather initial details and bidder expertise and resources. Interested parties should complete the form online at: [Expression of Interest to Host Conference](#)

Compulsory element at the expression of interest (EOI) stage: To support growth and engagement with GAN, the EOI process should identify their current and future engagement with their GAN Regional Committee. It also requires the GAN Regional Committee to endorse any bid for the Global Agritourism Conference through a formal letter of support.

2. Detailed bid in written and video formats: By invitation only (those with a strong initial expression of interest).
3. Online interview with selected bidders: By invitation (those with a strong detailed bid).
4. Final selection:
 - Selected applicants receive notification.
 - Signature of GAN-applicants.

Specific dates for the GAC 2028, 2029, and 2030 bids:

May 1, 2026 (Friday)	Initial expression of interest opens. Complete the form online at Expression of Interest to Host Conference
July 31, 2026 (Friday)	Initial expression of interest applications close
August 19, 2026 (Wednesday)	Launch of detailed bid process
October 26, 2026 (Monday)	Detailed bid process closes
November 4, 2026 (Wednesday)	Invitations for online interviews will be sent
November 9 - 20, 2026	Online interview process will take place
December 4, 2026 (Friday)	Successful countries receive notification
December 18, 2026 (Friday)	MOU with GAN signed to confirm arrangements

Detailed Bid: Content and Evaluation

The Events Working Group will invite those candidates who submitted a compelling initial expression of interest (e.g., qualifications, past experience, resources) to submit a detailed bid to host GAC.

The tender document for the main bid will take two forms:

1. A written document that addresses the criteria below; and
2. A 3-minute (maximum) video showing what the host country and venue have to offer.

The written document should address the following key elements, which will be used to score proposals.

Key Elements of a Global Agritourism Conference & Criteria

Content Element	Scoring Criteria
<p>A DETAILED AND THOROUGH PLAN FOR A 3-DAY CONFERENCE</p>	<p>A detailed plan of how the conference will run and where different elements will be held. At a minimum, this should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All venues and break-out areas - Catering - Accommodation - I.T. and tech support - Agritourism farm field trips
<p>A HOST COUNTRY OR REGION THAT IS WELL ESTABLISHED IN AGRITOURISM & PRIORITISES ITS DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>Describe why your country (or region) is suitable to host the conference, especially highlighting its agritourism standing (e.g., offerings).</p> <p>A suitable country/region will be, for example, one that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has robust expertise in agritourism, either having a government prioritising agritourism and/or an academic research base in agritourism - Monitors agritourism standing and progress (e.g., growth) - Can demonstrate the impact of policies to support growth
<p>GAN PRESENCE AND LEADERSHIP</p>	<p>A country/region that has a strong presence in GAN. For example, it has members attending meetings, had attended previous global conferences, or have provided leadership or voluntary time to GAN.</p>
<p>ORGANISATIONAL CAPABILITIES</p>	<p>The bid should include the costs of a professional event management company, individual, or team.</p> <p>The bid should clearly identify and detail the professional team responsible for organising the conference, both in advance and during the event. It should outline their expertise in running other large events and include profiles of previous events they have delivered.</p>

<p>QUALITY AGRITOURISM FARM BUSINESSES TO VISIT ON PRE- AND/OR POST-CONFERENCE TOURS</p>	<p>A country established in agritourism with quality businesses willing to host groups up to one coach size (40) for a farm visit.</p> <p>Enough interesting agritourism businesses to set up pre-and/or post-tours with the capacity to accommodate all conference attendees for a post-conference tour. It is desirable that the bid outlines 1-day and 3-day pre-and/or post-conference tours.</p> <p>The pre- and post-tours should be organised by the main conference organiser and be vetted for quality. Businesses to be visited should form part of the application.</p>
<p>HOST COUNTRY CAN RAISE SPONSORSHIP TO SUPPORT THE CONFERENCE</p>	<p>The bid should state a sponsorship plan to support the conference, including incentives from entities (e.g., government bodies, agritourism associations) and commercial sponsorship.</p>
<p>CONFERENCE VENUE</p>	<p>A professional conference venue suitable to accommodate a minimum of 400 delegates, ideally with space for 700 to 1000 if possible.</p> <p>The venue should be appropriately equipped to accommodate groups of this size and have proven experience hosting large conferences on a regular basis.</p>
<p>ACCOMMODATION</p>	<p>The bids should list hotels and other types of accommodation very close to the conference venue, which can accommodate 400 to 1000 delegates.</p> <p>Demonstrating bed nights available either in a location connected to the conference venue or very close.</p>
<p>INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT CONNECTIONS</p>	<p>Given the global nature of the conference, the main conference venue should be located accessible to a major airport and/or a central train station.</p>
<p>QUALITY OF CONFERENCE FOOD & BEVERAGE</p>	<p>Food and beverages should feature a strong component of locally farmed and/or fished products to support local, regional, or national producers.</p>

	<p>Additional points will be given to bids with strong commitment and the ability to source menus directly from local farmers, fishers, or producers.</p> <p>Showcasing the local cuisine and employing local caterers throughout the event is expected. The bid should highlight examples of food and beverages from that country/region that would be included in the menus and catering arrangements (e.g., caterers).</p>
<p>COST FOR DELEGATES/VALUE FOR MONEY</p>	<p>Bids would outline an estimated full budget for 400 delegates including registration costs per delegate, examples of accommodation costs, and other main budget items.</p> <p>While the baseline budget should be based on 400 delegates, options of what the budget looks like for more or fewer delegates should be demonstrated.</p> <p>The conference should aim to make a profit to disburse to GAN at least USD 15,000 to employ paid support staff throughout the year. <u>Other profit arrangements (e.g., proportional distribution) will also be considered.</u> The profit distribution to GAN should be clearly outlined in the bid budget.</p> <p>The bid should include scholarship opportunities for delegates with limited resources who can contribute to the program and who would gain from participating.</p>
<p>SUSTAINABILITY</p>	<p>Hosts should state their commitment to sustainability and the environment. Bids should state specific sustainable practices that will be adopted.</p>
<p>INTEGRATION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY/CULTURE AND CULTURAL/OFFICIAL WELCOME</p>	<p>Describe how the local culture will be incorporated into the conference programme. This could include engaging local authorities or organisations to understand the regional context supporting agritourism. At a minimum, an evening or part of the programme should be dedicated to local culture.</p>

SUPPORT FROM GAN REGIONAL COMMITTEE	<u>Compulsory element at the application stage:</u> Any application for the Global Agritourism Conference must identify how the GAN Regional Committee members will be involved in the planning and delivery of the event. The GAN Regional Committee must endorse the application (see above).
LETTERS OF SUPPORT	At least three (3) letters of support from related organisations or individuals.

Global Agritourism Conference Best Practices

The GAN Events Working Group is readily available for inquiries and to support bid development. Email Global Agritourism Network <info@globalagritourismnetwork.org> with questions.

GAN Conference Handbook/Template

While a flavour of the country hosting the conference is welcomed, the conference should also contain some core elements for both good practice and consistency. A GAN conference handbook is being prepared with guidance for host countries.