



Oat Global Announcement: Tom Rabaey voted new Chair by OG board 9/27/2019

I am happy to assume the role of Chair of the Oat Global Board and feel honored that the current board is entrusting me with leadership of the organization going forward. My sincere thanks to Gabe Gusmini (PepsiCo) for his vision and leadership through the establishment and foundational years of Oat Global. I look forward to working in partnership with Eric DeBlieck (Grain Millers) who has accepted the role as Vice Chair of Oat Global.

As I reflect back a few years, I recall that it was the oat community coming together to establish the Oat Rust Initiative (ORI) that brought this group together for conversation and provided direction on research. Also coming out of the ORI was Oat Global, which works closely with NAMA (North American Millers Association) and connects with researchers and millers around the world.

I also want to highlight the recent announcement of USDA ARS allocating \$1MM in new funding for oat research. This new funding was secured through legislative visits coordinated by NAMA members and the Oat Global Board. We anticipate additional funding for oats from USDA ARS as a result of our frequent and informative legislative visits. We are hopeful that this will reignite the ORI and other oat research activities in the near term.

I'm looking forward to connecting at the upcoming Oat Global/POGA oat research meeting October 29–30 hosted at the University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus. It will be a great opportunity to convene and re-energize our needs, ideas and opportunities to advance oat research.

Tom Rabaey Ph.D.
Sr. R&D Manager, General Mills, Inc.

Tom Rabaey is a Sr. R&D Manager leading the Agronomy Sciences group focused on oat breeding and variety development, organic and regenerative agriculture practices, cropping systems biodiversity and intercropping systems, and is the liaison for global agronomy at General Mills headquartered in Minneapolis, MN.

Tom Rabaey holds a B.S in Agronomy Sciences from South Dakota State University and M.S and PhD in Agronomy Sciences and Entomology from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. In 1995, Tom started his career at General Mills and has worked on many brands for the company including Green Giant, Nature Valley, Cheerios, and the organic brands of Muir Glen, Cascadian Farm, and Annie's Organic.

Tom Rabaey grew up on a diversified family farm near Minneota, Minnesota where he still plays an active role in management of the operation.
