



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

CFANS

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL  
AND NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCES

## Oat Global



### New Oat Global Leadership

Dear oat community members,

The most essential component of Oat Global's work to advance the resilience, quality, and value of oats is the people making it all happen. Whether they approach this work from industry, government, academia, or elsewhere, it takes the knowledge and leadership of dedicated individuals to move Oat Global forward.

It is for this reason that I am pleased to announce newly elected leadership on the Oat Global Board. Effective immediately, the following professionals will share their experience and expertise on our Board of Directors:

#### Incoming Board Chair:

**Penny Kianian**, Senior Principal Scientist, PepsiCo

Our new board chair is Penny M. A. Kianian, PhD. Kianian is an experienced crop biologist presently working at PepsiCo to solve global plant health problems. Kianian has a PhD in Applied Plant Sciences from the University of Minnesota, and has previous professional research experiences in higher education. Kianian has also served on community boards and in local government.

**Incoming Board Members:**

**Melanie Caffé-Tremblé,**  
Associate Professor, South Dakota State University

**Kevin Smith,**  
Professor, University of Minnesota

**Steve Eichten,**  
Senior R&D Scientist, General Mills

**Penny Kianian,**  
Senior Principal Scientist, PepsiCo

[Visit the Oat Global webpage to see the full Board of Directors lineup](#)

This also means that I am stepping down as Board Chair after six years of service. I am grateful for all I have learned from this community, and I intend to stay involved through my continued work in Agronomy at General Mills.

I am confident that this influx of qualified and motivated leadership to our Board will bring new resources and perspectives to our community at large.

Sincerely,  
Tom Rabaey  
Outgoing Board Chair, Oat Global  
Senior ITQ Principal Agronomist, General Mills