

Ambassador Kip Tom

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U.S. Ambassador to United Nations Agencies, Rome, Italy

Former as of January 20, 2021

SUMMARY

After decades of multiple roles in support of agriculture on local, state, national and international levels, Kip Tom was appointed U.S. Ambassador to the Rome-based United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture in 2019.

He oversaw the largest contributions to UN food programs and dealt with emergency assistance, safety standards, agriculture, fisheries, forests, and rural development financing. Ambassador Tom's diligent efforts to modernize agriculture and increase sustainability has enhanced U.S. objectives in foreign policy and agriculture priorities.

It all started in northeast Indiana at Leesburg-based Tom Farms, an eighth-generation Kosciusko County farming operation known for innovation and operational excellence. Tom is chairman of the Tom Family of Agribusinesses, Tom Farms, CereServ and Tom Family Farms . Kip also is Chairman of GlobalAg an Ag Consulting Firm.

Ambassador Tom has done work and served as a board member with various organizations including Forum for America and the World, Farmers Feeding the World, the Farm Foundation, Farm Journal Foundation, Indiana Economic Development Corporation, Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Indiana state Department of Agriculture and National 4-H and FFA foundations.

Ambassador Tom has been intimately involved sharing his expertise and experiences in advancing agriculture's technology sector. His servant leadership to Agriculture have been marked with many successful outcomes from his tireless efforts to advance sustainable modern agriculture for the benefit of the US and the International community.

WORK HISTORY

- [United States Ambassador](#) to the [United Nations Agencies](#), in Rome, Italy (2019-2021)
- [LocalRoots](#) Produce, Chief Investment and Opportunities Officer (2021-Current)
- [Tom Farms](#) (1973-2019, 2021-Current)
 - Chairman of the Tom Family of Companies 2002-2019, 2021-Current
 - Director of operations and strategy, Tom Farms, 2000-2015
 - Director of development, Latin America, Tom Farms, 1999-2016
 - Director of production and supply management, Tom Farms, 1985-2000
 - Asst. Director of production and supply management, Tom Farms, 1978-1985
 - Production technician, Tom Farms, 1973-1978
- [Pioneer](#) Hybrid in Latin America Consultant (1994-1999)
 - Agriculture Systems Consultant in South America 1994-1999

CORPORATE BOARD MEMBERSHIP

- [Indigo Agriculture](#), Chairman of Advisory Board (2016-2019)
- Consileum, Board of Directors (2021-Current)
- GlobalAg, Founder (2021-Current)

- [HarpeBio](#), Board Member (2021-Present)
- [AgriNovus Indiana](#) Board Member (2021-Present)
- [Provivi](#), Advisory Board, (2016-2019), (2021-Present)
- [Indiana Economic Development Corporation](#) (2005-2016)
- [Elevate Ventures](#), Board Member (2014-2019)
- [Granular Ag](#), Chairman of Advisory Board (2014-2018)
- [AgFunder](#), Founders Fund Board Member, (2018-2019)

PHILANTHROPIC AND NON-PROFIT AFFILIATIONS

- [World Food Program Executive Board](#), Rome, Italy (2019-2021)
- Forum for America and the World, Fellow, Washington, DC (2021-Present)
- [U.N. Food Systems Summit Advisory Committee](#), New York, New York (2020-2021)
- [United States Farmers and Ranchers Alliance](#) (USFRA) Executive Board (2021-current)
- [Conexus Indiana Council](#), Board Member (2016-2019)
- [AgriNovus](#) Indiana, Executive Steering Committee member (2015-2019)
- [Growth Energy](#), Board Member (2014-2019)
- Board of Trustees of [National Future Farmers of America](#) Foundation, member (2014-2019)
- Board of Trustees of [National 4-H](#) Foundation, member (2014-2019)
- [Farm Foundation](#) Board of Directors, member (2011-2019) (2021-Current)
- [Farm Journal Agricultural Foundation](#), National Board, member (2008-2019)
- [Indiana Chamber of Commerce](#) Board of Directors, member (2006-2019)
- [Indiana State Department of Agriculture](#), board member (2005-2015)

FOREIGN AGRICULTURE BUSINESS VISITS

- Extensive travel globally on issues revolving around agricultural trade, food security, production and education in over 62 countries.

HUMANITARIAN VISITS FOCUSED ON FOOD SECURITY

- Travel with World Food Programme and other organizations to Iraq, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Sudan, Ethiopia, Lebanon and South Africa visiting internally displaced camps, developing and developed ag and food sites, WFP and FAO field offices and leadership.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- [Agriculture Future of America Ag Leader of the Year](#) - 2015
- [Purdue APEX Ag Management Award -2012 Purdue University Center for Commercial Agriculture](#)
- [Top Producer of the Year - 2007 \(Farm Journal Media\)](#)
- [Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year - Indiana 2002](#)
- Top Ten People in Precision Agriculture ([PrecisionAg.com](#))

MEDIA QUOTES

- [Wall Street Journal](#), Kip Tom; "Innovation in agriculture and food is the key to global food security," he [said](#), and it's needed "around the world."
- [Eurativ Media](#), Kip Tom, "How America could work with the European Union on Food Sustainability"
- [RealClearWorld](#), Kip Tom; "The UN should learn that ideology won't stop a plague of locust."
- [GlobalAg Investing](#), Kip Tom; I think the next big revolution – the lever to be pulled if you will – will be that of technology and data, and digital science and analytics.
- [New York Times](#), Kip Tom; "Farmers still think tech means physical augmentation — more horsepower, more fertilizer. They don't see that technology now is about multiplying information."
- [Fox News](#) , Kip Tom; "The Trump Tax Proposal will help small family businesses like ours remain in the family"
- [NPR](#), Kip Tom; "I see Trump being good for agriculture, absolutely."
- [Indianapolis Monthly](#), Kip Tom: When asked by the Secretary of Agriculture in 2012 what could the USDA do for producers? "You need to get out of our way. Let private industry do what it does best: conduct business."

- [AgFunder](#), Kip Tom: “Farmers that don’t adapt to new technologies will be left behind.”
- [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#), Kip Tom; “We can feed, fuel and clothe a growing world but we have to have Global Ag Policy that allows us to.”

SPEECHES - RECENT

- [E.T. York Distinguished Lecture](#), Auburn University, April-21
- [Western Growers Association](#), Dana Point, CA. Jul-2021
- [USDA Annual AgOutlook Conference Keynote Speech](#), Washington, DC. Feb-2020
- [Agri-Pulse Agri-Food Policy Summit](#), Washington, DC, Sep-2020
- [US UN Rome Mission FAO Speech Archives](#) (2019-2021)
- [DTN Annual Producer Seminar, Keynote Speech](#), Chicago, IL. Dec-2020
- [Association of Equipment Manufactures \(AEM\) Annual Meeting Key Note Speech](#), Washington, DC Nov-2020
- National Press Club, Agriculture and Food Innovations, Washington, DC. Aug-2016
- Forbes Agriculture Innovation Conference, Salinas, CA. July-2016
- Global Ag Investing AGTECH Seminar, San Francisco, CA. Jun-2016
- World Oil Seed Conference, Dublin, Ireland. Nov-2015
- Forbes Agriculture Innovation Conference, Salinas, CA. Jun-2015
- Graan South Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa. Mar-2015
- Harvard Business School, Boston, MA. Mar-2015
- Modern Agricultural Trends-Stanford Business School, Stanford, CA. Feb-2015
- The National Forum, Naples, FL. Feb-2015
- Bayer Grains Conference, Frankfurt, Germany. Nov-2014
- Canadian Canola Growers Annual Convention, Saskatoon, Canada. Oct-2014
- Monsanto Science-Tech Community, St. Louis, MO. Jun-2014

COURSES OF STUDY

- Advanced Management Certificate, Texas A&M (TEAPAP)
- Harvard Executive Agribusiness Executive Seminars-HBS
- Purdue Midwest Food and Agribusiness Executive Seminar

REFERENCES (contact information available on request)

- **Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State (Past), United States of America**
- **Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture (Past), United States of America** www.usda.gov
- **David Beasley, Executive Director of the World Food Programme,** <https://www.wfp.org>
- **Howard G. Buffett, Chairman, Howard G. Buffett Foundation**
- **Mitch Daniels, Former Indiana Governor, President-Purdue University**
- **Carl Casale, Board Member** [Ospraie Ag Science](#)
- **Hugh Grant, (Retired) CEO Monsanto,**
- **James Collins, CEO (Retired), Corteva, Email:** www.corteva.com
- **Luke Chandler, Chief Economist, John Deere and Company**
- **Jay Ackridge, Provost, Purdue University,** <https://ag.purdue.edu>
- **Danny Klinefelter, (Retired)Professor-Economics Texas A&M,** <http://agecon.tamu.edu>
- **Sid Gorham, CEO (retired), Granular,** www.granularag.com

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

- **Twitter:** [@kiptom](#)

- **Twitter:** [@USUNRomeAMB](#)
- **Facebook:** [USUNRome](#)
- **Facebook:** [Kip Tom](#)

KIP TOM - NARRATIVE BIO

Seven generations of Kip Tom's family have farmed the land in northeast Indiana. A life-long resident of Kosciusko County, Kip grew up on his family's farm in the community that his ancestors homesteaded in 1837. In 1952, Kip's parents started out with 120 acres and today under Kip's leadership, the business has grown to over 22,000 acres with locations in the U.S. and in Argentina. Tom Farms is considered a global leader in agriculture production and an early adopter of new technologies. Tom Farms is known for adapting to new innovative approaches to increase productivity, including improving soil health, lessening their carbon footprint, and working with nature. They have investments in Silicon Valley in agriculture data science companies, partnering with Silicon Valley high-tech corporations. The farm business also manages commodity trading operations across Indiana. Tom Farms has grown to be one of the largest seed suppliers in the U.S. to Bayer.

Kip is a frequent resource for institutional investors seeking information on trends in the agriculture industry. He has served as a consultant/advisor to more than 60 funds over the past five years and often speaks at investor events in New York, San Francisco and Boston.

Kip helped bring well-paying jobs to Indiana as a member of the Board of Directors of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels and serving under both Governor Daniels and Governor Mike Pence. During his 12 years of service, Kip was an important part of Indiana's job creation efforts, which broke records for job creation and attraction nearly every year.

In 2015, Kip turned over daily operations of Tom Farms to the next generation. He now pursues his passion to see that others globally, regardless of the industry they represent, have the opportunity to live the American dream and build businesses from very modest beginnings.

Kip has been involved in several philanthropic organizations focusing on food security issues domestically and globally. He has traveled to and worked across Africa and the Middle East and numerous other developing nations.

Kip served on the board of directors for a number of agriculture-related business organizations – he is a member of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, a trustee of the National 4-H Foundation and a member of the National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Foundation Board of Directors. He also serves on the Dean's Advisory Council at Purdue University. The Tom family business has been awarded the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Additionally, Kip has received the National Leader in Agriculture Award from Agriculture Future America (AFA), Indiana AgriVision Award from Governor Daniels, Purdue Apex Award and the U.S. Top Producer Award for Agriculture from Farm Journal.

As the U.S. Ambassador, Kip has accomplished numerous goals and have led new initiatives based on the following:

- Food resilience and capacity as being essential to both humanitarian and national security interests. Without food, hope evaporates, migration ensues, and trafficking expands, providing extremism with fertile ground.
- Sustainable farming increases productivity, using less to produce more while working within our planetary boundaries.

- The elimination of poverty and hunger will require a greater focus on the nexus between humanitarian aid and development.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, I have been focused on not letting the health crisis spiral into an even worse food crisis.

There are several critical ongoing reforms in the Food and Agriculture arena that he had had significantly impact on supporting U.S. food and trade policy objectives in the near term:

- UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS)— The UN is undertaking a massive global summit to transform the world’s food systems to meet increased food demands by 2030. I have played a key role on the Advisory Board to ensure proper governance, as well as outcomes that are not biased against U.S. agriculture trade, and which remain focused on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable by increasing productivity. At play is the \$8 trillion world food supply chain. USDA currently projects an increase of \$1.1 trillion in societal welfare if the European Union’s Farm to Fork system is adopted to the exclusion of other food systems.
- Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) – Since the arrival of new FAO leadership in 2019, the United States has been successful in working with FAO to address fraud and corruption issues within the organization as well as human resource and governance failures. As a result, reforms have been instituted to ensure greater transparency. I have also been working closely with the new FAO leadership to focus on capacity building and resilience opportunities in addressing the pandemic with the potential of an FAO turning point in the near future on issues of critical importance to the United States.
- World Food Program (WFP)— I have been partnering directly with Executive Director David Beasley during this unprecedented COVID period, which saw basic food needs double in Africa alone, and challenged the coordination efforts of the U.S. Department of State, USDA, USTR, USAID, and others.
- Since the signing of the Abraham Accords, Sudan has prioritized production agriculture as its first investment priority. He has been working with Executive Directory Beasley to lead a unique initiative with the support of the U.S. Development Finance Corporation to leverage private sector funding and business expertise, along with U.S. land grant universities to launch a new agriculture development initiative in Sudan. If successful, this initiative could provide a new model for development efforts in conflict zones.

Kip has an advanced management certificate from Texas A&M in agriculture economics and attends executive business management courses at Harvard Business School.

Kip recently while Ambassador resided in Rome, Italy but has returned to Leesburg, Indiana, USA.