



# THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE

## *Des Moines Declaration*



*A Call for Accelerated Action in Agriculture,  
Food and Nutrition to End Poverty and Hunger*

BY

THE UNDERSIGNED WORLD FOOD PRIZE LAUREATES,  
FOUNDERS AND COUNCIL OF ADVISORS

*October 16, 2004*

# *THE DES MOINES DECLARATION:*

## **A Call for Accelerated Action in Agriculture, Food and Nutrition to End Poverty and Hunger**

*Gathering in Iowa, the birthplace of Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Father of the Green Revolution, who is celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2004; and*

*Assembled in Des Moines, on the occasion of the Presentation of the 2004 World Food Prize as we celebrate the International Year of Rice; and*

*Observing October 16 as United Nations World Food Day, and World Food Prize Day in America:*

We the undersigned Laureates, Founders and Council Members of The World Food Prize do hereby address this joint declaration to the governments of the world, the leaders of major international organizations and to all involved in the struggle against hunger, poverty and disease in the world.

### **More Attention to the Millennium Development Goals**

We reiterate our support for the Millennium Development Goals resulting from the Summit Declaration adopted by the heads of government of the world assembled at the United Nations in September 2000 to reduce hunger, poverty and disease still afflicting half the population on our planet. Progress to move forward must be based on realistic plans, and immediate action must be taken.

We recognize that adequate and available food and nutrition are essential to achieving most of these goals and important for all of them. We also recognize that improved nutrition is directly related to success in approaching and reaching population stabilization.

Hundreds of millions of poor people are left hungry in a world of food abundance because they lack access to adequate food and nutrition. It is essential that we close this gap between hunger and food availability.

### **More Food - Increased Productivity to Improve the Lives of People and Protect Biodiversity in Our Environment**

Agriculture is the main source of income for poor people living in rural areas. As such, a boost in agricultural productivity in the rural areas of developing countries will greatly enhance earning potential as well as produce more food. However, agricultural production increases will not generate adequate gains in employment, and additional steps must also be taken to increase employment in agro based value added rural enterprises.

In addition, food productivity must be increased to improve the lives of people and protect biodiversity in our environment. With close to a billion people still suffering from hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity and with the population of our planet projected to grow by 50% by the middle of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, either we must produce more food on the land and in the water now available to us, or people will be forced to cut down precious forest areas and cultivate marginal lands to grow the food necessary to fuel our escalating demands. It is crucial that new agricultural innovations and technologies be developed.

### **More Nutritious Food – The Best Medicine**

We emphasize that the nutritional quality as well as the quantity of food must be improved. Poverty, hunger, and ill-health are all interrelated. The hidden hunger of micronutrient deficiencies is particularly damaging to current and future generations. Nutrition needs to be improved to reduce the devastating effects of diseases that are keeping the hungry and malnourished from being productive members of society.

We call special attention to the fact that The World Food Prize Foundation is devoting its 2005 International Symposium to the issue of nutrition.

### **More Available Food – Increased Prosperity to Counter Terrorism**

We believe that reducing poverty and hunger around the world is one of the most important means of reducing the terrorism that the world is confronting. Global political security can only be attained through an enhanced commitment to addressing global food security. Providing hope, progress and increased prosperity in these same areas can be the single most effective means to achieve stability and tranquility.

More equitable income and land distribution needs to be achieved by inclusion of the poor and the disadvantaged in sustainable economic activities that ensure remunerative return for their material, labor and capital contributions. This will help to ensure purchasing power in the hands of the poor and the disadvantaged, making more affordable food available without compromising human dignity.

### **Role of The World Food Prize Laureates**

Since its inception in 1986, The World Food Prize has been awarded to Laureates from a wide variety of disciplines and countries. Regardless of background or discipline, we have devoted our lives to striving for achievements that will eradicate hunger and uplift all humankind. Based on our experience, we believe that the steps below are crucial to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, and the abolishment of hunger in our world.

### **Accelerated Action to Defeat Hunger in the World**

Considering that in order to attain further breakthroughs in combating poverty, hunger, malnutrition and famine, we recommend that governments of the world and international organizations urgently undertake the following steps:

- **Significantly increase funding for pro-poor agricultural and nutritional research conducted by an integrated system of national, international and private sector research organizations.**
- **Give higher priority to investment in public goods that would facilitate agricultural development, including those mentioned below.**
- **Increase funding for the construction and improvement of roads, with a particular emphasis on rural roads.**
- **Increase investment in rural infrastructure to facilitate the processing, storage, transport and marketing of agricultural products in low income developing countries.**
- **Encourage the provision of micro-credit facilities for farming communities.**
- **Develop programs to ensure adequate nutrition.**
- **Increase programs supporting education for all with special emphasis on women and girls.**
- **Develop research and technologies for more sustainable use of natural resources and promote access to energy sources in rural areas, with emphasis on renewable energy.**
- **Provide sufficient and clean water to support the human needs and develop and implement technologies for better water conservation and utilization in agriculture.**
- **Maintain and increase support for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to those facing hunger, starvation and death.**

We transmit this statement to the leaders of the international community in order to emphasize crucial, life sustaining issues.

## The Following World Food Prize Laureates, Founders, and Council of Advisors Support The 2004 Des Moines Declaration:

**Dr. Norman E. Borlaug**  
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate  
Founder of the World Food Prize

**Ms. Catherine Bertini**  
USA  
2003 World Food Prize Laureate

**Dr. Surinder K. Vasal**  
India  
2000 World Food Prize Laureate

**Dr. Perry L. Adkisson**  
USA  
1997 World Food Prize Laureate

**Dr. Hans R. Herren**  
Switzerland  
1995 World Food Prize Laureate

**Dr. John S. Niederhauser**  
USA  
1990 World Food Prize Laureate

**A.S. Clausi**  
USA  
World Food Prize Founder

**Michael G. Gartner**  
USA  
Council of Advisors Member

**Dean R. Kleckner**  
USA  
Council of Advisors Member

**Prof. Yuan Longping**  
China  
2004 World Food Prize Laureate

**Dr. Pedro A. Sanchez**  
USA / Cuba  
2002 World Food Prize Laureate

**Dr. Evangelina Villegas**  
Mexico  
2000 World Food Prize Laureate

**Dr. Henry M. Beachell**  
USA  
1996 World Food Prize Laureate

**Dr. Muhammad Yunus**  
Bangladesh  
1994 World Food Prize Laureate

**Dr. Verghese Kurien**  
India  
1989 World Food Prize Laureate

**Robert D. Havener**  
USA  
World Food Prize Founder

**Jonathan F. Taylor**  
Great Britain  
Council of Advisors Member

**Ambassador Kenneth Quinn**  
USA  
President, World Food Prize

**Dr. Monty P. Jones**  
Sierra Leone  
2004 World Food Prize Laureate

**Dr. Per Pinstrup-Andersen**  
Denmark  
2001 World Food Prize Laureate

**Badrinarayan R. Barwale**  
India  
1998 World Food Prize Laureate

**Dr. Gurdev S. Khush**  
India  
1996 World Food Prize Laureate

**Dr. Nevin S. Scrimshaw**  
USA  
1991 World Food Prize Laureate

**Dr. M.S. Swaminathan**  
India  
1987 World Food Prize Laureate

**Dr. Gregory Geoffroy**  
USA  
Council of Advisors Member

**Dr. Pekka Linko**  
Finland  
Council of Advisors Member

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### The World Food Prize

Dr. Norman E. Borlaug conceived of the idea for a World Food Prize after receiving The Nobel Peace Prize.

The \$250,000 World Food Prize is awarded each October in Des Moines, Iowa, USA to recognize the significant achievements of individuals who have reduced poverty, hunger, and malnutrition by improving the quality, quantity, or availability of food in the world.

Information about the World Food Prize Laureates and the annual programs conducted in conjunction with the Laureate Award Ceremony is available on the web at [www.worldfoodprize.org](http://www.worldfoodprize.org) or by contacting Ambassador Kenneth Quinn at:

The World Food Prize Foundation  
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Des Moines, Iowa USA 50309  
Phn: 515-245-3783; Fax: 515-245-3785  
E-mail: [wfp@worldfoodprize.org](mailto:wfp@worldfoodprize.org)

\* The new World Food Prize Hall of Laureates building in Des Moines, Iowa is pictured on the front cover.