



THE WORLD  
FOOD PRIZE

*Muhammad Yunus*  
*1994 Laureate*

## *A Prize for the World*

This year—1994—marks the eighth awarding of The World Food Prize. The World Food Prize is the foremost international award recognizing--without regard to race, religion, nationality or political beliefs--the lifetime achievements of individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity, or availability of food in the world.

The prize recognizes contributions in any field involved in the world food supply—food and agricultural science and technology, manufacturing, marketing, nutrition, economics, political leadership, and the social sciences.

The World Food Prize emphasizes the importance of a nutritious and sustainable food supply for all people. By honoring those who have worked successfully toward this goal, the prize calls attention to what has been done to improve the world food supply, and to what can be accomplished in the future.

The laureate receives \$200,000 and a sculpture created by world-renowned designer Saul Bass.



*The commemorative sculpture of The World Food Prize was created by world-renowned designer Saul Bass. This sculpture symbolizes the world, its food and the nourishment of its peoples.*

### *Why the Prize Was Created*

Norman E. Borlaug, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his work in world agriculture, envisioned a prize that would honor those who have made significant and measurable contributions to improving the world's food supply. Beyond recognizing these people for their personal accomplishments, he saw the prize as a means of establishing role models who would inspire others. His vision was realized when The World Food Prize was created.

### *The Prize Program*

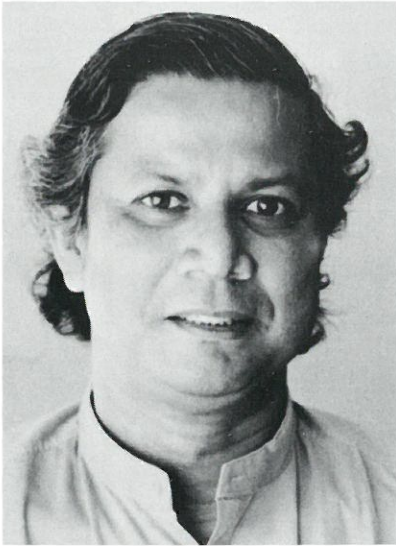
The World Food Prize is sponsored by The World Food Prize Foundation, established by John Ruan, and is located in Des Moines, Iowa, USA.

The prize is guided by a Council of Advisors in the establishment of policy and in the annual review of the prize.

The Iowa State University College of Agriculture in Ames, Iowa, serves as secretariat for the prize. Each year, more than 3,500 institutions and organizations around the world are invited to nominate candidates for the prize. The secretariat reviews all nominations for appropriateness and completeness, and forwards them to the selection committee, which selects the candidate deemed most worthy of the award according to the prize's objectives.

The selection committee is composed of nine distinguished individuals who are knowledgeable about various aspects of nutrition and food production, processing and distribution, including research, policy development, and business management. Members of the selection committee remain anonymous, except for Dr. Norman Borlaug, the group's chairman.

### *Dr. Mubammad Yunus*



*Mubammad Yunus*

Economic empowerment has long been a watchword of the American political scene. But for many of the world's poor and malnourished, it's much more than a catch-phrase. In less developed parts of the world, it's called "food empowerment," or providing the poor with the means by which to grow and buy food. And its single biggest proponent and practitioner is an economics professor who traded a university career for service to the poor — Dr. Muhammad Yunus.

His zealous devotion to the cause of the poor has given millions of people throughout the world access to adequate food and nutrition for the first time in their lives. In his native Bangladesh, and in other underdeveloped countries where Dr. Yunus's methods have been replicated, the incidence of malnutrition has vastly decreased, and the agricultural infrastructure needed to sustain a sufficient food supply has strengthened steadily.

In recognition of those remarkable achievements, Dr. Yunus has been chosen to receive the 1994 World Food Prize. Dr. Yunus came to this recognition via an unorthodox route. He is neither a farmer nor an agricultural scientist, and he holds no official policy making position. He is, rather, an economist. In fact, the struggle to alleviate hunger and malnutrition among the world's poorest people, he has often said, is at heart an issue of economics.

"Hunger is the worst form of deprivation of a human being," Dr. Yunus has written. "Although inability to access food is the immediate cause of hunger, the real cause in most of the incidents of hunger is caused by lack of ability to pay for food."

Muhammad Yunus has seen the misery of hunger and poverty in a most personal way. Bangladesh is among the poorest of the world's countries. Some

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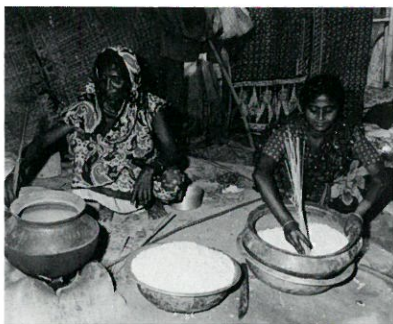
*Dr. Yunus has given hope to a nation where hope has been in desperately short supply. He has shown the world that poor people want the same thing as all human beings -- the opportunity to live in good health and dignity. By giving poor people the power to help themselves, Dr. Yunus has offered them something far more valuable than a plate of food. He has offered them security in its most fundamental form.*

THE HONORABLE JIMMY CARTER

*Dr. Yunus and colleagues visit with borrowers in Dhaka.*



MOLLA MO. SALAUDDIN/AZIBEE



MOLLA MO. SALAUDDIN/AZIBEE

*Women, such as the woman above caring for her ducks and the women below making fried rice are the focus of Grameen Bank lending programs.*

118 million people live on its 55,000 square miles, an area about the size of Wisconsin. The annual per capita income is only \$210. The daily struggle against hunger is the central fact of life for many millions of Bangladeshis.

It is as founder and chief executive of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh that Dr. Yunus has led his assault on poverty and hunger. The Grameen Bank is one of the most innovative and unusual financial institutions in the world. It is a bank for poor people; it is owned by the poor and loans its money to the poor.

“Conventional banks are based on the principle that the more you have, the more you can get; if you don’t have anything, you don’t get anything,” Dr. Yunus said recently. “Grameen has literally turned this principle completely around.”

A majority of Grameen Bank loans go toward what are described as traditional subsistence activities: planting a crop, buying a cow, raising chickens or grinding grain. As a result, people receiving loans not only have better access to food, but they are able to use their meager incomes to secure necessities other than food, such as clothing and shelter.

Since its modest beginnings in 1976, the Grameen Bank has opened more than a thousand branches in rural areas, where nine out of ten Bangladeshis live. The bank now serves almost half of Bangladesh’s 68,000 villages, or more than 2 million people. Virtually all of its members are landless or own less than an acre of land. Yet, despite the fact that loan recipients are people who could never get credit from a conventional bank, the Grameen Bank’s repayment rate far exceeds that of commercial banks. Almost 98 percent of its loans are repaid with interest.

*Nazma Begum and children cultivate bananas in their business financed by the Grameen Bank.*



MOLLA MD. SALAHUDDIN AZBEE



*Dr. Yunus is warmly greeted by villagers.*

This year the bank expects to make almost half a billion dollars in loans. Based on its success, several programs modeled after Grameen have been operating in underdeveloped areas from Malaysia to South America. In the United States, programs initiated by a Chicago development bank aimed at the urban poor have attracted wide attention, and another program patterned after Grameen has worked to alleviate poverty in the state of Arkansas.

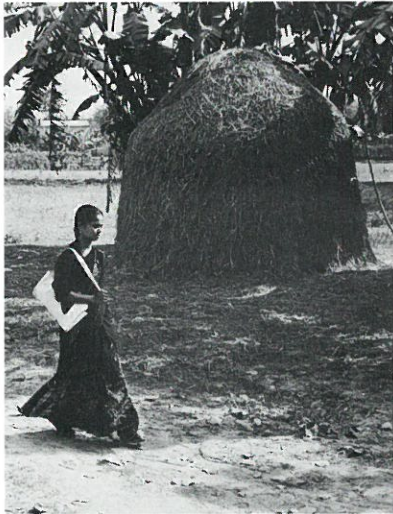
The Grameen Bank's loans are very small by the standards of western nations. The average non-collateral loan is less than \$100, and even housing loans seldom exceed \$300. But a \$100 loan can often mean the difference between a life locked in poverty and the power to improve one's position.

In many respects, the Grameen Bank has been as much a bold social experiment as a financial one. Loan applicants do not need collateral but must form a group of at least five friends, who serve as loan committee and support group. The group "makes it easy for a poor 'nobody' to take the leap and become an enterprising 'somebody,'" Dr. Yunus explained. About 94 percent

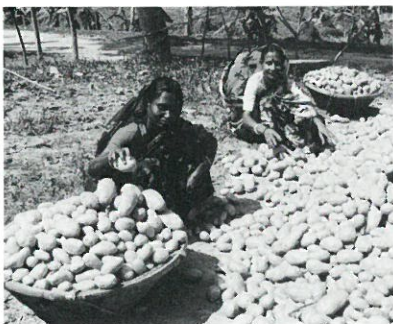
*Malnutrition in developing countries can be a function of either a global food shortage or lack of purchasing power by the poor to buy available food. Today we suffer not from a shortage of food but from the inability of the poor to buy the available food. Dr. Yunus's program addresses that problem.*

FORMER WORLD BANK PRESIDENT ROBERT McNAMARA

*Dr. Yunus's innovative programs are the perfect model for a world in search of food security.* JOHN RUAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION



NURLAMAN CHAKRADER



MOLLA MO. SALAHUDDIN AZIBEE

*Upper*

*A bank worker from the Dhakuli Manigong Branch of the Grameen Bank visiting a village.*

*Lower*

*Women cultivating potatoes which were grown with funds borrowed from the bank.*

of the bank's loans are made to women, which Dr. Yunus believes accounts for much of the success of his program.

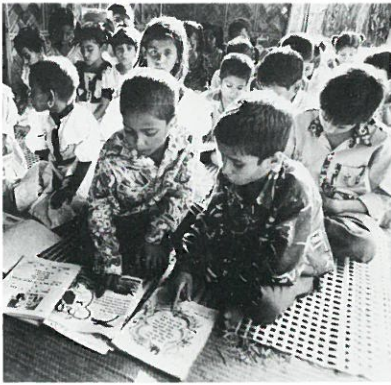
"Money going through a woman to a household brought more benefit to the household than money entering the household through a man," Dr. Yunus said. "Children get the top priority from the mother. A man often has different priorities. Children represent the future. By addressing the mothers we will be building a better future."

Based on these bold and innovative philosophies, the results of Dr. Yunus's far-ranging activities have been remarkable. Loan recipients have been able to increase their incomes by 50 percent over three years on average. Malnutrition as measured by calorie intake, body size and weight is less prevalent among Grameen Bank members than among Bangladeshis in general. Half the children of Grameen Bank members have normal height and weight at age nine; less than one-third of the children of non-members have normal measurements.

Acute hunger and starvation prior to the harvest season is far less common among the bank's members. And, according to one World Bank study, the distribution of food resources within families is much more equitable after women have been empowered to control their own destinies with a Grameen Bank loan.

Under Dr. Yunus's leadership, the Grameen Bank has also made numerous other efforts to improve Bangladesh's food supply and energize its agricultural sector. As of early 1994, the bank had given out 6.3 million packets of vegetable seeds and 2.5 million saplings to encourage home gardening and conservation. It has made over 366,000 loans for poultry production, 1.7 million loans for livestock production and over 147,000 loans for fish production. The bank's field officers are trained to discuss health care and proper nutrition with loan recipients and regularly organize workshops on such matters as livestock and poultry care, proper nutrition and good sanitation.

The bank has created the Grameen Fisheries Foundation to encourage the development of aquaculture in Bangladesh and the Grameen Agriculture Foundation, which supplies poor farmers with operating capital, production advice and marketing assistance. Of particular interest to Dr. Yunus has been the diversification of crops to include corn, soybeans and sunflowers in



MOLLA MD. SALAHUDDIN AZIBEE



Upper

Grameen Bank lending targets the welfare of women and education of children such as these in a Dhaka Center School.

Lower

Dr. Yunus visiting a training centre in Dhaka.

addition to the traditional crops of rice, wheat and sugarcane. In the wake of several natural disasters, the bank distributed food, seeds, saplings and money to people in the affected areas.

Dr. Muhammad Yunus, 54, was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for study in the United States in 1965. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Vanderbilt University in 1970. After a brief stint as deputy chief of the Government of Bangladesh's General Economics Division, Dr. Yunus accepted a teaching position in 1972 at Chittagong University.

"I was not happy with what I was teaching," Dr. Yunus has written. "Economics is supposed to give answers to economic ills. But these textbook answers were not helping the new-born country called Bangladesh.... Good things did not happen. Rather, bad things kept on happening endlessly. The euphoria of creating a dreamland for 75 million people died down quickly. The economy took a nose-dive. It ended up in a famine in 1974."

One day in 1976, while wandering through the villages around Chittagong, Dr. Yunus met a woman named Sophia who made bamboo stools. Because she had no money to buy her own materials, Sophia had become a virtual slave to the trader who gave her bamboo and purchased her stools. "I was shocked by the simplicity of the solution which the situation required and the fact that nobody bothered to pay any attention to her problem," Dr. Yunus said.

Dr. Yunus loaned Sophia and 41 others a total of \$30 of his own money. Although he did not know it, he had planted the seed which grew into the Grameen Bank, and a loan program that is now helping to feed millions of people like Sophia the world over. And as much of the world still searches for ways to replace the frequent need for emergency food aid with policies to promote long-term food security, the Grameen Bank has helped show the way.

*The cause of hunger is rooted in poverty. If we can eliminate poverty, we will eliminate hunger. I believe we can, if we truly desire it, eliminate poverty and hunger within our lifetime. I am proud to accept the World Food Prize in recognition of that great goal.*

MUHAMMAD YUNUS

## Curriculum Vitae



### **Mubammad Yunus**

Born June 28, 1940

### **Present Address**

Managing Director  
Grameen Bank, Mirpur Two  
Dhaka 1216, Bangladesh

### **Nationality**

Bangladeshi

### **Education**

Ph.D. in Economics  
Vanderbilt University, USA (1965-70)

### **Scholarships/Fellowships**

1965-66

Fulbright Fellowship to study in the USA

1966-69

Vanderbilt University research and teaching fellowships

1984

Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship

### **Professional Experiences**

1962-65

Lecturer in Economics,  
Chittagong College, Chittagong,  
Bangladesh

Summer, 1969

Instructor, Economics Institute,  
University of Colorado,  
Boulder, Colorado, USA

1969-72

Assistant Professor of Economics,  
MTSU, Tennessee, USA

1972 July-September

Deputy Chief, General Economics  
Division, Planning Commission,  
Government of Bangladesh

1972-75

Associate Professor of Economics and  
Head of the Department of Economics,  
Chittagong University, Bangladesh

1975-1989

Professor of Economics, Chittagong  
University and Director, Rural Economics  
Programme, Chittagong, Bangladesh

1976-1983

Project Director, Grameen Bank Project

1983-present

Managing Director, Grameen Bank

### **Membership of Committees and Commissions (National)**

1981

Member, National Committee on  
Population Policy set up by the President

1982

Member, Land Reform Committee, set  
up by Chief Martial Law Administrator,  
headed by the Minister of Agriculture

1987-88

Member, Education Commission

1987-88

Member, Presidential Committee on Health  
Education and Service

1989

Member of the Task Force for reviewing  
the operation of the Nationalised  
Commercial Banks

1989-90

Appointed as the Chairman of the  
Socio-economic Committee of the  
National Disaster Prevention Council  
set up by the President

1989-90

Member, National Debt Settlement Board  
headed by the President

1991

Appointed as the Convener of the  
Task Force on Self-Reliance set up by  
the Planning Advisor

### **Membership of Committees and Commissions (International)**

1993-1995

Appointed by the Secretary General of  
the United Nations as a member of the  
International Advisory Group for the  
Fourth World Conference on Women  
in Beijing, China

1993-1995

Appointed member, Global Commission  
on Women's Health by the Director  
General, World Health Organization,  
Geneva, Switzerland

1993-present

Member of Advisory Council for  
Environmentally Sustainable  
Development, World Bank, Washington,  
DC, USA

1993-present

Member of the UN Expert Group on  
Women and Finance: Transforming  
Enterprise and Finance Systems,  
UNIFEM, Washington, DC, USA

### **Member, Board of Advisors (International)**

Member, Calmeadow Foundation,  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Member, The Synergose Institute,  
New York, NY, USA

Member, Living Economics,  
London, UK

### **Member, Board of Directors (National)**

1976-83

Founder and Project Director, Grameen  
Bank Project

1979-present

Member, Board of Directors, Centre for  
Mass Education for Science, Dhaka

1983-present

Founder and Managing Director,  
Grameen Bank, Dhaka

1990-present

Founder and Executive Trustee, Grameen  
Trust, Dhaka

1990-present

Designer and member of Governing  
Body, Polli Karma Sahayak Foundation,  
Dhaka

1991-present

Founder and Chairman, Grameen Krishi  
(Agriculture) Foundation, Rangpur



*1994-present*

Founder and Chairman, Grameen Fund (a Social Venture Capital Fund), Dhaka

*1994-present*

Founder and Chairman, Grameen Fisheries Foundation, Dhaka

*1994-present*

Founder and Chairman, Grameen Udyog, a non-stock, non-profit organization dedicated to promote the interest of small producers, Dhaka

### **Member, Board of Directors**

*(International)*

*1987-present*

Member, Board of Directors, RESULTS, A Citizen's Lobby, Washington, DC, USA

*1987-present*

Member, Board of Trustees, Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (A Grameen Replication Project in Malaysia)

*1989-1994*

Member, Board of Trustees of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines

*1990-present*

Chief Patron, Credit and Savings for Hardcore Poor, (CASHPOR), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

*1990-1992*

Member, Steering Committee, The Aga Khan Award for Architecture, Geneva

*1992-present*

Member, Board of Directors, Calvert World Values Fund, Washington, DC, USA

*1993-present*

Member, Board of Directors, Foundation for International Community Assistance (FINCA), USA

*1993-present*

Member, National Council for Freedom from Hunger, USA

*1993-present*

Member, International Council, Ashoka Foundation, Washington, DC, USA

### **Awards**

*1978 President's Award*

Originator of the concept of Three-share Farming (Tebhaga Khamar) as a joint farming operation. Organized Nabajug Tebhaga Khamar in Jobra, Chittagong in 1975, around a deep tubewell which was lying unused because of management problems. Government of Bangladesh adopted the concept and introduced it in the country under the name of "Packaged Input Programme" (PIP) in 1977. Nabajug Tebhaga Khamar was awarded President's Award in 1978 for introducing an innovative organization in agriculture.

*1984 Ramon Magsaysay Award*

Awarded Ramon Magsaysay Award in the Field of "Community Leadership" in 1984 for "Enabling the neediest rural men and women to make themselves productive with sound group-managed credit."

*1985 Central Bank Award*

Awarded the Bangladesh Bank Award — 1985 in recognition of the contribution in devising a new banking mechanism to extend credit to the rural landless population, thereby creating self-employment and socio-economic development for them.

*1987 Independence Day Award*

Awarded the Independence Day Award, 1987, by the President for the outstanding contribution in rural development. This is the highest civilian national award of Bangladesh.

*1989 Aga Khan Award for Architecture*

Awarded by Geneva-based Aga Khan Foundation for designing and operating Grameen Bank Housing Programme for the poor, which helped poor members of Grameen Bank to construct 60,000 housing units by 1989, each costing on an average \$300.

*1993 Humanitarian Award*

Awarded 1993 Humanitarian Award by the CARE, U.S.A. in recognition of role in providing a uniquely pragmatic and effective method of empowering poor women and men to embark on income generating activities.

*1993 Mohamed Sababdeen Award for*

*Science (Socio-Economic) (Sri Lanka)*

### **Honorary Degrees**

*1992*

*Degree of Doctor of Letters, honoris causa*  
University of East Anglia, UK

*1993*

*Degree of Doctor of Humanities*  
Oberlin College, USA

### **Honor**

*1992*

Legislature of Negros Occidental, a province of the Philippines, passed a resolution awarding the status of "Adopted Son of Negros Occidental" for the contribution made to the poorest of the poor of the province.

### **Awards to Grameen Bank**

*1989*

*Aga Khan Award for Architecture*

Awarded by Geneva-based Aga Khan Foundation for designing and operating Grameen Bank Housing Programme for the poor, which helped poor members of Grameen Bank to construct 60,000 housing units by 1989, each costing on an average \$300.

*1993*

*King Baudouin International Development Prize*

Awarded for its recognition of the role of women in the process of development and the novelty of a financial credit system contributing to the improvement of the social and material condition of women and their families in rural areas.

*1994*

*Independence Day Award*

Awarded for outstanding contribution to Rural Development (Bangladesh).

*1994*

*Tun Abdul Razak Award*

Awarded for the Bank's unique scheme to lend money to the poorest of the poor and thus transform the lives of thousands of impoverished people (Malaysia).