

2006 Norman E. Borlaug/World Food Prize International Symposium
The Green Revolution Redux:
Can We Replicate the Single Greatest Period of Food Production in All Human History?
October 19-20, 2006 - Des Moines, Iowa

HUNGER SUMMIT ANNOUNCEMENT/LUNCHEON INTRODUCTION

October 20, 2006 – 12:00 p.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Amb. Kenneth Quinn – The World Food Prize; Curt Raasch – United Soybean Board

Introduction

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn

President - World Food Prize Foundation

You know, this is Iowa so no formalities. You go ahead and begin to eat and, just like at home, I'll begin to talk. We'll do both at the same time. I'd like to say welcome to everyone, we had a great morning, worked up a good appetite. We're so pleased, first of all, to have this event hosted by the United Soybean Board, the Iowa Soybean Association, the World Initiative of Soy and Human Health, and the American Soybean Association. And have I got them all, Linda? I'm getting better now, sort of the litany response. But thank you so much. And it's a wonderful menu, and I know you're all going to enjoy it very much.

We also have, if you look around, all the members of our Youth Institute are here with the green shirts, so I want to ask all of them to stand up for a second so you can welcome them. And a lot of the teachers are here. Teachers, stand up. Where's my friend, Heather Pray? Heather, stand up for a second. I want to introduce you to Heather Pray. Heather is from Pennsylvania – that's not Pennsylvania, Iowa, that's from the state of Pennsylvania. She and I met at about 7 or 8 o'clock one night, and she sent an email to me when she was a freshman in high school saying, "I just found the World Food Prize Youth Institute on the Internet. Can I come?" And so I'm telling you the time, because my boss, John Ruan, is here – I want him to know how late at night I'm working. So I sent her back a message, and we exchanged a couple things. And she's coming – what is this, your third year? – to come all the way from Pennsylvania to be with us. And we have students from other states, from New Hampshire and from Delaware, and I'm going to forget all the others. But that's because this is, I think, such a great experience – at least I hope that's why you're coming back, Heather – and we're so pleased to be reaching out. You can sit down. Thank you very much for coming.

Governor Johanns, who is with us, I want to let all of you know that I was in Nebraska a few months ago with Cynthia Milligan and Natalie Hahn who are great friends, and we have established a program to bring six students and six teachers from Nebraska here beginning next year. And they are going to be Hank Beachell scholars, and Hank Beachell was the World Food Prize laureate in 1996. He's the man who found the IR-8 rice at IRRI and brought it and spread it all over Southeast Asia, feeding hundreds

of millions of people. He just turned a hundred years of age. And he's down in Texas. I know Ed Runge saw him and was with him, and Norm Borlaug on his birthday. But even though he's far away, maybe if you could join me, we'll give a hand to him and everybody from Nebraska who's here and coming.

I have one announcement. You see in our program... We had an announcement this morning that our symposium is now going to be named after Dr. Borlaug. I have another announcement to share with you of a new World Food Prize initiative. And I want to share this with you by saying, you should, if you haven't already, and buy a copy of today's *Des Moines Register*, and go back to the operation ed page, and you'll see that there's an editorial there. It says, "A Call to Iowans: Let's Step Up Fight Against Hunger." Now, we've got lots of things about hunger, there have been things all week in the *Register*. What's remarkable about this is that this is the political season. If you're from Iowa and you've been watching TV, you know there are all these ads on, and they are very tough, sometimes bitter ads, in a very partisan battle for the election.

And if you're not from Iowa and you turn on the TV, you can't watch much TV without seeing them. But this article is signed by Governor Tom Vilsack, Democrat, former Governor Bob Ray and former Governor Terry Branstad, both Republicans. So here, two and a half weeks before our election in the most heated time, those three leaders and former leaders of our state came together and put their name to an article about the World Food Prize Hunger Summit that we want to hold next year – an Iowa Hunger Summit.

And the idea is this: There are people all over this state who are doing things to fight hunger abroad and hunger at home – but nobody knows how much it is, and nobody's ever tried to quantify it, at least that we know. And we think there ought to be a room like this where we bring people together from the top levels of our government, from business, civic and religious leaders, and those who are out in the day-to-day fight, like Russ Melbe – Russ, where are you? Yeah, back here. Crop Walk, and Hunger Hike, and organizations like that. And Russ was one of the inspirations for this idea, and we worked closely and said, "What can we do to bring more emphasis to hunger? What can we do to focus more people? How can we reach into every community of the state?"

So these three governors – they'll all be former governors by next year when we have our first one – are going to be the honorary co-chairs of this effort. And we are going to endeavor to bring together, and we're going to, let's add up all that we do. And I don't know how much that is, but whatever it is, I'll know that the incentive will be that we've got to do more next year. And focusing on what we do at home, what we do abroad, that we can bring the message of hunger in the world into every community, into every county, into every state.

So we look forward for you to be partners with us. I want to say we're not going to touch any of the money. None of the money comes to us. This is about putting together what we do. And we think that Iowa can qualify as the "humanitarian heart of America."

And we think with Nebraska and Minnesota and other states all together, it can be even a larger effort.

So that's the Iowa Hunger Summit. I look forward to being in touch with many of you about this in the future and help us build this idea. I see Secretary Judge, Patty Judge is here, Iowa's Secretary of Agriculture. And Brent Halling, Deputy Brent Halling is there, and Senator Tinsman, great friend of the World Food Prize. Where are the other public officials who I don't want to overlook. Oh, Governor Ray. You know, Governor Ray, when I was on Governor Ray's staff, I always could keep track of him, but he's sneaking in on me now all the time. But Governor Ray, thank you so much for your leadership and your willingness... Please stand up.

I want to invite Curt Raasch to come up and say a few words on behalf of the soy organizations and United Soybean Board for making this event possible.

Curt Raasch

United Soybean Board

As a soybean farmer, this was a very special and important meeting for me to attend. As you may know, most farmers in the United States are in the midst of a harvest right now, bringing in this year's crop to help feed the world. But despite the millions of acres of corn, soybeans, wheat and rice in the U.S. and around the globe, we are all still faced with the images of starving children and malnourished communities on the news virtually every day.

And while each and every one of us wants to help, we recognize that only a very few have been able to dedicate their lives to solving these world issues. It's why, when I learned that Dr. Borlaug was the founder of the World Food Prize, I was even more determined to take a break from harvesting our crops and be here with you all today. It's people like Dr. Borlaug and others who help farmers grow crops on land once unusable. They helped develop new kinds of varieties that are more nutritious, result in higher yields, and are more durable against difficult growing conditions.

At the United Soybean Board, we take great pride in working and developing issues that are near to all of our hearts in helping create abundance of food. I'm confident that every American soybean farmer plays a significant role in helping to achieve a more balanced food delivery system and that protein can be part of the solution to world hunger.

USB is a board of 64 farmers who represent the more than 600,000 soybean farmers around the United States. The Board oversees the investments of the Soybean Checkoff on behalf of all U.S. soybean farmers, focusing on research, development and promotional activities. I've seen firsthand how dedicated our farmers are to improving the nutritional quality of the global food supply and how committed they are to working with allied organizations to attain these goals.

This symposium is one example of a cause that unite United Soybean Board and others who have common objectives. We are pleased to have joined forces with the Soy Food Council, the Iowa Soybean Association, Call Us Soy, and the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health, more commonly known as WISHH, to support this forum for discussion and idea generation.

Let me take a moment to talk about the WISHH program because I think what we are doing is really changing the way we think about and how we can use soy to alleviate some of the global food challenges. WISHH promotes the use of U.S. soy products in developing countries where protein deficiency is a very serious problem.

The farmers and industry partners who lead WISH excel in identifying and promoting unique roles in soy to make mores sustainable nutrition programs throughout the world. A few areas of interest include using soy to fortify locally available foods in developing countries or creating high-protein products to reduce protein deficiencies, or even formulating food assistance programs, and the list goes on and on.

Most recently WISHH created an alliance to utilize soy protein as a means to improve the nutritional value of foods offered in nine African countries. WISH is a program that USB wholeheartedly supports because of the spirit and the innovation, and we are very proud of our many accomplishments.

I want to leave you today with one last thought. We have an obligation as a global community to do a better job of reducing the disparity between those whose basic food needs are not being met and those who are over-consuming to the point of increased chronic disease risk. We need to be open to the notion that solutions come from many forms – improved delivery systems, broader efforts to create sustainable programs in developing countries, and the use of agriculture biotechnology to improve food quality and provide adequate quantities for those foods. As we have seen from some of the early successes, biotechnology may become the vehicle in which we can deliver essential nutrients to those who are deficient and possibly even provide medicinal benefits for those who are suffering from illnesses and diseases.

Let's take this opportunity here at this symposium to open our minds to all the possibilities available. Thank you for your attention, and I hope you enjoy the rest of the symposium.

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn

President - World Food Prize Foundation

Thank you, nice job. Thank you, Curt. Everybody enjoy your lunch. I'll be back a little bit later to introduce our featured speaker.