

**LUNCHEON ADDRESS**

**Speaker: Rajiv Shah**  
October 19, 2017 - 12:00 p.m.

*Introduction*

**Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn**

President - World Food Prize Foundation

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So welcome, everybody to the annual soy luncheon at the World Food Prize Borlaug Dialogue Symposium. This is now I think the 11<sup>th</sup> year that we have had the soy luncheon. One of the highlights for me is calling up the laureate and telling her or him that they've won the World Food Prize.

But in a close second place is the day that Mashal Husain, our vice president, and I, come over with Linda Fung. I don't know. Linda, are you here? There she is. And we go back with the chef in the kitchen, and we try out all the soy dishes, all the soy recipes. And they've been amazing there, but I have to reveal something that Mashal and I scheme (I know you don't think that of Mashal but of me) and we say, "Oh, this one we're not sure," so we can get another dish to try.

But we are so very, very grateful to the United Soybean Board, the Iowa Soybean Association, Soy Foods Council and the World Initiative for Soy and Human Health for the sponsorship. So I always want to begin by saying – Thank you, thank you for making this possible. John Motter, chairman of the USB, United Soybean Board, and Bill Shipley. Bill, where? There you are over there from Iowa Soybean Association. And a constant in all of this, John Becker, John there. So I told John there's a rumor going around about him that he's retiring, and I'm sure that's not true. But, John, thank you. You've been a wonderful partner in all of this.

We are so honored today to have President John Dramani Mahama, the former president of Ghana, with us as a special guest of honor. Mr. President, could you stand up so we could recognize you? Right next to our laureate, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina – Dr. Adesina, please stand up so we can recognize you. And there next to our chairman, John Ruan III, John, Janis Ruan is here. Thank you for this.

Oh, I almost forgot. Barbara Grassley is here, the wife of Senator Chuck Grassley, and you know Senator Grassley is a legend in the United States Senate for never missing a vote – never misses a vote. So he's not here today, so there's probably a vote in Washington. He's either voting or out running or driving to all 99 counties in Iowa. The senator never forgot where he came from. But Mrs. Grassley, could you stand up? It's her birthday on Saturday, so could you all join me in wishing her a very, very happy birthday?

We have a special moment at the beginning of this event where we recall a wonderful friend, David Lambert. David was an incredible hunger fighter, dedicated man, served at the U.S. Mission to the U.N. Agencies in Rome, close collaborator with George McGovern, and a dear friend of mine. And two years ago here on U.N. World Food Day, after coming and being at the

Laureate Award Ceremony at the capitol, came back to the Marriott, was downstairs talking with everybody, and passed away that night. And in his memory, his very, very good friend, Dr. Manjit Misra at Iowa State has established a special scholarship. So pleased that David's son, Walker Lambert – Walker, over there, could you stand up so we can welcome you – is here. And Manjit Misra established a special David Lambert Hunger Fighter Scholarship for a student at Iowa State. So Manjit, could you come up here with our winner? Next year I have to seat you closer to the stage. Come over here, Emily. Emily Hugen from Monroe, Iowa, sophomore at Iowa State in the Global Resource Systems major. I hope you're taking some classes over at the Seed Science Center, number one seed science center in America, right? That's what you told me to say, wasn't it? And she's also been in Uganda, out in Kamuli District. But I want to tell you. I want you to know about her and where she got started. So she came – when was it? – to the Global Youth Institute. In what year? [Emily – 2014.] 2014, and was out in this audience – right? Yes, and began her journey and inspiration by Dr. Borlaug here. And here today are 200 other high school students (She was in high school when she came here), 200 high school students from Iowa, 27 states, 9 foreign countries – all of you out there, stand up so we can see you. And Dr. Adesina, when he's been here, has had his picture taken with these students. They then, some of them, will get to become Borlaug-Ruan interns. Some go on to become Wallace Carver Fellows with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, program started by Secretary Vilsack. And the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) at USDA is our prime partner in all of this, and we're so grateful. Dr. Simon Liu is here, and I want to thank him and ask him to convey our thanks to Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young for that partnership we have, because we'll have 30 to 40 of our former Global Youth Institute members. They are out doing assignment at USDA. So you were at the National Agriculture Environment laboratory, which is what, in Washington? In Ames, Iowa (Washington, Ames, you know), and had that terrific experience. But those students wouldn't be here except for their teachers, and there's about 200 teachers out here. Would you stand up so we can thank you? Thank you for inspiring that next generation. And also out there are about 40 or 50 former students in Global Youth Institute who are Borlaug-Ruan interns, Wallace Carver Fellows, George Washington Carver interns, all part of our youth program, who have come back, taken time off to come back and help guide all these students. So you Borlaug-Ruan interns, Wallace Carver Fellows, George Washington Carver, stand up there so we can recognize you as well.

Now, all those programs – you think the World Food Prize must be a really big organization, but the reality is that the individuals who do that, Keegan Kautzky, Libby Crimmings, Kelsey Tyrrell down there, and the as-always-missing, Crystal Harris. But stand up so we can acknowledge you. So here's the point. if Crystal were here (and I'm always saying that) and there were five of us, that would be 50% of the entire World Food Prize staff were here. So everybody does a lot of work. And Mashal Husain is here. Mashal, stand up. So now there is 50% of us here.

So here's the thing, that for young people like that, they come in my office, and they say, "You know, we've impacted 10,000 students. That's pretty good, but that's 300 Borlaug-Ruan interns, 200 Wallace Carver Fellows, several thousand Global Youth Institute. But you know they're like youth, never satisfied. They want to do more. They said, "We can do a million. We want to do five million. We could inspire ten million. And not just in America, around the world." So I have somebody who's here who's going to come up and talk to us about just that kind of expansion that she has in mind, a member of our Council of Advisors, the President of Wageningen University, which she mentions to all of the Iowa Staters and Purdue and Cornell,

that they're ranked number one. And I don't get into political fights and disputes. But Louise, please come up and share your vision.

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*VIDEO - Wageningen University & Research*

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## **Louise Fresco**

President of the Executive Board, Wageningen University & Research

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Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues and friends, I have a very special and historical announcement to make for all of you. For the first time, we will really bring the Borlaug Youth Institute outside the U.S. to a place which has had special meaning also to Norman Borlaug — and that is Wageningen University & Research. And, indeed, we rank very highly together with U.S. universities. I know — won't get into politics, I've just been told. But we have been and are a leading organization, partly because of our fundamental and applied research but very much so because we are a youth trainer, particularly of African students but also students all over the world, in China, South America, everywhere.

And now for the first time, next year we will celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> centennial or 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. And because of that special year, we have decided with the support, the unanimous support, of the Council of Advisors, to bring the Borlaug Youth Institute to Wageningen, and that's what you just saw. That little movie was just a first step. We will do this, however, not alone. We will do it together, of course, with all of you and together with our colleagues. And it's only the first step, because as you know our laureate this year has already said he wants a Borlaug Youth Institute, or many of them in Africa. And my European colleagues on the Council of Advisors and elsewhere have said, "We want European Borlaug Youth Institutes everywhere." So you think the thing will be growing and growing, and I think that's very much the experience also of Norm Borlaug. Didn't he say, Bring it to the farmer? — but also bring it to the youth? Bring it to young people. And when you are 16 and you haven't thought about this problem when you're young, you won't be thinking about it when you're older.

And I was one of those students, even younger than that, who for having grown up in post-war Europe, I have a responsibility for the rest of the world. And it was Norm among others who I got to know quite well when I was a professor and later at the United Nations, who inspired me to be brave, also to be brave, for example, in my stance of CRISPR-Cas and [inaudible] in Europe, which some of you may know is a big issue. So in the spirit of Norman Borlaug, we will organize next year in August, with the help of everybody, a Norman Borlaug Youth Institute, the first one outside the U.S. and in Europe.

And let me say to all of you there at the back, all of you high school students — you are extremely lucky. You are a privileged generation, because more than Norman ever had, you have tools at your disposal that are new and that are exciting and that will make a difference. And it's harnessing the new technology that we have in terms of genetics, in terms of big data, in terms of digitalization, in terms of integrating the food chain, that really will make a difference. Never have we had more scientific tools than today. And never have we had a more connected global community. So let us all join that generation, the young generation. And I

hope you allow me to still be with you when you start your work. Let us all become young again and join the young generation and find ways to become part of this ten million hunger fighters. So thank you very much. We'll be here for you.

### **Ambassador Ken Quinn**

Thank you, Louise. Forgive me for forgetting my manners. Please, everybody, enjoy your lunch, and we'll be back in a little while to introduce our keynote speaker. So, please.

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### *LUNCHEON*

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### **Ambassador Ken Quinn**

So I hope everybody enjoyed their lunch. Let's maybe join me in thanking Linda Fung and all our soy sponsors for a wonderful meal, and, yes, and thank the Marriott staff for their service. When we do this, there is 1,125 places set in here, and there aren't many open seats here. And the hotel always says to me, "Are you crazy? We can't get in and serve people here." And they always make it happen, so, Marriott staff – thank you very, very much for this.

So it's now my pleasure to introduce to you our keynote speaker, great friend to the World Food Prize. And I have to explain how I got to know him. He was at the Gates Foundation. I think he was in his late twenties at the time and looked even younger than he looks now. And he and a colleague from Gates were coming to DuPont Pioneer out in Johnston where Paul Schickler, the president at the time, and they said to me, "You have 20 minutes. You could have a sandwich with him in the cafeteria and tell him about the World Food Prize." So, wow, you know, Gates Foundation.

Okay, I'm there, and we're sitting at the table, and Rajiv is at the end of the table with his colleague. I don't know who's who. I don't know who's the more influential important person, but the other guy was older, and being from the State Department, if you're older, you have a higher rank. So I'm sort of, you know, looking down there and talking and talking to kind of the older guy more than to Rajiv. And finally, I'm telling them all about the symposium and the subjects we had, and he says, "Oh, you have pretty interesting topics at your symposium." Suddenly, I realized who I should be talking to.

And he said to me, "Could you ever put together a panel so I could come to the symposium, speak and tell everybody about what we're thinking, and then I could get some reaction?" So I think we have an image of it here. Here it is. There's Rajiv Shah on the stage with Norman Borlaug, Sir Gordon Conway who's here, Catherine Bertini, 2003 World Food Prize Laureate, and Dr. Chen Zhangliang. So this was a great group, and this was the connection. And eventually all of them ended up with a relationship of one kind or another with Gates and sort of getting things launched.

And three years later, in 2009 Rajiv called me up, and he said, "Mr. Gates is going to announce his big initiative for Africa. He wants to do it at the World Food Prize, because we've met a more diverse array of people at the World Food Prize than at any other event we've been to.

Could you invite him?" And, you know, I said, "Oh, Rajiv, why didn't you call sooner? You know, the program's already set, and you think he might put it off 'til next year? You know, we could really do it right." So you know I didn't say that—right? The one thing my staff all knows is where are the defibrillators in our building, because I'm on the floor and they're jumpstarting my heart, and I said to Rajiv, "Of course." And so one of the, I think, the moment of 18 years at the World Food Prize was having Bill Gates come here and launch his initiative which is having such incredible impact.

But Rajiv back then when he was at USDA as Under-Secretary at the State Department. We would announce our laureate at the State Department, first with Colin Powell, and then this was with Secretary Clinton, and came over, a research initiative in honor of Dr. Borlaug. Back again in 2012, giving the luncheon keynote address. So now five years later, back again—President of the Rockefeller Foundation. And in my experience, World Food Prize, 18 years, there's no one else I know who has been in that thread of all that's happened from the beginning until now and who I feel confident will be a part of that thread, as will our laureate, about the next 18 and 20 and 30 years in the future and making the world incredibly better. Dr. Rajiv Shah.

Now, Rajiv, I have one thing, is Jeanie Laube shared with me a note she sent to you, and I just want to read it to everybody. Said, "Dear Raj, I found this note card today in one of my desk drawers. I thought you'd like to know that the Borlaug family is so excited and pleased that you'll be leading the Rockefeller Foundation. Daddy was always so impressed by your knowledge and gentle persona. Daddy will be watching as you continue to tackle hunger and ensure health around the globe as well as social justice for all. And I have great memories of the Rockefeller family as a child—George Harrar, Ed Wellhaven and many others who were like family to us, because we all lived in Mexico. Take care, and if you ever want to show all my dad's medals, I'll bring them to you. Best to you, Love, Jeanie Borlaug Laube."

## **Rajiv Shah**

President, The Rockefeller Foundation

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Thank you, Ken. I don't know what to say after that extraordinary introduction, other than, well, we do all have different jobs from time to time; but what perhaps keeps us coming back is the friendship and the commitment to each other and to the mission we share. And to Jeanie and Julie and the Borlaug family, I remain speechless. Getting that card was the favorite thing that's happened to me in my first six months on this job. And thank you.

I do see so many friends and family in the audience today, including my friend and compatriot, the USAID administrator, Mark Green. I'm so glad you have that job and I don't. And friends like Gordon and Catherine and others, when I was coming here in the past, helped me get connected to all the wonderful young people that you inspire through this extraordinary event—people like Emily Hugen, who I know is one of your awardees, one of the many students and scholars here today with the passion to fight hunger. Dr. Chen Zhangliang who has been recognized yesterday for putting food on the table of millions of families in China, and of course our dear friend and your extraordinary award winner tonight, Dr. Akin Adesina, former, "Rocky Duck" at the Rockefeller Foundation. I'll tell you, I see Gary Tennyson back

there and Gordon's been here, Rock Heck, Peter Matlin – I think you are accepting the award today on behalf of a team that's pretty incredible, so congratulations to all of you and Akin. And congrats for your friendship and leadership.

I'll say in preparing for today, I'd been recalling also my first time here, because it was 2006, and we really did come just to learn about what we might do at a time when Warren Buffet was just in the process of making a gift to the Gates Foundation that enabled the creation of the agriculture program there. In that panel that you made reference to, I did feel so honored and also so humbled to be with... That was the first time I met Dr. Borlaug, and I remember Jeanie saying, "Well, you could spend some time with him afterwards in his suite. He wants to talk to you, but, you know, he is a little bit older and will need some rest."

And I'd flown in from Seattle, and I probably didn't sleep much the night before because I was so excited, and I was a little tired, so I thought, oh, good, this will be a short conversation. And of course it went on for hours, and Norman had all the energy, and I'm sitting there being like, how can I be a little tired, needing coffee when he's got so much passion and energy. But we all know, those of us that have had the great honor of meeting and working with him, we know that that passion ultimately more than anything is why this room is so full.

He also said to me then what he most admired, frankly, about the Rockefeller Foundation at that time was how it stuck the course in fighting hunger and poverty. And in that spirit, I'd like to share some thoughts with you today on our past but also how we'll try to stick the course going forward in this great area of work, again this extraordinary mission of fighting and ending hunger.

Early next spring will mark 75 years since a young scientist named George Harrar drove a brand-new station-wagon south across the Mexico border to start the Rockefeller Foundation's Mexican Agricultural Program. It'll also mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's first record-breaking wheat crop, the result of a quarter century of work begun in Mexico by Dr. Borlaug, Harrar and others. But its genesis goes back even further.

From the earliest letters between John D. Rockefeller senior and his Baptist minister turned philanthropic advisor, Frederick Gates, scientific agriculture was seen as a promising way to fulfill their Foundation's mission of promoting the wellbeing of humanity throughout the entire world. Initially, the Foundation fought disease, building schools of medicine and public health, combatting yellow fever and malaria. Then after seeing millions starve during World War II and as booming population growth threatened to outpace global food production, Rockefeller turned to fighting hunger as the greatest enemy of human wellbeing. And so the work in Mexico began.

In the many years since, we all learned a great deal from how those pioneers advanced the idea that science and technology could be used to fight world hunger and reach the most vulnerable. And we are still in awe of the amazing results that have been delivered and honored through this World Food Prize – increasing yields to avert massive famine, helping diffuse the so-called population bomb by moving more than a million people off the brink of hunger and starvation.

Decades later, we applied those learnings when the Rockefeller Foundation and the Gates Foundation partnered together more than 11 years ago to launch the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa. Akin and I were both proud to be part of that effort. Agnes Kalibata, who leads that effort, is here today. Because of AGRA, which really picked up and extended the

legacy of the Rockefeller work in Africa, today 15.3 million farmers are using improved seeds. Those smallholder farmers have more than doubled their average yields, and 1.3 million hectares of depleted land have been restored for agricultural production.

Most recently, Rockefeller Foundation launched the YieldWise Initiative that is focused on reducing food loss and food waste, recognizing the world cannot sustain a nourishing food system if we don't eat more of what we have. In addition to helping farmers in Kenya and Nigeria and Tanzania reduce post-harvest loss, it's also about combatting food waste right here at home – because 40% of all food produced in this country goes to waste.

Next week we'll be announcing some results of this work. The partnership with the National Resources Defense Council that examined how cities like Denver, Nashville and New York can better rescue edible, wholesome food to feed those in need. The data is compelling. In one scenario, rescuing food in Denver alone could close that city's annual meal gap by almost 50%.

All these concrete results validate the basic premise that the fight against hunger, especially when anchored in science and social science, can be won. But I know many of you in this room also know what that fight means on an instinctive and emotional level. For the people and places Akin and I have had a chance to visit together in rural Nigeria with Bill and Melinda many years ago, it means farmers are no longer just subsistence producers but are participating in a commercial business. It means their families have enough food to feed themselves without having to sacrifice all too often the food intake of women and girls. It means those girls can have the dignity of going to school and believing in their hearts that they deserve a more hopeful future as opposed to one where they might just barely scrape by.

I know it's the passion and commitment to delivering those kinds of results that does keep this community coming here every single year. This common sense of purpose is ultimately what's represented in this prize and in Dr. Borlaug's legacy. We've come a long way, to the point where in some places you can now tap your phone and have fresh food delivered, someday by drone, very quickly to your doorstep. Yet, for all the progress, we simply have to do better, because we live in a world where even today a child will die every ten seconds because of chronic or acute malnutrition.

Today the global food system produces one and a half times enough food to feed our entire population, yet still 850 million people, 11% of humanity, will not know where their next meal will come from. It's even a problem here in America. As we sit here today, one in five children go hungry, which is unconscionable in the wealthiest and most advanced society in human history.

Iowans like former Governor and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack continue to be champions in fighting child hunger here and around our nation. The same is true for the hidden hunger of malnutrition. Today two billion people are chronically malnourished, suffering from undernourishment, micronutrient deficiencies, or overweight and obesity. In fact, diet quality is now the number one contributing factor to deaths and disabilities worldwide, according to the World Health Organization.

As you all know, these statistics about hunger and malnutrition are really about people. They're about the young girl I held in my arms at a feeding center in Afghanistan who was on the verge of death from malnutrition and deserved better. And the young boy in Des Moines who's

overweight, malnourished, and not able to adequately learn. Both represent the consequences of a food system that is not successfully nourishing the world.

It's also failing our planet, as agriculture and livestock production are key drivers of global warming and environmental degradation. Globally, meat production accounts for one third of water use, three-quarters of agricultural land use, and nearly 15% of all greenhouse gas emissions, more than the entire transportation sector. The global livestock sector pumps out the equivalent of over six billion tons of carbon dioxide every year. Now, we all talk constantly about the electric car, but we are still waiting for someone to invent the electric cow. These entrenched challenges are compounded by disparities and access to nutrient-rich food. Go 15 minutes west of here down Interstate 235. There's a Whole Foods off University Avenue where you can buy nourishing, responsibly farmed salmon filet for about as much as a gallon of milk or a loaf of bread. But go 15 to 20 minutes in the other direction, east on University Avenue, and until very recently you were in a food desert that extended from the State Fairgrounds to the Des Moines River. In that area more than 60% of people, one third of whom are low income, live too far from a proper supermarket, and are likely to have to rely on shelf-stable convenience store foods for their last-minute shopping trips.

The global food system is subject to increasingly powerful consumer demands as well. As billions of people in developing countries go from living on \$2 a day to \$10 a day, we know demand for protein will only go up and go up dramatically. So while our population will grow about 13% over the next three decades, global demand for animal protein will increase much faster, rising by as much as nearly 80%. This underscores the parallel challenges of a food system that's fundamentally unsustainable and fundamentally not nourishing everyone it needs to.

We see this first here at home but also around the globe. If every human being consumed as much food as the average American citizen, it would take four earths to sustain that demand. And yet every trend indicates that, as two to three billion people in emerging economies join the global middle class, the least attractive attributes of the American food system are first in line to shape their health and environmental outcomes.

A *New York Times* article last month about Brazil made this abundantly clear. Our food system excels at getting candy bars, junk food and soft drinks to the world's poorest people in the most remote places – so much that many countries in the global South have recently seen their obesity rates grow much faster than more developed countries. But it's not very good at getting local farmers in Africa the real-time data they would need to sustain maximum production on the land they're farming, or the technologies that could lead to amazing tomato and other vegetable yields like we've seen in the Netherlands.

Seeing these challenges and inspired by our predecessors, we in the Rockefeller Foundation these last few months have been asking – What would Dr. Borlaug do? Borlaug's lifelong mission was promoting agricultural research, because to him it was the best way to fight hunger and poverty. He witnessed from Mexico to South Asia how research improved productivity, lowering food prices and raising farmer incomes. He saw Indian and Pakistani farmers more than quadruple their net incomes from \$37 per hectare to \$162. Food became more accessible, and because food was produced and consumed in close proximity, purchasing power increased for producers and consumers alike, helping them move away from poverty. In doing all this, Norm transformed himself from an agricultural scientist into a fierce global moral leader.

Today a new revolution in food would happen in a much greater context but with the same potential to expand dignity and justice to vulnerable populations. The link between local production and local consumption of food is still strong, but there's far more trade and mobility, especially for higher value foods. And trade has grown faster than production. Based on our rough analysis of real-value growth from 1968 to 2013, while food production worldwide increased by nearly 200%, global food trade increased by more than 400% and trade in fruits and vegetables by more than 500%.

Meanwhile, we know that the basics are still true. From [inaudible] Lonberg to the World Bank, we see the data that shows that agricultural research is still one of the most efficient and productive investments you can make to improve the lives of the poor and vulnerable. But it's our opinion that that current research system overemphasizes staple crops to the detriment of protein and micronutrient rich food. In the United States alone, going back to 1975, twice as much public R&D funding has consistently gone to grains, oil seeds and other staple crops than to so-called specialty crops – fruits, vegetables and nutrients – that make a person not only well fed but also well nourished.

To meet the world's ever-growing demand for protein, our food system has focused on productivity of animal agriculture, often to the neglect of non-animal sources of protein. Compared to the early 1960s, that's enabled our consumption of animal protein to grow twice as fast as our consumption of vegetable protein. For several years now, the food and agricultural development community is focused on the question of how to feed a future population of 10 billion people. That question is important and necessary, but it's not sufficient. Instead, the question we should ask is – how can we sustainably nourish the world with dignity and equity without breaking the back of our planet?

At Rockefeller our early point of view here is focused around three concepts we hope to explore with you. The first is, as we look around the horizon, we see a clear need to reshape the global protein economy. Focusing on both human health and the environment, we have to fundamentally rethink the way the world provides protein to a growing and ever wealthier global population.

As one starting point, we need to better understand how the full range of our planet's protein sources from beef to farm fish to lentils can be used to meet the coming demand. To our knowledge, no one has looked across all these different sources and evaluated them based on how much we can increase their productivity without stretching beyond the means of our natural resources.

That's why in the coming months we'll be working with experts at the World Wildlife Fund and major universities worldwide to conduct this kind of comparative analysis across protein systems. It will evaluate suitability based on food security and nutritional impact, environmental impact, and projected consumer demands, amongst other factors. And we hope it will help us together identify new ways to reshape the global protein economy.

Second, as we look at how undernourishment persists at home and abroad, we think micronutrient-rich foods, especially fruits and vegetables, need to be given a much, much higher policy pricing and research priority. We want bold and effective ideas to dramatically rebalance the role of these foods in how people eat, making them more accessible, more available and more affordable for everyone, both here at home and around the world.

Third, we don't think we're going to effectively achieve anything on these points without flipping the basic model and thinking of the entry point as deeply affecting consumer behavior and consumer demand today and in the future.

As we see with tested, safe technologies, including GMOs and golden rice, how people perceive food and their natural demand for those food products ultimately does define our capacity to have the impacts we want to have. In a new food revolution, we can't afford to let innovation become exclusively elitist or charitable only. Instead, they have to be desirable and demanded by all. The end goal is that consumer demand for food needs to be and should be the big demand, not only delicious but also healthy food in a way that sustains their families and our planet.

It will take us time to consider what will come next for the Rockefeller Foundation in these regards. But we do welcome your feedback and hope to learn from you over the course of the next many months as we shape our basic approach.

All the while, those of us in this room can never forget Dr. Borlaug's point about sticking the course. Even as we grapple with concepts that may prove to be the levers of real change over time, we must stick to the course in helping small-scale farmers, mostly women, improve their incomes and lift themselves and their families out of poverty and hunger, especially in Africa.

While we don't know all the details of what we're going to do, we do know that our approach will be grounded in what the Rockefeller Foundation has done for more than a century – faith in science, priority around innovation, a desire to embrace public/private partnerships, and a fundamental understanding that public policy and political leadership are always critical to shaping a just and equitable food system.

In going forward, we will be drawing on that history for not only our work in food but also other areas. We believe humanity has arrived at a pivotal moment in our history. And as the world surges into a data-driven, decentralized and hyper-digital era, we will fight to secure the fundamentals of human wellbeing for even the most vulnerable. We live in a time when it'll soon be possible to hail a self-driving car with phones in our pockets, but a woman in rural India still has to walk hours in the dark just to get clean drinking water or find a working power outlet. We can buy wireless smart socks and network baby monitors that track our newborn's sleep patterns, yet in Africa and Asia, eight infants die each minute, often from diseases we know how to treat and prevent.

While the March of progress has and will benefit plenty, it is unacceptable that in a world capable of so much there are still so many with so little. And it's not only the girl in a developing country who can't go to school because she has to help feed her family. It's also the middle-age factory worker here at home in a Ford plant who hasn't been able to fulfill his dream of becoming an electrician or starting to see his basic livelihood slip away.

In both cases, despair about the future has brought our world to a pivotal moment. People have less trust in institutions worldwide. Rising nationalism is pulling governments inward away from helping the vulnerable. Anxiety about economic opportunity has fueled populace retrenchment in our politics. Automation and globalization are further separating haves and have-nots. And the global goals that we all fought so hard to make an example of how the world can cooperate to expand the reach of justice, are under immense, immense political pressure.

Yet it's at this moment that we believe more strongly than ever in our shared capacity to solve the world's toughest problems. We see brilliant minds and moral hearts unlocking powerful tools, like data science and digital technology, to improve the lives of the vulnerable like never before. We see businesses and philanthropies, faith institutions, state and local governments coming together to try to solve tough problems. And we see a moral awakening, particularly in our young, especially tied to this project of the World Food Prize, where people want their lives to have meaning and purpose, not just financial success.

And because we get to learn from our own history at the Rockefeller Foundation embodied in the team that is here celebrating the World Food Prize, we know that we can also learn from the fact, and take heart in the fact that we've done this before. We have brought together the most capable to solve some of the world's toughest problems in the past, and we certainly can do it again in the future.

In fact, the Rockefeller Foundation was born at a transformational time as well, when the powerful intersection of capitalism, science and leadership literally changed this country and the world. Grounded by a belief in scientific philanthropy, we looked into the future and brought together titans of charitable giving, government, business leaders and scientists to solve the problems of that past era.

Today, informed by that same approach and convinced that this is yet another time of fundamental social transformation, we feel inspired to act boldly and with you. We're determined to bring together the world's most capable people to solve the world's toughest problems. I'll be the first to admit that when it comes to food, we've got a lot of work ahead of us, but here our past makes for good company. After George Harrar drove his station-wagon to Mexico, it took 25 more years for Dr. Borlaug's work to blossom into the Green Revolution. At the beginning, they probably didn't have it all figured out at the time.

But I believe that it's possible. If it's possible today to grow meat in a laboratory and have drones deliver our food, it is certainly possible to believe that we can end hunger and sustainably nourish the world in the next few decades. We have the tools, we have the technology, we have the political will, we have the moral obligation to do so. All that's required now is our commitment to each other and our commitment to stick the course.

I'm willing to stand here today and say that the Rockefeller Foundation is committed to this goal, and we will be for as long as I'm there. And I know it's no small thing to say that in a room packed with some of the world's most important and smartest experts, innovators and leaders in food and agriculture. That's why I'm asking you to stand with us, work with us, partner with us and collaborate, so that together, as we've done in the past, we can change history in the future.

Thank you.

### **Ambassador Ken Quinn**

Rajiv Shah. What an incredible, inspiring message that you've delivered, as you have in the past when you've been here on behalf of Gates, starting Feed the Future. And now the third phase at the Rockefeller Foundation. So I know you've given a great stimulus for this afternoon. I told

Raj I wanted him particularly to speak today with the students in the room, because I know all of you have heard and feel inspired by his words. So, Raj, thank you again so much for being here, all that you've done.

All right, so I'm about to close the luncheon, but I have to tell all the students – every gets up to leave, you stay seated, because there will be special instruction for you as you leave, so stay there. Everybody else, thank you for being here. Now, rush down to the symposium room. We've got an incredible afternoon to start with an amazing lineup of people to be there. And President, Mahama, thank you again for gracing us with your presence.