

CLOSING REMARKS

Thursday, October 31, 2024 – 3:00-3:15 PM

Paul Schickler – Chair, World Food Prize Foundation Council of Advisors

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It was a pleasure to be part of that panel – Dr. Johnson, Kennedy, Dr. Wintersteen and Manjit – a wonderful group of people.

Boy, it's the end of the Borlaug Dialogue. It seems like the days have gone quickly, a tremendous amount of information, a lot of dialogue, a lot of discussions, networking. All of that's valuable.

But while the Borlaug Dialogue is over, the week is not over, and in fact we have a Gala tonight at 9 o'clock. I don't think there is an ending time to it, so 9 o'clock at the Hilton until whenever people choose to call it an end.

But as I wrap up and think about the accomplishments and the learnings that have occurred over the last three days at the Borlaug Dialogue, I really come to a point of saying a concluding thought for us to guide us on how we go forward and, you might say, live the words of Norman Borlaug. And that is to listen. Make sure that we listen to everyone so that we have a good perspective on what the issues are, the concerns and the various ways to solve issues. To collaborate, work with others – that's the best way of getting things done. And then most importantly to act. It doesn't do much to come to a three-day session and do the listening and collaborating if you don't go home and act upon what you have learned.

It has been an amazing set of resources that have been brought here to help us all listen, collaborate and act. Just think of the heads of state that were here. We had three heads of state from Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Ethiopia; multiple ministries of agriculture; 70 countries. There were 30 side events that went on in parallel with the week here. We had breakouts focused on scientists and on farmers, and we need to continue to include farmers in these discussions.

And in fact one thing that we'll do more next year is include more students in the presentations right here on the stage. Instead of in some of the breakout rooms or offstage, students will be here on the stage next year. And then this year we also devoted an entire afternoon to new technology and innovation through startups and venture capital firms, a way to engage not only new opportunities through technology but also new players in this area, particularly those from the startup community.

And we announced the innovation challenge that will seek the next technology inventions that will really step us forward in the fight for food and agricultural security. And we'll announce the three finalists next year at this time.

And then of course we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Global Youth Institute and 175 students joined us in that celebration.

So as you return home, I'm going to again repeat that same challenge that I started with, and that is to listen, collaborate, and act. And you can do that over numerous venues in the months ahead. On March 25th we'll have the DialogueNext in Washington, DC. Then in June we'll be in India to do the same thing, DialogueNext in India. And then right back here in October of 2025

we'll have the Laureate Ceremony together with the Borlaug Dialogue. So many chances from Day 1 all the way through the year to listen, collaborate, and act.

But don't forget – we've got a party tonight. The Gala starts at 9 P.M. Thank you very much.