The 2011 World Food Prize Laureates

Former Presidents John Agyekum Kufuor and Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva have been chosen to jointly receive the 2011 World Food Prize for their personal commitment and visionary leadership while serving as the presidents of Ghana and of Brazil, respectively, in creating and implementing government policies to alleviate hunger and poverty in their countries.

The significant achievements of these two former heads of state illustrate that transformational leadership truly can effect positive change and greatly improve people’s lives. For full biographies, please visit www.worldfoodprize.org.

These two leaders will be honored at the 2011 Laureate Award Ceremony at the Iowa State Capitol on October 13.

**Notable Achievements:**

- Under President Kufuor’s leadership, Ghana became the first sub-Saharan African country to cut in half the proportion of its people who suffer from hunger and poverty, in alignment with UN Millenium Development Goal 1.
- President Kufuor launched the Ghana School Feeding Program, which provides one nutritious, locally-produced meal per day to over 1 million children in kindergarten through junior high school, dramatically reducing chronic hunger and malnutrition while boosting attendance.
- President Kufuor significantly increased smallholder production through economic investment in the agricultural sector and by creating incentives for private investors to partner with local farmers.

- President Lula made it a priority to build critical policies that would ensure three meals a day for all Brazilians, achieving UN Millenium Development Goal 1 to reduce by half the proportion of people suffering from hunger and poverty: 93% of children and 82% of adults now eat three meals a day in Brazil.
- President Lula created the “Zero Hunger” initiative to provide greater access to food, strengthen family farms and significantly enhance rural incomes.
- President Lula’s policies focused on improving educational opportunities for the poor and ensuring their inclusion in society. He used a collaborative approach, calling upon all levels of government and society to implement reforms.
2011 Laureate Announcement Ceremony

June 21 • U.S. Department of State

Featured Participants

HON. HILLARY CLINTON
U.S. Secretary of State

HON. TOM VILSACK
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture

HON. RAJIV SHAH
USAID Administrator

HON. ROBERT HORMATS
U.S. Undersecretary of Economic, Energy and Agricultural Affairs

JOHN RUAN III
World Food Prize Chairman

AMB. KENNETH M. QUINN
World Food Prize President

DR. M.S. SWAMINATHAN
World Food Prize Laureate, Selection Committee Chairman
Inspired by the importance that Nobel Laureate and World Food Prize founder Dr. Norman Borlaug placed on educating and developing the next generation of leaders in the fight against hunger, the 2011 Borlaug Dialogue international symposium will gather the top minds and foremost leaders in global agriculture, food and development for a special focus on the next generation and the challenges ahead.

The world population is projected to climb to 9 billion by 2050, amidst a wide range of new agricultural, environmental, climate, health, geopolitical, economic and demographic challenges.

The “Next Generation” theme will ask several critical questions:

• What are the most pressing future challenges that the global community will face in fighting hunger?
• Who will be the next leaders to confront this century’s challenges, and how do we best develop them?
• What are the next generation of technologies, methodologies, models and solutions to overcome these significant challenges?

All of these critical issues will be explored through keynote presentations and lively and engaging “conversation” sessions that will feature the expertise and diverse perspectives of governmental leaders, policymakers, executives from agribusiness and NGOs, scientific and academic experts, development leaders and young innovators from around the world.

The 2011 World Food Prize Borlaug Dialogue will feature over 40 distinguished speakers from around the world. The full schedule, including side events, is available at www.worldfoodprize.org.

**October 12-14 • Des Moines, Iowa**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Oct 11</td>
<td>9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>The Iowa Hunger Summit</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Oct 12</td>
<td>1 – 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Borlaug Dialogue Day I</td>
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<td>5 – 7 p.m.</td>
<td>The Grand Opening of the Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates</td>
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<td>Thursday, Oct 13</td>
<td>8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Borlaug Dialogue Day II</td>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Laureate Award Ceremony</td>
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<td>Friday, Oct 14</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.</td>
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<td>Saturday, Oct 15</td>
<td>8 a.m. - 3 p.m.</td>
<td>The World Food Prize Global Youth Institute</td>
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It was in 1986 that Dr. Norman Borlaug joined with the senior leadership of the General Foods Corporation to establish the World Food Prize. It was Dr. Borlaug’s dream that this new award might one day come to be seen as the “Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture.”

The “Prize” was almost lost when a corporate reorganization occurred in 1989, but it was then that John Ruan Sr., along with Iowa legislators and other leaders, stepped in to rescue the World Food Prize and move it to Iowa. John Ruan’s vision was that Des Moines could someday be seen as the “food and agriculture capital of the world.”

As this year marks the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the World Food Prize, it is most fitting that we will hold the Grand Opening of the Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates on October 12. This magnificently restored building, designed in the late 19th century, will become the new home of the World Food Prize and will serve as an educational center and event space for the Borlaug Dialogue and other conferences. Most importantly, it will be a unique place to honor Dr. Borlaug, the World Food Prize Laureates and all those who have made a significant impact toward ending hunger and improving our world.

One night later on October 13, we will present the $250,000 World Food Prize – in a ceremony at the magnificent Iowa State Capitol – to His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor, former president of Ghana, and His Excellency Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, former president of Brazil, for their personal commitment and visionary leadership in working to alleviate hunger and poverty in their countries.

We will also host our globally renowned Borlaug Dialogue international symposium with a special focus on “The Next Generation.” This October, we will once again welcome representatives from more than 65 countries to our conference, which will be complemented by a full week of side events, public seminars on hunger issues and our Global Youth Institute.

On behalf of our chairman, John Ruan III, and our Council of Advisors, I urge you to visit our website to register now for our World Food Prize events as space will be limited this year. I very much hope you can join us.

-Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn, President

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Cover photos of Africa courtesy of Heifer International and The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation