

THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE  
2008 NORMAN E. BORLAUG INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM  
*Confronting Crisis: Agriculture and Global Development in the Next Fifty Years*  
October 15-17, 2008 - Des Moines, Iowa

**LOOKING AHEAD FIFTY YEARS: A VISION FOR AFRICA**

**October 17, 2008 – 9:00 to 9:30 a.m.**

***Speaker:* H.E. Joaquim Chissano**

**Ambassador Kenneth Quinn**

President - World Food Prize Foundation

---

So if I could invite everyone to find your places, and we'll begin our morning session, A Vision for Africa.

We are so very, very privileged to have former President of Mozambique Joaquim Chissano here with us to begin a morning that will look very closely at what will be needed for agricultural development to succeed in Africa in the coming decade.

Now, this morning's sessions will feature Rajiv Shah, director of agricultural development at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, who will present on the lessons that the Foundation has learned from its investments in agricultural development over the past two years. Roger Thurow, senior writer at the *Wall Street Journal*, will moderate a discussion in which invited experts will give feedback, follow Raj's presentation.

Then Sir Gordon Conway will return to lead a session featuring several experts and leaders actively working in Africa to discuss the needs and challenges as well as the successes and areas for continued success in efforts to improve agricultural and rural development on the Continent.

To begin these conversations, we look to President Chissano, who is acknowledged as one of Africa's foremost political leaders in recent decades and has played a key role in shaping the history of post-colonial Mozambique. He took office as the prime minister of the transition government and was appointed minister of foreign affairs when Mozambique proclaimed its independence in 1975.

In 1986 he was elected president, a position he held until voluntarily stepping down in 2005. While in office, President Chissano restored peace and stability, initiated constitutional and economic reforms, and led Mozambique to a multiparty system and an open market. He has also made great strides in supporting agricultural and rural development throughout his country.

In 2007 President Chissano was awarded the first Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership – the world's largest monetary award. President Chissano was cited specifically for his achievements in poverty reduction, infrastructure development, and action on HIV-AIDS. In 2003 to 2004 he served as chair of the African Union.

President Chissano currently serves as special envoy of the U.N. Secretary General to northern Uganda, southern Sudan, and areas affected by the Lord's Resistant Army. He also chairs the forum of former African heads of state and government.

In a personal sense, I spoke with Dr. Borlaug, who was ill, and we talked about the World Food Prize. And he said, "The one person we need to have become a member of the Council of Advisors, if he would ever consider it, is President Chissano," who had left such a deep impression on Dr. Borlaug for his leadership. And so I wrote to President Chissano and conveyed to him Dr. Borlaug's wish. And I think it's fair to say, Mr. President, that you fulfilled Dr. Borlaug's dreams and hopes by accepting our invitation and by being here today.

Please join me in welcoming President Joaquim Chissano.

---

## LOOKING AHEAD FIFTY YEARS: A VISION FOR AFRICA

### **H.E. Joaquim Chissano**

Former President of Mozambique

---

Mr. Ambassador, ladies and gentlemen, I am humbled to present this keynote address amidst eminent personalities who have distinguished themselves in the area of agriculture, food security, and economic development.

Looking into a futuristic mirror in front of you, it will not be easy, but I am comforted by the fact that this symposium is a dialogue in which our thoughts and ideas will be shared across the table. In that way, I am honored to be amongst colleagues sharing a common vision of a world without hunger.

The year 2008 started on a very disturbing note on the status of the world food supply, distribution, accessibility, affordability to the estimated 6.7 billion inhabitants. It is ending on a note of concern of the stability of the global financial system, which will have obvious implications in agriculture and food production and its trade.

For once, I dare say, the issue of food security or insecurity has become as important to the rich as it has always been to the poor nations. In 2006, the FAO estimated that 854 million people in the world suffer from hunger and over 2 billion people suffer from nutrient deficiency. By its review, the number of hungry people has increased by another 75 million at the end of 2007. The majority of those affected live in developing countries, with the largest concentration in Africa. According to a 2006 Rockefeller Foundation report, 16 of the 18 most undernourished countries in the world are in sub-Saharan Africa.

So we may ask – is there a crisis? Or will there be a crisis? The question may sound paradoxical, but consider this. For those millions in Africa and Asia living with hunger, the vagaries of food supply, scarcity and cost are a way of life. From suffering to suffering, it is only the magnitude that changes. But essentially what is difficult to understand is the fact that having people

dying of hunger, part of the available food supply is bound to drive cost. Then not only do we have a crisis but also a global humanitarian crisis, crisis of all principles.

Consider the ENFPA projection that the world population is expected to rise in the next 43 years by 2.5 billion to reach a total of 9.2 billion in 2050. Not only that, but all of the growth will take place in the less-developed countries and will be concentrated among the poorest populations in urban areas. The pertinent questions to this scenario, therefore, are: How will these people be fed? At what cost? And for the poor, by whom?

This brings me to the rising cost of food production as a factor for food security. The single-most important factor attributed to the recent global soaring food prices has been the phenomenal rise of the price of crude oil. I learned that energy costs accounted for 44 percent of the cost of rising food cost. It was no wonder, therefore, that the phenomenal increase of food prices during the last 12 months showed an almost perfect correlation with changes in crude oil prices in international markets.

According to the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, in the neighboring state of Missouri, it was also reported to have assessed that a 10 percent gain in energy prices could contribute 5.2 percent to retail food prices.

If you recall the near-panic response here in America, you can understand and appreciate the riots that occurred in many developing and food-insecure countries. These soaring food prices during the last two years paradoxically have diluted the positive effect of increased yields recorded in the past 15 years due to new varieties, thanks to people like Norman Borlaug, and application of fertilizers.

Declining production has also been attributed to decreasing investments in agriculture in the poorest countries during the last 30 years. The share of agriculture in public development aid declined from 17 percent in 1980 to 3 percent in 2006. And according to the World Bank assessment, while 75 percent of the world's poor live in rural areas, in developing countries a mere 4 percent of official development assistance goes to agriculture.

So much for strategic global support to poverty eradication and attainment of the MDGs.

Sharing the African experience, the productivity of the land has declined in many countries of Africa. Yields of most important food grains, tubers, and legumes including maize or corn, rice, millet, sorghum, yams, cassava, and groundnuts in most African countries are no higher today than in 1980. The low productivity has therefore seriously eroded the competitiveness of African agricultural products on world markets. Africa's share of total world agricultural trade fell from 8 percent in 1965 to 4 percent in 2007.

Low productivity is the result of low investment in all the factors that contributed to agricultural productivity and effective use of available resources. Low investment has arisen in part from policies that have favored investments in urban infrastructure and industries over those in rural areas and agriculture. Happily, there is an awakening of the consequences of these developments. And a number of noticeable actions have begun to emerge.

In Africa, African political and scientific leaders have set a target to increase agricultural production by 6 percent a year for 20 years from 2003. Improvements in total factor productivity are expected to contribute about 3 percent to this, with the remainder coming from increased investment.

Donor and support agencies are also refocusing their attention and making agriculture a top priority. An example is the World Bank World Development Report 2008, which says that agriculture for development provides a new framework of focusing more on agriculture. But I must observe here that we must build on the lessons learned from the previous efforts to ensure that this time around the investments are well-targeted and the tempo sustained.

Strategic and focused support to agriculture needs sound and stable microeconomic and fiscal policies; open, participatory political systems of all citizens, especially rural people; and a strong link to markets. These factors will increase the investment in agriculture and improve its profitability, even for the small-scale, resource-poor producer.

The success of Asian rice producers attests to this. This is necessary if we want to avoid going through this cycle during the next fifty years. Accessibility to markets is vital for the success of agricultural development to lead to poverty eradication and food security. Wealth can only be created by primary producers of agricultural commodities if they can get profitable prices for their crops. Many developing countries have tremendous opportunities to attract good prices for their farmers if their products have access to international consumers. But this accessibility is hampered by a lack of understanding by the producers of international markets and (a lack of) capacity to conform to standards, tariffs and such other requirements set by the WTO.

The Group of 77 has over the years pursued what they considered more equitable terms of trade but, alas, negotiations became deadlocked in the Doha round since 2006. While many have described that the negotiations have collapsed, I would rather consider them just deadlocked. From my personal experience in conflict resolution (and I have been through quite a few), negotiations can always be resumed and amicable solution is always within reach. I am, therefore, a man who does believe that, the earlier the Doha round is resumed, the better for all parties.

In addressing agriculture and development challenges of the next fifty years, one cannot but draw inspiration from the life of Norman Borlaug. He not only believed and demonstrated that agricultural research and development is the key to solve the puzzle of poverty and hunger, but he actualized it. We must therefore build on that foundation. Norman has consistently referred to the ongoing Green Revolution, through conventional and biotechnology research, as being Africa's chance to unlock its potential and set a sound base for the food security and poverty eradication of its citizens.

But the reference to Africa here, though emphatic, should be exemplary of developing countries in other regions of the world. While developed countries are reaping tremendous benefits of their investments in doubling and quadrupling their per-hectare yield of their crops, as noted above, we have been faced by declining yield in developing countries.

In the case of Mozambique, we have been inspired by courageous people like Norman. Being a poor country confronted with the need to adjust the macro- and microvariables is in relation

to not only the national economy but especially to the agricultural sector, where more than 70 percent of our population is engaged. We had to take decisive and courageous measures as well.

In our situation, coming from a centrally planned system and a 16-year civil war experience, resettlement of the population and access to land was fundamental. We decided to amend the constitution and approve completely new land legislation.

We also had to adopt a pro-rural development approach to make sure that basic infrastructure were built, essentially rural roads, bridges, storage facilities, irrigation schemes, and so on. This was complemented by steps to provide farmers with the necessary technological instruments for better productivity.

For example, our local research institute has been able to research and develop highly productive seeds for staple crops, mainly corn. We couldn't mobilize the necessary resources to produce fertilizers locally, but we were absolutely concerned with the need to make fertilizers more affordable to our farmers.

In partnership with the private sector and international agencies and NGOs, we have created the enabling environment for the establishment of micro-credit initiatives. We did what the financial constraints allowed us to do. As you can see from the experience of Mozambique, the deployment of technology to revolutionize agricultural productivity has been seriously hampered by funding and investment. Without support, developing countries cannot get out of the cycle of agriculture needing research, which in turn needs to be funded, but internal resources are limited.

To confound the matter, technology development has gone a step further with the issue of intellectual-property rights taking forefront in allowing access to technology. Justifiable as IPR is, it affects the technology transfer. The trade-related aspects of the IPR have also become one of the sore discussion points of member nations of the WTO. But I think that the international agricultural research centers, alongside the private sector, can be veritable vehicles for development and demonstrate that the situation is not hopeless. The IRCC and the African Agriculture Technology Foundation can bring about workable solutions to technology transfer and skills acquisition if stakeholders genuinely work together for it.

If we take the deployment of research findings and technology to address agriculture challenges, we should be confident that coping mechanisms and the eventual solutions can be found to the climate-change factors that affect agriculture and development. These factors no doubt will be important in the next fifty years and beyond. I know Africa continues to be a big development challenge to all of us, but I am very much encouraged by the global optimism and general reference now that the 21<sup>st</sup> century is for Africa.

Quite a lot has been happening, mainly by the initiatives from within. The challenges are well-known, so I will concentrate on the solutions.

African political and scientific leaders have set a target to increase agricultural production by 6 percent a year for 20 years since 2003. Improvements in total factor productivity are expected to contribute about 3 percent to this, with the remainder coming from increased investment.

Achieving a 3 percent annual growth rate of total factor productivity will be challenging. There is no region of the world which has had total factor productivity increase by more than 2.5 percent per year over a sustained of time.

For Africa to reach this level of productivity, it will require, first, agricultural research systems that are efficient and effective, generating the knowledge and technologies needed to increase agriculture production and productivity without destroying the environment.

Two, technology-delivery systems that bring innovations to farmers and agribusinesses.

And, three, mechanisms that reduce the costs and risks of adopting new approaches.

To support the attainment of these targets, heads of state of government of the African Caribbean, and Pacific Group of states adopted what is now referred to as the Maputo Declaration. At their fourth summit in Maputo, Republic of Mozambique, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2004.

Critical to the implementation of the Maputo pledge of 10-percent budget allocation to agriculture as part of the broader objective of mobilizing the necessary resources to finance and to sustain a 6 percent sector growth rate requires the adoption and use of public expenditure-reporting systems, which allow detailed allocation, reporting, and tracking of expenditures in the agriculture sector.

The country-level process should, therefore, include measures to improve the budget classification and reporting systems for the sector, in order to facilitate the reliable tracking of the level and efficiency of public-sector investments. Although the critical targets of public-expenditure allocation to agriculture are still below expectation, it is encouraging that many countries have shown major improvement in their allocation to agriculture. There is no doubt that a lot still needs to be done.

We are also encouraged by the initiatives of our development partners, especially for establishing the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, AGRA, under the distinguished chairmanship than no other than our brother, Mr. Kofi Annan, former U.N. Secretary-General. I wish to observe that the success of the initiative of the member countries themselves through the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and AGRA will depend on a critical factor of the pattern of food aid, development assistance, and investments in health and education sectors in Africa.

I have mentioned from the beginning how infrastructure support, such as roads, are vital to the success of transforming agricultural development of developing countries into instruments of food security and poverty eradication. It is, therefore, pertinent that development partners work in harmony and close collaboration in developing their resources for infrastructure development, particularly in Africa.

It is gratifying that donors, development partners and financial institutions, and beneficiary countries are coming together under the umbrella of the Paris Declaration to streamline support and delivery procedure of their assistance. The provisions of the Paris Declarations, if adhered to, will

no doubt also greatly reduce the rampant corruption that has in the past greatly reduced the impact of development aid and assistance.

Support for education and healthcare is vital. As new technologies and skills are developed to move the world forward, developing countries get marginalized because of the digital divide. Malaria and HIV-AIDS compound the situation, especially in Africa. When these factors are considered in the context of gender, then it becomes obvious that special attention needs to be given to the empowerment of women in all structures of development.

Developing countries have quite a distance to travel in this area. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the journey to the milestones of agricultural and global development in the next fifty years will, obviously, need determination and a sustainable commitment. Unlike what went through to this point, efficient resources utilization will be the key, because of the increased population and overexploitation of resources.

I will, therefore, conclude by urging us all to pay particular attention to three areas, namely: countries' and development partners' working together to make technology available and affordable; making financial resources to invest in agriculture; and addressing the challenges of climate change.

I thank you.

---

### **Ambassador Kenneth Quinn**

Mr. President, thank you so very, very much for your sweeping vision, for your challenges, and most of all what you have already done for your people and for the people of Africa.

I know Dr. Borlaug is so sorry that he couldn't be here to hear your address. But I want to, on his behalf, on behalf of all of us at the World Food Prize, as a way of welcoming you to our World Food Prize family, as a way of thanking you, I'd like to present to you this bronze replica of the Congressional Gold Medal that Dr. Borlaug received in 2007.