



WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION NORMAN E. BORLAUG INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

2025 Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue

Session Title: Innovators of the Future: Recognizing the 2025 Top Agri-food Pioneers (TAP)

Date: October 22, 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCuoe78GFrw>

Speakers

- Jan Low | 2016 World Food Prize Laureate and TAP Cohort Mentor
- Per Pinstруп-Andersen | 2001 World Food Prize Laureate and TAP Cohort Mentor

Transcript

Video Narrator:

In a world where food systems face growing challenges, we need innovators, trailblazers, and visionaries to lead the way to a more secure, sustainable future. That's why the World Food Prize Foundation launched a global call to action, inviting leaders from every corner of the globe to be part of this movement, top agri food pioneers. Applications poured in from across the world, showcasing pioneers in fields ranging from sustainable farming, ag tech, nutrition, education, advocacy, and many other arenas. The result, a global showcase of innovators that span 27 countries and one territory ranging in age from 20 to 79 representing a powerful cross section of experience, geography, and expertise. These are change makers who are shaping the future of agriculture from farmers in the field to cutting edge researchers to educators and advocates who are driving global food security forward.

These pioneers are transforming our food systems in ways that matter from breakthrough innovations in crop science to advocacy for sustainable farming practices. They are the heartbeat of a new era in agriculture. As the world contends with mounting challenges to our food systems, innovators like our top agri food pioneers are critical to ensuring security, sustainability, and livelihoods for all. In honor of the foundation's thirty ninth anniversary, we are thrilled to highlight the work of 39 diverse pioneers, and we hope this class serves as the foundation for a global network who have been tapped to be the future of food systems. The second cohort of TAP awardees represents a broad spectrum of disciplines, ages, and regions.



WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION NORMAN E. BORLAUG INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

Yet they all share one goal, building a better, more resilient food system. Here at the World Food Prize Foundation, we are not just reflecting on the past, we are planting seeds for the future. The list of those who have been tapped will grow each year, fostering collaboration, co learning, and innovation in global food systems. Join us in celebrating and championing these incredible pioneers and the impact they're making on food and agriculture around the world. Together, we're transforming the future one innovation at a time.

Jan Low:

Ten years ago, my fellow late Laureate, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed said, "Things like hunger, poverty, seasonal famine, oppression of women and the marginalization of a great portion of society, in fact, are changeable through the power of human activity." This simple but profound belief that human ingenuity and compassion can transform the world continues to guide us today. Together with Per Pinstrup-Andersen, my former mentor, and we have the great pleasure of being able to mentor individuals who are making a difference to this world. Leading change, challenging convention, and building solutions that will help us build a better food system that is more sustainable, equitable, and resilient. Last year, those of you who were present may remember that we had the inaugural group of Top Agri-food Pioneers or TAP, which celebrates those visionaries of any age, background or discipline working in fields related to food or agriculture.

There were 38 pioneers in those fields in this inaugural cohort. This year, in recognition of the thirty ninth anniversary of the World Food Prize, we recognized 39 trailblazers from 27 countries.

Per Pinstrup-Andersen:

As mentors for this, these remarkable pioneers, Jan and I are truly excited to engage with this new cohort throughout this year, listening to their ideas, offering guidance, and supporting them as they continue to grow their impact. And of course, we as well will learn a lot from them. The World Food Prize's commitment to recognizing and elevating emerging as well as establishing, established change makers make this program so very special. It's about shining a light on those who are already making a difference and giving them the network, mentorship, and visibility to



WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION NORMAN E. BORLAUG INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

amplify the work even further. We are honored and excited about being part of this very important mission.

Today, we are thrilled to welcome this year's top agri food pioneers, 15 incredible individuals whose vision, passion, and persistence inspire us all. We are so happy that they have joined us today. Each of them brings a unique perspective and an unwavering commitment to creating a better food future and therefore a better world. Let's meet them.

Narrator:

Please welcome the 2025 Top Agri-food Pioneers.

Abdul Awal:

Good morning. My name is Abdul Awal. I am from Bangladesh. And in Bangladesh, it is small land in the absence of commercial farming. My company works with the small farmers to increase the productivity of the vegetables, rice and also we are working on livestock improvement.

Thank you.

Hugh Campos:

Good morning. Good morning. That's so much better. I'm Hugh Campos. I come from Chile.

I work at the International Potato Center, and I'm delighted to be here. Thank you.

Jason Cope:

Good morning. I'm Jason Cope from the United States Of America, and my work has been in pollination technologies to improve yield and sustainability in agriculture.

Manzoor Dar:



WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION NORMAN E. BORLAUG INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

Good morning. My name is Manzoor, and I'm part of the CGIAR family. I work with ICRISAT. I'm based in India. Together with farmers, the partners, we enable farmers to access, produce and trade quality seeds, which are climate resilient, nutritious and high yielding in dry lands, which are the most difficult parts of the world.

Thank you.

Catherine Feuillet:

Good morning, everyone. My name is Catherine Feuillet. I'm from France, as you can hear, and from The US. My passion and work is in wheat improvement, and I'm using genomics and new breeding technologies to achieve that.

Inga Jacobs-Mata:

Good morning. My name is Inga Jacobs-Mata. I'm from South Africa, as you can also probably hear. I work for the International Water Management Institute of CGIAR, and I work in water security and innovation scaling.

Sanjeev Kapoor:

Morning. I'm Chef Sanjeev Kapoor from India, largely working, with, on nutrition for Akshaya Patra on school meals. About 2.5 million meals are served every day, and nutrition literacy through Harvest Plus Solutions in India. Thank you.

Ermias Kebreab:

Hello. My name is Ermias Kebreab. I'm from Eritrea and also from Canada and the United States, and I work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from livestock in high income countries and improve productivity of livestock in low and middle income countries.

Linda Kinkel:

Good morning, I'm Linda Kinkel. I'm from the United States of America, and our work leverages the naturally occurring collaborative interactions between soil microbes to advance crop productivity and resilience.



WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION NORMAN E. BORLAUG INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

Viviana Perrigo:

Hi everyone. My name is Viviana Perego. I'm from Italy and Uruguay. I work for the World Bank, and I work on school feeding for children's nutrition and the empowerment of women's smallholder farmers.

Prasanna Boddupalli:

Good morning. I am Prasanna Boddupalli. I come from India. I work for CIMMYT International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center and the Borlaug Institute for South Asia. My passion is maize genetics breeding and the seed system.

And together with a great team, we have developed and deployed climate-resilient maize varieties and deployed them at scale in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Mo Segad:

Good morning, Iowa. My name is Mo Segad. I'm from Sweden and the United States, where I lead innovative nature based solution organizations, both profit and private. My work is driven by a mission, turning sand into fertile soil and arid land also into more productive land to have more food security with less water. And also advancing pure green artificial intelligence to restore our ecosystem.

Thank you very much.

Jean Baptiste Tignegre:

Good morning. My name is Jean Baptiste Tignegre from Burkina Faso. Currently, I'm working for African Agricultural Technology Foundation, and my targets are insect-resistant copy, vegetable varieties and technology transfer. So I would like to also contributing organizations like USAID, AG1 Asia and the World Vegetable Center. I will not forget my nurse partners in West Africa including Ghana, Nigeria, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso.

Thank you.



WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION
NORMAN E. BORLAUG
INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

Patricia Wolff:

Hello, I'm Patricia Wolff from the United States. I work in Haiti. In Haiti, we have established a manufacturing facility run all by Haitians, for Haitians, to treat malnourished children and we mentor the peanut farmers whose peanuts we use in the therapeutic food.

Jianchu Xu:

Good morning. My name is Xu Jianchu from China. My passion is to work on agroforestry and the global market value chain for a better life, better world. So thank you.