
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2023

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2022



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

The World Food Prize — RIF

Purpose and History

The World Food Prize is an international award recognizing the achievements of individuals that have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity, or availability of food in the world. The World Food Prize recognizes contributions in any field involved in the world food supply, such as food and agriculture, science and technology, manufacturing, marketing, nutrition, economics, poverty alleviation, political leadership, and the social sciences.

The World Food Prize emphasizes the importance of a nutritious and sustainable food supply for all people. By honoring those that have worked successfully toward this goal, the World Food Prize calls attention to what has been done to improve global food security and what can be accomplished in the future.

Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his work in world agriculture, envisioned a prize that would honor those that have made significant and measurable contributions to improving the world's food supply. Beyond recognizing these people for their personal accomplishments, Borlaug saw the World Food Prize as a means of establishing role models that would inspire others. His vision was realized when the World Food Prize was created in 1986.

Laureates have been recognized from countries around the world, including Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Cuba, Denmark, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mexico, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United Nations, and the United States.

The World Food Prize is sponsored by the heirs of businessman and philanthropist John Ruan and is located in Des Moines. Mr. Ruan endowed the World Food Prize in 1990 when the first sponsor withdrew. Today, John Ruan's son, Mr. John Ruan III, has succeeded his father as chairman of the World Food Prize Foundation. The Foundation President is Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn. A Council of Advisors provides guidance and support.

The World Food Prize Youth Institute was established in 1994 by the World Food Prize Foundation. The primary goal of the Institute is to increase awareness of the World Food Prize mission among Iowa youth. Through the application process, students and their mentor teachers (one student/teacher team per high school) are selected to attend the annual three-day Youth Institute in October. These schools represent a cross-section throughout the State, including large and small and urban and rural communities.

More Information

The World Food Prize: www.worldfoodprize.org
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Funding

The World Food Prize received a \$1.0 million appropriation for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. Iowa Code section 15.368(1) makes an annual General Fund standing appropriation of \$1.0 million to the World Food Prize. This language was added to the Code beginning with FY 2010. The General Assembly, as of FY 2016, appropriates about \$1.0 million from a combination of the General Fund and Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund. The funds are used for administration and support of the World Food Prize and for the Borlaug/Ruan Scholar Program. None of the money received from governmental sources is used to fund the World Food Prize award given to the recipient of the World Food Prize. Governmental funds are also not used to pay for food or beverages at any of the social functions held as part of any World Food Prize event. No State funds are used for capital projects.

Other Sources of Revenue

In addition to the General Fund appropriation, the World Food Prize receives contributions from the United States Department of Agriculture, corporations, foundations, and private donors.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code sections [1C.12](#) and [15.368](#)

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