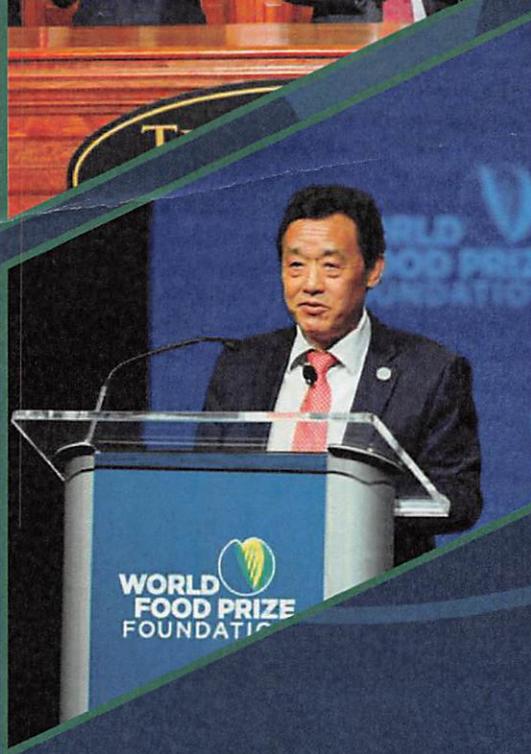
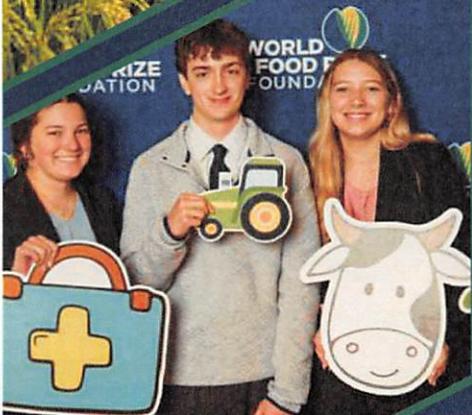
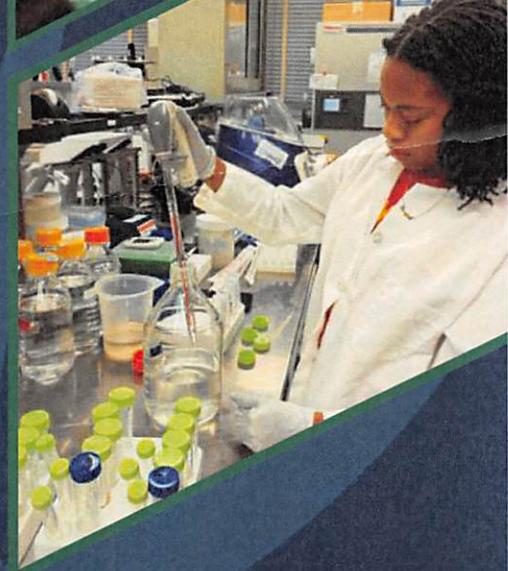
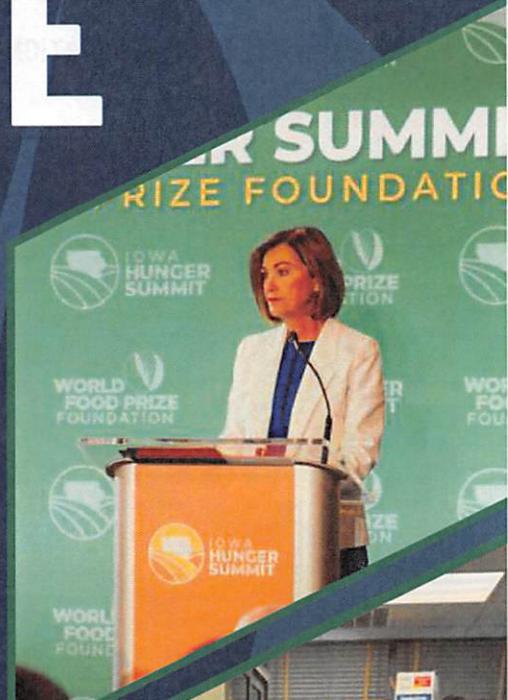
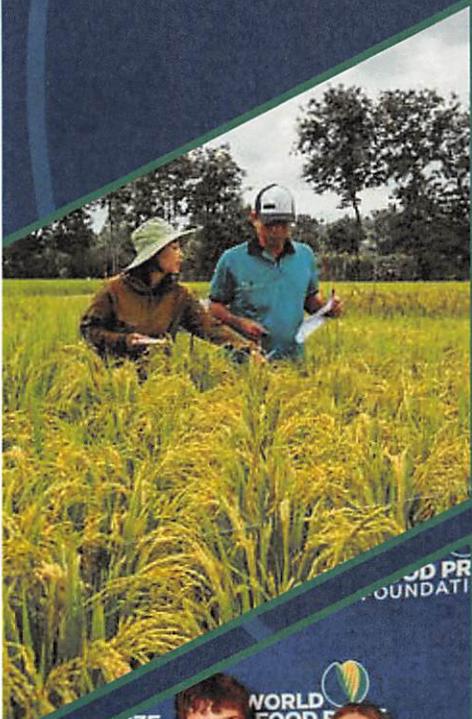




WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION

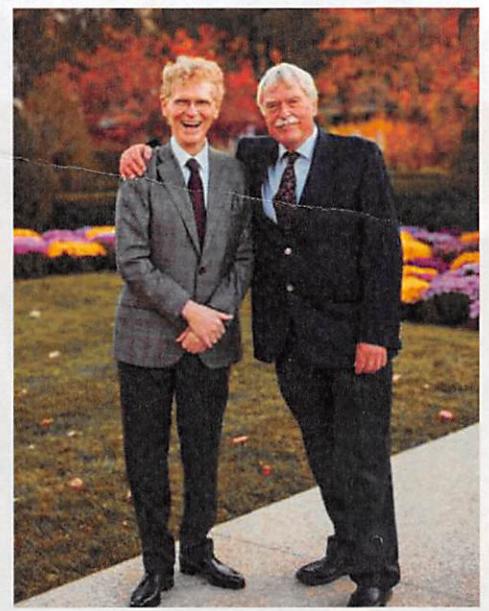
THE STATE OF IOWA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

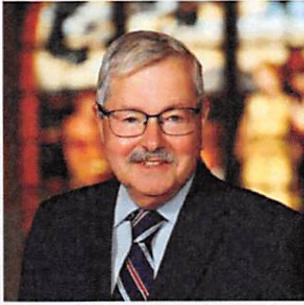


2024

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

AMBASSADOR TERRY E. BRANSTAD

The World Food Prize Foundation is grateful for the partnership and support provided by the Governor, Iowa Legislature and State of Iowa. The Foundation looks forward to building on this strong collaboration and will continue its efforts in promoting economic development for the State of Iowa, bringing global partners and leaders to our state and inspiring the next generation of Iowa agricultural innovators.

Throughout 2024, the Foundation team diligently implemented robust and innovative programming with strong participation and outcomes across all our programs. Our October events welcomed to Iowa a record 1,500 attendees from close to 70 countries, including global leaders like the Presidents of Sierra Leone and Tanzania. Furthermore, we launched new initiatives like Top Agri-food Pioneers (TAP), DialogueNEXT in Washington, D.C., and Mexico; and the Innovate for Impact Challenge.

In 2024, the Foundation's youth programs reached remarkable milestones, showcasing their enduring success and growth. Deeply rooted in Iowa, these programs celebrated 30 years of empowering young minds. From humble beginnings in 1994 with just 14 Iowa high school students, we have grown into a global initiative, engaging nearly 90,000 students across the world over three transformative decades.

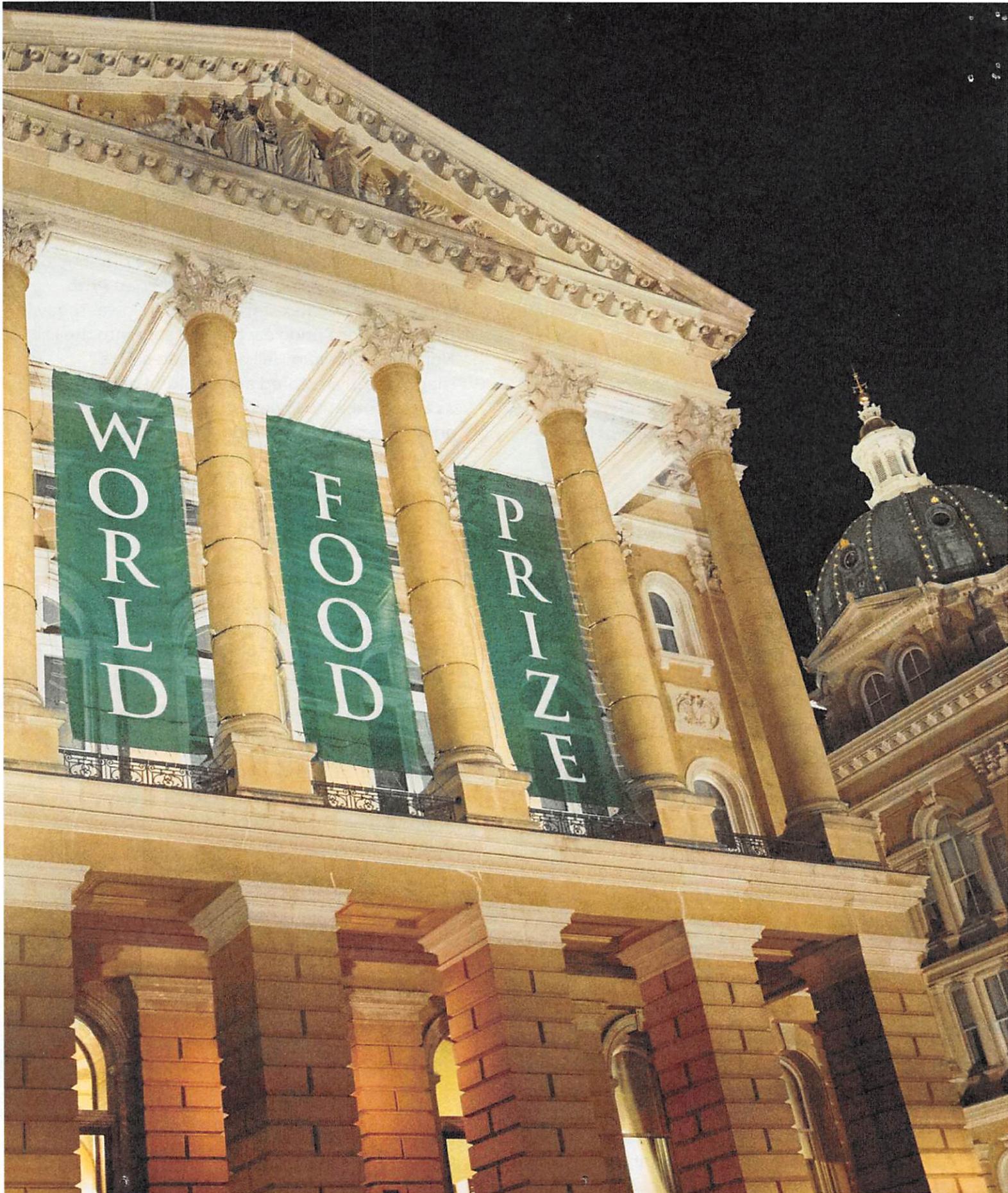
Similarly, the Iowa Hunger Summit marked another milestone year, continuing its tradition of fostering impactful dialogue and collaboration. The Summit brought together hundreds of Iowa's food security champions to explore innovative solutions for addressing hunger and food insecurity, both locally and globally. By uniting diverse voices, the Summit strengthened Iowa's commitment to combating food insecurity, poverty and malnutrition, amplifying efforts to create lasting change.

As Governor of Iowa in 1990, I had the privilege of witnessing the vision of the World Food Prize come to life and its establishment in Iowa. Today, I feel immense pride each time I step into the Dr. Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates. This magnificently restored architectural gem stands as a testament to Iowa's unparalleled agricultural and humanitarian heritage. The historic building beautifully tells the stories of remarkable figures like Herbert Hoover, Henry A. Wallace, George Washington Carver and Jessie Field Shambaugh, the visionary known as the "Mother of 4-H."

Over 20,000 visitors, including countless Iowa students, visit our Hall of Laureates annually. Our global headquarters will always remain in Iowa and visitors can come to this historic landmark, free of charge, to learn about Dr. Borlaug and Iowa's rich legacy.

As I complete two years as President of the Foundation and pursue retirement, it has been a great privilege and honor to serve in this important capacity and build on the legacy and vision of two incredible Iowans, Dr. Borlaug and John Ruan, Sr. I take great comfort in knowing that the Foundation is in capable hands under the leadership of incoming President Mashal Husain. The Foundation team and I remain very grateful for the support provided by the Governor and the State of Iowa legislature that has been instrumental in our continued growth and success. We look forward to continuing to make Iowa proud!

PRESIDENT, WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION



ABOUT THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION

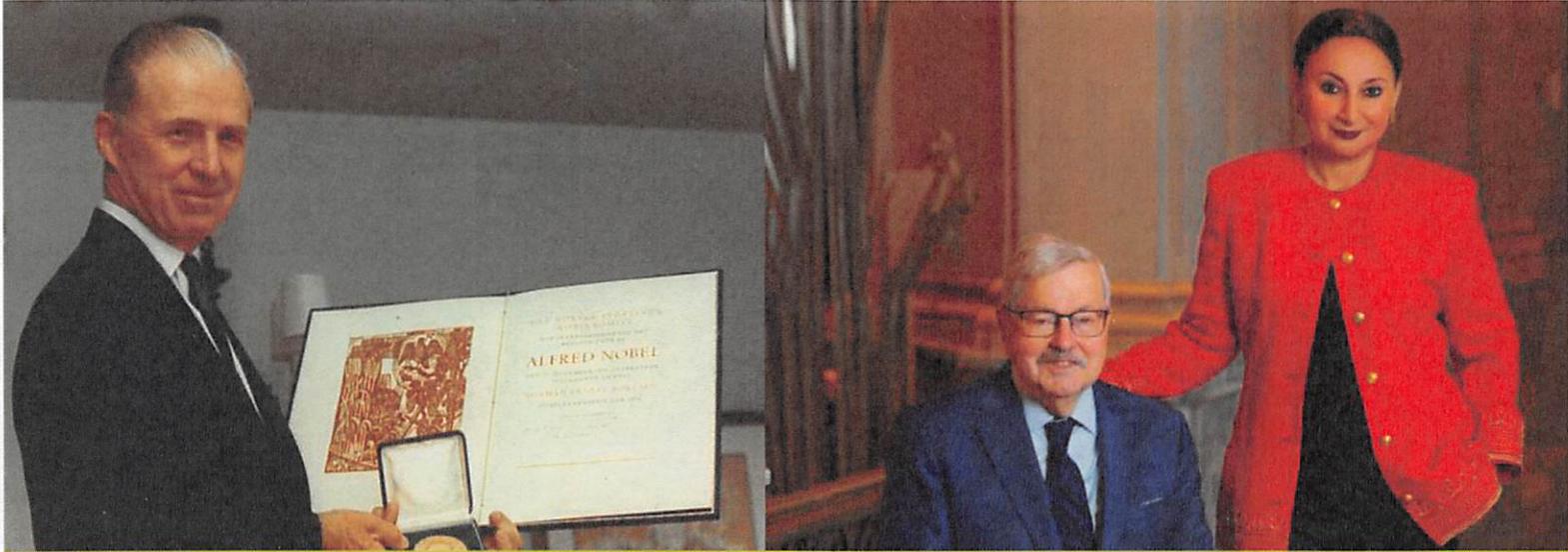
FOUNDATION MISSION



THE MISSION OF THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION IS TO ELEVATE INNOVATIONS AND INSPIRE ACTION TO SUSTAINABLY INCREASE THE QUALITY, QUANTITY AND AVAILABILITY OF FOOD FOR ALL. THE FOUNDATION SUPPORTS THIS MISSION BY:

- 1 Recognizing and rewarding individuals making exceptional achievements in addressing food security**
- 2 Convening global leaders in Des Moines each year to address the latest issues and innovations in food and agriculture**
- 3 Inspiring and recognizing exceptional students in Iowa, in the U.S. and around the world by providing educational and professional experiences on pressing food security and agriculture issues**
- 4 Addressing Iowa's successes and challenges in fighting hunger and poverty through the Iowa Hunger Summit**

FOUNDATION HISTORY



An inspiration of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Iowan Dr. Borlaug, the World Food Prize was established in 1986 to be the foremost international award recognizing the achievements of individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity and availability of food in the world. In creating the World Food Prize, Dr. Borlaug envisioned a prize to honor those who have made Nobel-like contributions to improving the world's food supply. The World Food Prize Foundation is now recognized as the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture."

The World Food Prize first came to Iowa in 1990 when John Ruan, Sr., rescued the Prize after its original sponsor withdrew. As one of Iowa's most successful businessmen and a well-known philanthropist, Mr. Ruan stepped forward to endow and establish the World Food Prize in Des Moines. Dr. Borlaug and Mr. Ruan were instrumental in the growth and success of the Foundation and remained active supporters until their deaths in 2009 and 2010, respectively. With the generous support of Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, the Iowa Legislature, public foundations and private entities, the Prize continued to thrive under the leadership and direction of Foundation Chairman John Ruan III from 2000 to 2021.

Following the passing of John Ruan III in 2021, Paul Schickler, former CEO of Pioneer Hybrid and longtime Foundation board member, assumed the role of Chair, with Rachel Ruan McLean as Vice-Chair.

Complementing Board leadership, the Foundation has had a rich history of strong leadership. Most recently, in February 2023, Ambassador Terry Branstad assumed the role of Foundation President.

Completing two years of dedicated leadership, Ambassador Branstad will retire on January 31, 2025 and Mashal Husain will serve as Foundation President, bringing her extensive experience and vision to guide the organization into its next chapter of growth and success.

With 38 years of championing innovation, advancing impactful programs in Iowa and inspiring Iowa's future leaders, the World Food Prize Foundation remains dedicated to its mission. As it continues to position Iowa at the forefront of global agriculture, the Foundation looks ahead with a renewed commitment to cultivating the next generation of agricultural pioneers and driving transformative solutions for a more food-secure world.

BUILDING BLOCKS OF GLOBAL IMPACT: THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION PILLARS



RECOGNIZING

- World Food Prize
- Borlaug Field Award
- Iowa SHARES Award
- Top Agri-food Pioneers
- Innovate for Impact
- Global Challenge Award
- Inspiring the Next Generation



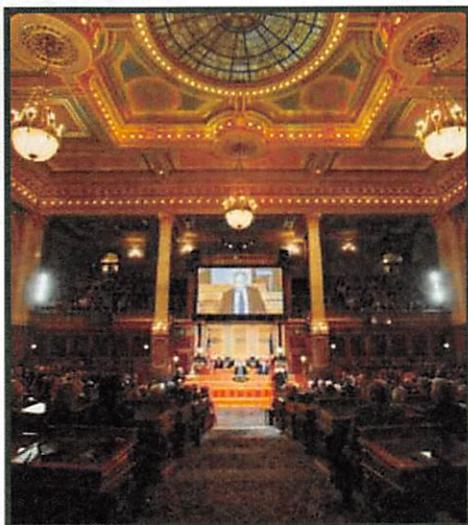
CONVENING

- Borlaug Dialogue
- Iowa Hunger Summit
- Laureate Announcement
- Laureate Award Ceremony
- DialogueNEXT
- Hall of Laureates



INSPIRING

- Borlaug-Ruan Internship
- Global Youth Institute
- Wallace-Carver Fellowship
- Foundation Internship
- GOALS Teacher Development
- Youth Institutes
- Youth Alumni Engagement



CULTIVATING DONOR RELATIONSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT

The World Food Prize Foundation remains immensely grateful to the Governor, Iowa Legislature and State of Iowa for its continued interest in and support of the Foundation's programs. We are appreciative of the generous \$650,000 in funding provided in 2024, which has empowered us to continue advancing our programs and initiatives.

Being responsible stewards of our donors' contributions is fundamental to our success. At the Foundation, we uphold the principle that every dollar matters, recognizing that even the smallest contributions can drive meaningful change and create lasting impact.

As we pursued greater funding to drive our impact, we continued to work tirelessly in:

- **Sustaining current funding sources while actively cultivating new donor relationships that share our vision and mission**
- **Launching targeted letter, email and social media campaigns to showcase our achievements and future goals**
- **Providing an impact report to donors, emphasizing our efforts and the measurable outcomes of our programs**
- **Ensuring transparency by clearly communicating how donor contributions are utilized and the benefits available at various sponsorship levels**
- **Securing long-term commitments and larger gifts to strengthen the Foundation's financial stability and future impact**

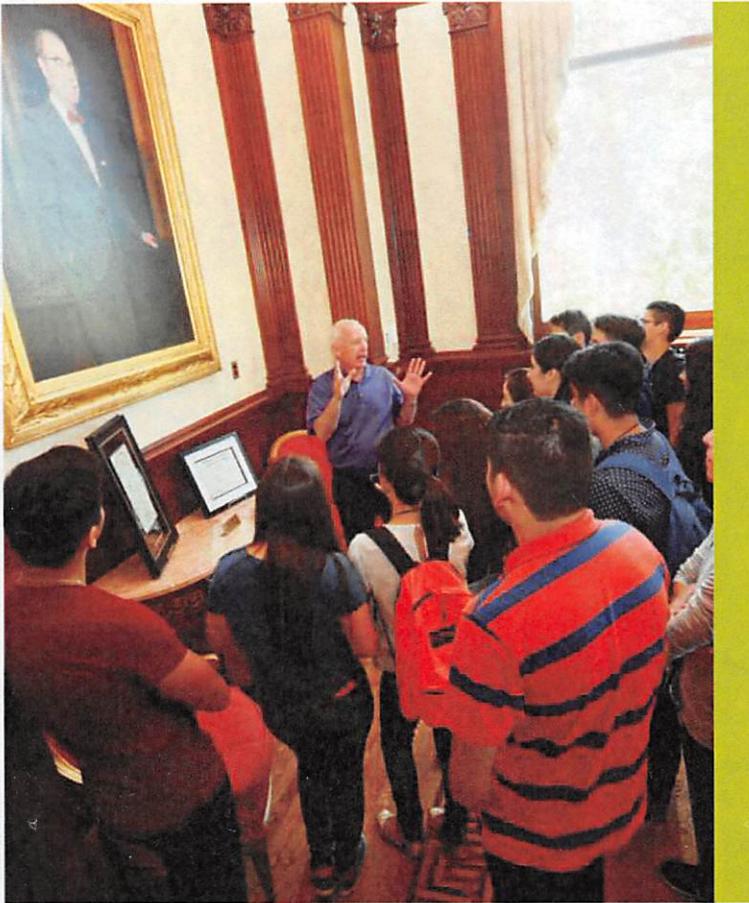


As the Foundation strives to increase the breadth and scope of its programming, we have learned that funding drives programmatic progress and, in turn, launching innovative programs also draws new funding, creating a cycle of progress and sustainability.

Sustained and increased future funding will be crucial to ensuring these programs continue to benefit Iowa businesses, local partners, high school students and citizens committed to learning about and advancing Iowa's rich agricultural and humanitarian legacy.

To maintain financial integrity, the Foundation undergoes an annual, independent audit. Eide Bailly, a U.S. tax, accounting and information security services firm, conducted the audit in 2024 and will continue to provide this important service in 2025.

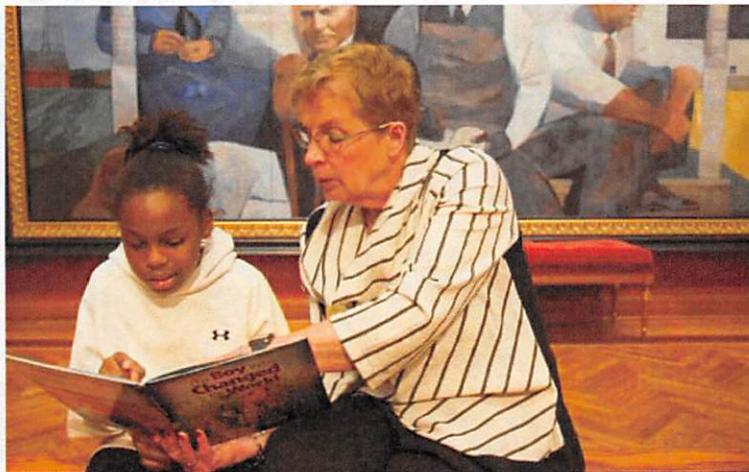
UTILIZING STATE OF IOWA FUNDS



The World Food Prize Foundation utilizes funds, appropriated by the State Legislature, to support the planning and implementation of its annual programs, as well as for the operating expenses of the Hall of Laureates.

Separately, the Foundation maintains a fund for annual ceremonies and awards. None of the money received from the State of Iowa appropriation is used for the World Food Prize Laureate award or the Dr. Norman E. Borlaug Award for Field Research and Application prize money. State of Iowa funds are also not used to pay for food or beverages at any social functions held as part of World Food Prize events. In addition, none of the funds received from the State of Iowa are used for any national or international staff travel or Hall of Laureates construction projects ("no bricks and mortar").

The endowment created by the John Ruan Trust continues to provide partial funding for the World Food Prize Foundation. Funds for the annual World Food Prize come solely from this endowment, which also provides support for the partial upkeep of the Hall of Laureates.



CREATING IOWA ECONOMIC IMPACT

THE 2024 WORLD FOOD PRIZE
WEEK OF EVENTS GENERATED

\$1,230,717.75

IN DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT

AND A TOTAL IMPACT OF

\$2,134,588.22



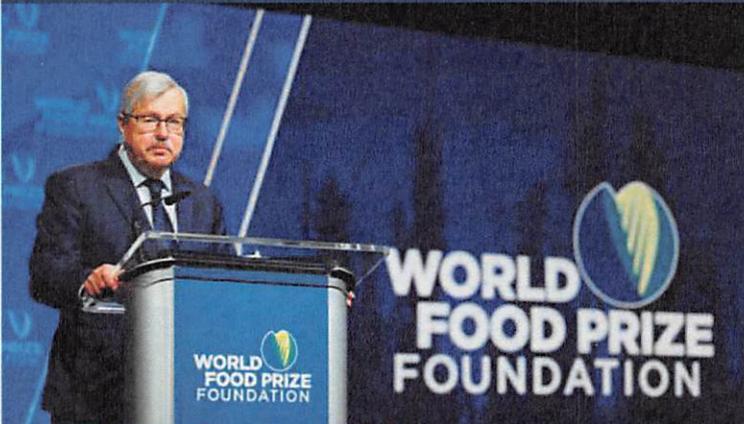
THE 2023 EVENT GENERATED

\$862,875.48

IN DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT

AND A TOTAL IMPACT OF

\$1,495,899.39



CULTIVATING A THRIVING NETWORK OF TALENT AND DEDICATION



In 2024, the Foundation launched several new programs in Iowa, the United States and around the globe. We did so while remaining consistent in staffing numbers, in an attempt to be good financial stewards of our donors' funds. The Foundation maintained a team of 14 full-time employees who planned and implemented the Foundation's complete portfolio of many Iowa-based, national and international programs. In addition, we engaged three cohorts of collegiate interns through the prestigious World Food Prize Foundation Internship program, providing strong learning and growth opportunities to support successful career paths and creating a pipeline of professionals interested in agricultural development.

In October, we brought together more than 65 volunteers to assist with the implementation of our global week of events, creating one-of-a-kind engagement and networking opportunities for Iowa community members. Former interns, colleagues and friends of the Foundation returned to Des Moines to provide instrumental support. In essence, many of these volunteers are part of the World Food Prize "family", returning year after year to be a part of the Foundation's October convenings.



In 2024, our 23 dedicated volunteer docents devoted their time and energy each week at the Hall of Laureates, passionately sharing the Foundation's story and its global impact with thousands of visitors from Iowa, across the United States and around the world. This year saw a remarkable increase in public tours and heightened interest in the Hall of Laureates, further cementing its status as a treasured heritage landmark and cultural icon in central Iowa. We look forward to continuing to inspire and engage our community and visitors alike in the years to come.

PRESERVING IOWA'S ARCHITECTURAL TREASURE AND OUR STATE'S HERITAGE



This year marked 13 years since the Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates' stunning \$29.8 million transformation from the Des Moines Public Library into the global headquarters of the World Food Prize Foundation, giving the building a new sense of purpose and identity. Since then, the Hall of Laureates has welcomed over 250,000 visitors to learn about Dr. Borlaug's agricultural journey, the impactful efforts of other Iowa humanitarians as well as the 55 World Food Prize Laureates, whose innovative work and research has increased the quantity, quality and availability of food for all.

The Hall of Laureates serves as a space of learning and inspiration, welcoming visitors through open houses and private group tours offered free of charge several times each month. Each year, we proudly host thousands of visitors from across the U.S., and diplomats, business and agricultural leaders from around the world. This year, we welcomed delegations from every continent except Antarctica. The building's artwork and storytelling elements showcase the achievements of Iowans who have contributed to ending hunger—a testament to Dr. Borlaug's enduring legacy.

PRESERVING IOWA'S ARCHITECTURAL TREASURE AND OUR STATE'S HERITAGE

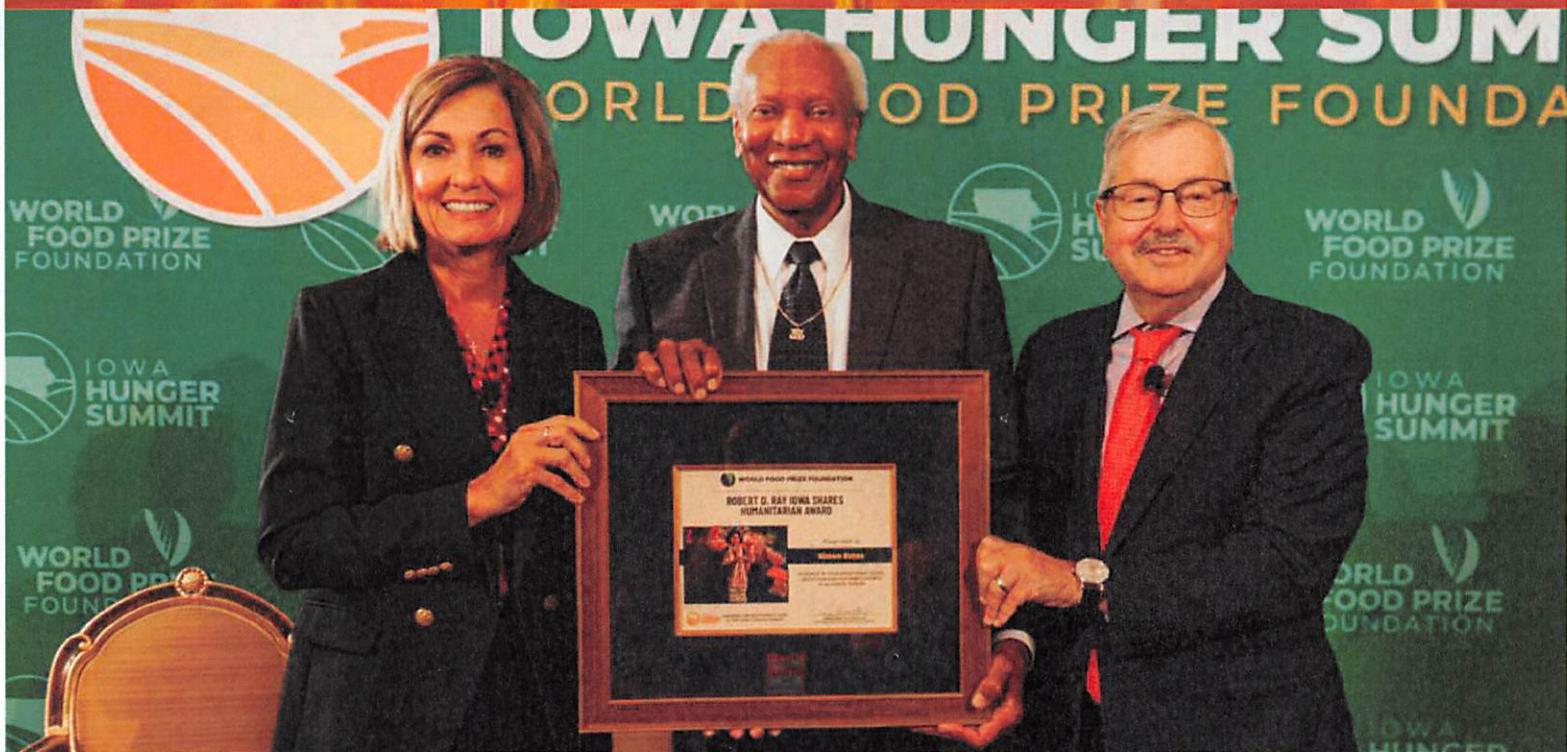
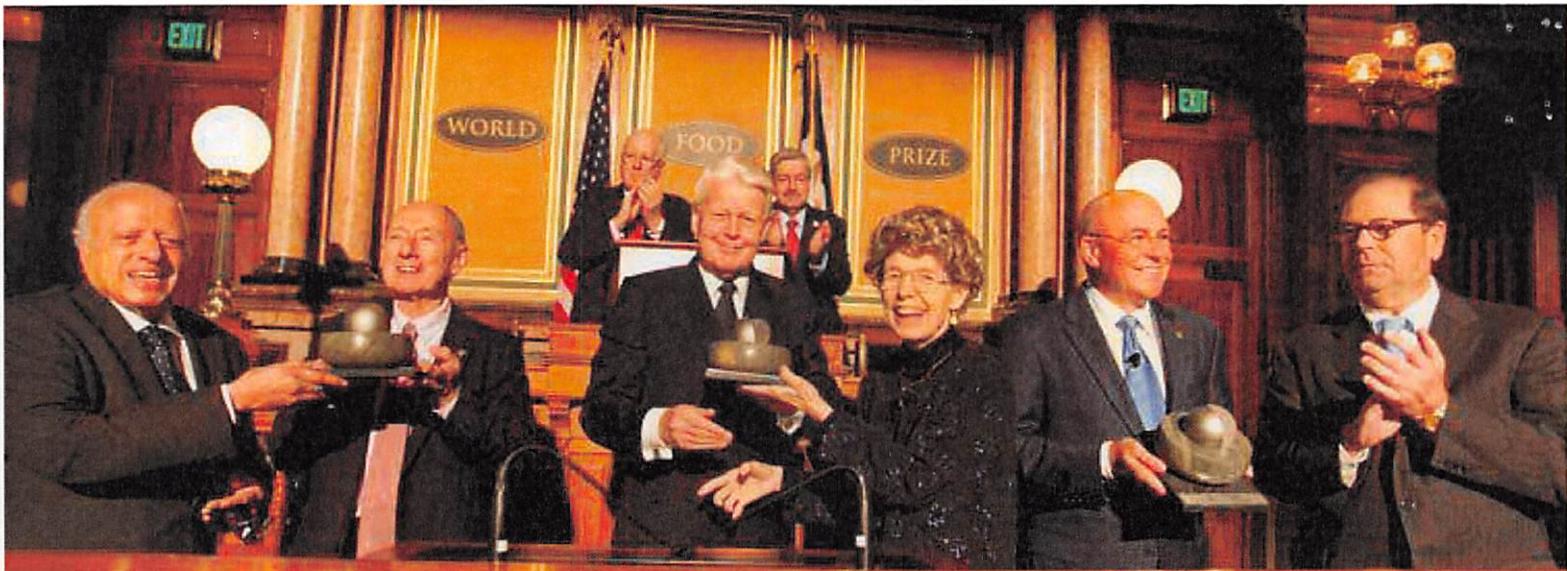


Continuing its role as a public museum, convocation center and educational facility, the Hall of Laureates has experienced increased interest from Des Moines and central Iowa business and civic organizations to hold private gatherings and tours. Included among these gatherings in 2024 were:

- **U.S. Global Leadership Coalition Lunch Roundtable**
- **Canada-U.S. Agriculture Partners Reception**
- **Iowa Department of Health and Human Services Conference**
- **Versova Management Group Reception**
- **Drake University Law Barrister's Ball**
- **Land Expo Reception**
- **Des Moines Refugee Support Gala**
- **F3: Future Farmers Forum**
- **Candlelight Concert Series**
- **JPMorgan Chase Client Luncheon**
- **I'll Make Me A World Annual Gala**
- **Bergman Academy Storytelling Event**
- **Iowa Family Leader Dinner**

The Hall of Laureates maintains its status as a LEED Platinum building, the highest possible rating by the U.S. Green Buildings Council for leadership in energy efficiency and environmental design. A difficult feat to accomplish in a century-old building, there are only a handful of 19th-century designed buildings in the country to achieve this LEED Platinum rating, while being on the National Register of Historic Places. No other building in Iowa has held both designations. Included among the building's energy efficiency features are 90 solar panels on the roof, 102 geothermal wells in the gardens, and an 8,000-gallon cistern under the east staircase.

The Janis and John Ruan III Garden at the Hall of Laureates remains a destination for visitors, providing a welcoming green oasis in the heart of downtown Des Moines, and a place of special recognition for both Dr. Borlaug and the Ruan family. The Foundation warmly invites visitors to enjoy the community garden, making it a preferred venue for memorable milestones—whether it's weddings, engagements, prom photos, senior portraits or homecoming gatherings.



RECOGNIZING GLOBAL HUNGER CHAMPIONS

UNVEILING THE 2024 WORLD FOOD PRIZE LAUREATES: LAUREATE ANNOUNCEMENT IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



Each spring, the Foundation announces the individual(s) who will receive the World Food Prize. In a momentous event held in the Benjamin Franklin Room at the U.S. Department of State on May 9, 2024, the Foundation announced the recipient of the prestigious World Food Prize, with Drs. Geoffrey Hawtin and Cary Fowler named as the 2024 World Food Prize Laureates. Hosted by the United States Department of State (USDOS), U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken presided over the event, continuing the decades-long partnership between the Foundation and USDOS.

Distinguished speakers graced the stage to reveal the Laureate, including Dr. Gebisa Ejeta, Chair of the Laureate Selection Committee, Professor and Executive Director of the Purdue University Center for Global Food Security; and Paul Schickler, Chair of the World Food Prize Foundation Board of Directors. Additionally, Mashal Husain gave welcoming remarks and Ambassador Terry Branstad announced the 2024 Laureates.

Drs. Hawtin and Fowler were recognized for their extraordinary leadership in preserving and protecting the world's heritage of crop biodiversity and mobilizing this critical resource to defend against threats to global food security.

Renowned figures in their field, over the last 50 years, their combined efforts as researchers, policy advisors, thought leaders and advocates have succeeded in engaging governments, scientists, farmers and civil society towards the conservation of over 6,000 species of crops and culturally important plants.

The announcement of Drs. Hawtin and Fowler as the 2024 Laureates captured international attention, was well-received in the global food security community and resonated in top-tier media outlets. This widespread recognition underscores the global importance of Drs. Hawtin and Fowler's work and the urgent need for collaborative solutions to address food security challenges on a broader scale.

The event concluded with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to fostering sustainable practices that will ensure food security for generations to come.

IOWA'S AGRICULTURAL OSCARS: LAUREATE AWARD CEREMONY



The Foundation is grateful for the privilege of holding the Laureate Award Ceremony in the magnificent Iowa State Capitol each year. This incomparable setting adds tremendous prestige to the event and conveys an impressive and unique perspective of Iowa through IowaPBS's broadcast and significant international press coverage. In 2000, Dr. Norman Borlaug stated that the World Food Prize award ceremony at the State Capitol "surpassed the ceremony" at which he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970.



With the presence of agricultural scientists and Laureates whose work has increased global food security, the Laureate Award Ceremony is known for gathering more life-saving achievements than at any other World Food Day event anywhere around the globe.

On October 31, the 2024 World Food Prize was awarded to its 54th and 55th Laureates, Drs. Geoffrey Hawtin and Cary Fowler during the annual ceremony in the House Chamber. Drs. Hawtin and Fowler were recognized for their groundbreaking contributions to preserving global crop diversity and ensuring future food security. Their collective efforts have safeguarded vital genetic resources and advanced global collaboration to protect agriculture's foundation.

Governor Kim Reynolds presided over the Laureate Award Ceremony and offered the Proclamation of the Laureates. She was joined by World Food Prize President Ambassador Terry Branstad and Chief Operating Officer Mashal Husain, who led the ceremony. The gathering welcomed more than 600 people in person, with an additional 1,100 watching via livestream.

Following the ceremony, guests enjoyed a reception in the Capitol Rotunda, offering an opportunity to celebrate the Laureates and their remarkable contributions to global food security.

NORMAN BORLAUG AWARD FOR FIELD RESEARCH AND APPLICATION



The 2024 Borlaug Field Award Recipient, Dr. Dennis Beesigamukama, is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe).

Each October, the Foundation presents the Dr. Norman E. Borlaug Award for Field Research and Application, Endowed by The Rockefeller Foundation – commonly known as the Borlaug Field Award. This award recognizes exceptional, science-based achievements in international agriculture and food production by an individual under the age of 40. Awardees emulate the same intellectual courage, stamina and determination in the struggle to eliminate global hunger and poverty that was demonstrated by Dr. Borlaug as a young scientist working in Mexico in the 1940s and '50s.

In 2011, then-president of The Rockefeller Foundation, Judith Rodin, announced The Rockefeller Foundation would commit \$1 million to endow this annual award in honor of Dr. Borlaug, whose early work in Mexico was, likewise, supported by the foundation.



The 2024 Borlaug Field Award Recipient, Dr. Dennis Beesigamukama, is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe). He was recognized for spearheading the development of novel, low-cost technologies for recycling organic waste into nutrient-rich, disease- and pest-resistant, insect-composted organic fertilizers within a fraction of the time it takes to produce other organic fertilizers, addressing agricultural soil degradation challenges for over 100,000 farmers in East Africa and beyond. Today, at least 10 percent of commercial organic fertilizers used in Kenya are derived from the technologies Dr. Beesigamukama developed, and farmers using these fertilizers have seen a 30 percent increase in crop yields and a 50 percent increase in income over conventional fertilizers.



With Borlaug-like tenacity, Dr. Beesigamukama pursues research and develops technologies from small insects that are having a big impact for farmers, climate and food security. The Borlaug Field Award Ceremony took place on October 30. Jeanie Borlaug, daughter of Dr. Borlaug, presented the award to Dr. Beesigamukama.

HONORING INNOVATION: TOP AGRI-FOOD PIONEERS LIST LAUNCH



TOP AGRI-FOOD PIONEERS



The World Food Prize Foundation envisioned and implemented the Top Agri-food Pioneers (TAP) List. The announcement was made in honor of the Foundation's 38th anniversary and recognized 38 exceptional innovators from around the globe who are driving transformative change in food systems. This initiative was meant to celebrate those global heroes who are working to ensure food security.

This year's TAP awardees hail from 20 countries on six continents, represent a range of ages and work in varied fields, from farming to animal and crop science, ag tech, nutrition, education and advocacy, among others. The individuals selected for the 2024 cohort form a growing network of trailblazers, aimed at fostering collaboration and facilitating co-learning across the global food system. Like DialogueNEXT, this initiative also served as a unique way to draw a new, first-time audience to Iowa during the 2024 Borlaug Dialogue, where many of them were featured and recognized.



"I am deeply humbled and honored to be named a Top Agri-food Pioneer by the World Food Prize Foundation, an organization whose commitment to global food security inspires us all."

- Han Chen, co-founder and CEO of ZeaKal

INNOVATE FOR IMPACT CHALLENGE



The Foundation launched the "Innovate for Impact Challenge" to bring together leading technology experts, entrepreneurs, startup founders and visionaries dedicated to driving innovation in agriculture and food systems.

By fostering collaboration and inspiring bold ideas, the initiative seeks to catalyze the next wave of technological breakthroughs that will advance food security. The Foundation invites forward-thinking innovators to contribute their expertise and vision, driving transformative solutions to shape a more food-secure future. The first Challenge will take place in 2025.

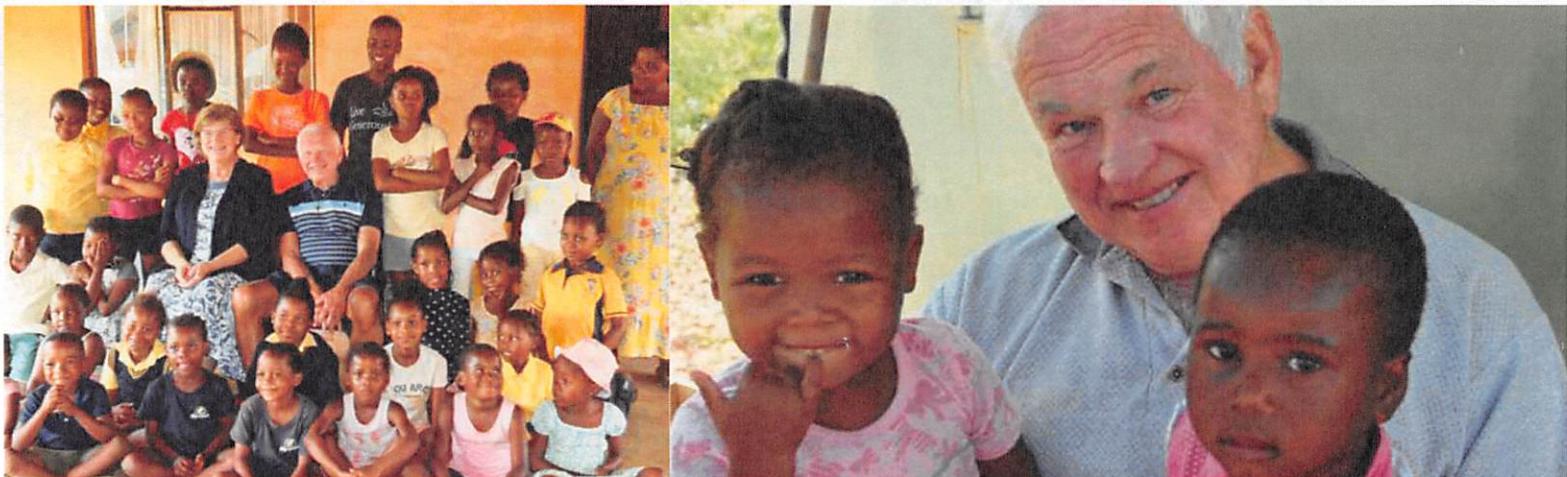
HONORING HUMANITY: ROBERT D. RAY IOWA SHARES HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The Robert D. Ray Iowa SHARES Humanitarian Award (Iowa Sends Help to Aid Refugees and End Starvation), established by the Foundation in 2013, commemorates the former Iowa Governor's leadership in addressing hunger and human suffering. This campaign provided crucial aid to Cambodian refugees, illustrating Governor Ray's compassionate efforts. Named after Governor Ray's 1979 Iowa SHARES campaign, the award acknowledges exceptional contributions by Iowans locally or internationally. Additionally, the award recognizes his pioneering role in offering refuge to ethnic Tai Dam and rescuing the Vietnamese "Boat People," establishing him as the first global leader to provide sanctuary to these refugees at sea.



The Iowa SHARES Award was presented to Dr. Jim Blessman by Governor Kim Reynolds, Ambassador Terry Branstad and Mashal Husain at the Iowa Hunger Summit.

In 2024, Dr. Jim Blessman was honored with the Iowa SHARES Award for his decades-long commitment to nourishing South Africa through his Iowa-based, non-profit organization Blessman International. Under his leadership, the organization has established 400 feeding stations and 11 feeding hubs, serving over four million meals each year through a network reaching more than 50,000 people in South Africa.



INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION AWARD



Honored for her unwavering commitment to shaping the next generation of leaders in agriculture and food security, Dr. Olga Bolden-Tiller, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Environment, and Nutrition Sciences at Tuskegee University, was presented with the Foundation's Inspiring the Next Generation Award.

Recognizing the transformative impact of education, the Foundation acknowledges the critical role educators play in uplifting future leaders. Dr. Bolden-Tiller embodies this dedication, having been instrumental in advancing agricultural education and youth empowerment, particularly through her work at Tuskegee University. Her efforts have significantly contributed to the World Food Prize Foundation's Youth Programs, reinforcing the vital link between education and global food security.





CONVENING CONVERSATIONS AND DRAWING THE WORLD'S EYES TO IOWA



HONORING A LEGACY OF INNOVATION AND EDUCATION: GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER DAY 2024

On February 1, 2024, the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates hosted George Washington Carver Day, a special event celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. George Washington Carver. The day featured guided tours, a children's story time, an Iowa artist presentation by Mary Kline-Misol and a one-man play performed by Paxton Williams, bringing to life Dr. Carver's extraordinary story and journey. The event drew local students who engaged in activities highlighting Dr. Carver's contributions to agriculture, sustainability and innovation.

A luncheon was also hosted, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Gebisa Ejeta, 2009 World Food Prize Laureate, offering his reflections on Dr. Carver's lasting impact. Governor Kim Reynolds delivered powerful remarks, further emphasizing the importance of honoring Dr. Carver's legacy on agriculture and global food security.



SHAPING THE FUTURE: THE VISION FOR DIALOGUENEXT

In alignment with the Foundation's mission to elevate innovations and inspire action to sustainably increase the quality, quantity and availability of food for all, the Foundation regularly convenes a diverse array of food systems stakeholders and thought leaders at state, national and global levels to deliberate on food and agricultural solutions, mobilize collaboration and recognize individuals who have advanced human development through food security.

DialogueNEXT was created in an effort to expand the Foundation's convening platform and bring these action-focused gatherings to diverse corners of the world, while tracing Dr. Borlaug's footsteps and revisiting landmarks preserving his legacy. Taking this journey, leaders draw inspiration from his experiences to navigate important issues of global consequence.

Through a series of worldwide events, DialogueNEXT seeks to spark meaningful DIALOGUE and chart actionable, critical NEXT steps in alleviating global hunger.



BUILDING BRIDGES, INSPIRING CHANGE: DIALOGUENEXT IN D.C.

The DialogueNEXT series launched on March 26, 2024, at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C., with an inspiring event themed **Seeds of Equity: Women Driving Growth and Innovation in Agriculture**. This inaugural gathering highlighted the pivotal role of women in global food security and featured a collaboration with Roots of Peace, founded by 2023 World Food Prize Laureate Heidi Kühn. Aligning with International Women’s History Month and honoring Dr. Borlaug’s birthday, the event also marked the 10th anniversary of his statue’s unveiling in the U.S. Capitol’s National Statuary Hall.

The event provided a platform for meaningful discussions and collaborations, focusing on women’s empowerment, equity in agriculture and the transformative role of women in fostering peace through innovation and technology. This national gathering exemplified the Foundation’s mission to convene diverse stakeholders and advance actionable solutions to alleviate global hunger.



ADVANCING COLLABORATION, DRIVING PROGRESS: DIALOGUENEXT IN MEXICO

The Foundation's DialogueNEXT series continued on July 10-11, 2024 at CIMMYT's global headquarters in Texcoco, Mexico. Held on World Population Day, the event addressed the pressing challenge of ensuring nutritious food security for a surging global population while conserving natural resources. Under the theme **Seeds of Strength: Nurturing Farmer Resilience**, the forum convened farmers, scientists, agribusiness leaders and policymakers from across the Americas and beyond.

The event paid tribute to Dr. Borlaug's groundbreaking contributions to agriculture during his tenure in Mexico, beginning in 1944 through The Rockefeller Foundation's wheat improvement program. His work at CIMMYT's preceding organization introduced disease-resistant, high-yield wheat varieties that transformed global food security. Eighty years later, DialogueNEXT reminded the global audience of his journey and impact in Mexico. The gathering fostered collaborative, action-oriented discussions to strengthen farmer resilience, improve livelihoods and develop sustainable solutions to feed the world's growing population.

Through the launch of DialogueNEXT and its dynamic programming in Washington, D.C., and Mexico, the Foundation expanded its reach to a broader national and international audience. This initiative not only enhanced our visibility in these influential arenas, but also inspired many first-time participants to join us in Iowa for our flagship event in October—the Borlaug Dialogue in Des Moines.



IOWA VOICES, SHARED SOLUTIONS: 18TH ANNUAL IOWA HUNGER SUMMIT



Under the direction of former Foundation President Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn, the Foundation created the Iowa Hunger Summit in 2006 with former governors Robert D. Ray, Terry E. Branstad and Tom Vilsack serving as honorary co-chairs. The first Summit took place in 2007 where they were joined by Iowa Governor Chet Culver in honoring Dr. Borlaug. Since then, the Iowa Hunger Summit has convened food security leaders in efforts to amplify multi-stakeholder collaboration, resource exchange and solutions for strengthening food systems and improving food and nutrition security.

The Iowa Hunger Summit gathered Iowa leaders and food security champions from organizations, government, schools and communities working to address hunger, nutrition, poverty and health. Numerous other participants attended virtually from every corner of the state.

For the second time, the Iowa Hunger Summit was held at the Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates, a most fitting setting that recognizes Iowa's humanitarian and agricultural heroes. Since its inception in 2007, the Iowa Hunger Summit has always been free for attendees and open to the public.

This powerful gathering featured compelling mainstage speakers, engaging deep-dive breakout sessions and numerous exhibitors, highlighting their state-wide hunger initiatives.

The 2024 Iowa Hunger Summit was the 18th annual event and focused on the following goals:

- **Share information about efforts to ensure adequate and nutritious food for all**
- **Encourage individuals and groups to continue and expand this work**
- **Increase awareness of hunger, poverty, disease, nutrition and related issues**
- **Highlight lessons learned that can be used to end hunger and greatly reduce diet-related disease**



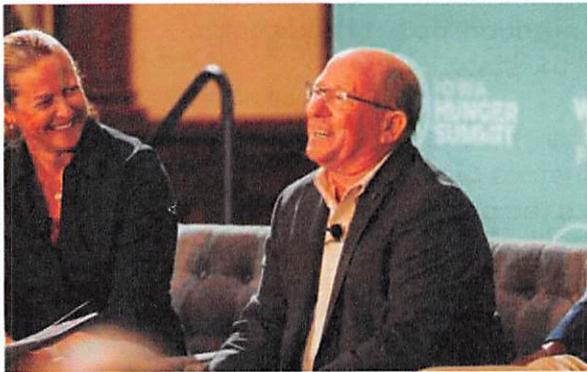
IOWA HUNGER SUMMIT

The theme of the Iowa Hunger Summit, **Seeds of Nourishment: Elevating Iowa's Food Systems**, drew attention to each sector impacting the food supply chain, uncovering both the challenges and innovative solutions for improving nutritious food security. Through interactive breakout sessions, panels and keynotes, the event elevated strategies for a more sustainable, hunger-free future and promoted networking among food security champions.



Felicia Smith-Nalls, board member of the Northeast Iowa Food Bank, kicked off the day with great enthusiasm by emphasizing the power of food to unite communities and foster connections.

A panel discussion explored the journey of food from the farm to local communities, with insights from Melissa O'Neil (CEO of Central Iowa Shelter and Services), Ray Gaesser (farmer and conservation advocate), Shaffer Ridgeway (farmer) and Aaron Thormodsen (hydroponic farmer).



The session highlighted how sustainable farming practices, from traditional crop-growing to innovative hydroponics, contribute to a more food-secure future. The panelists discussed the importance of collaboration between farmers, food banks and service organizations in ensuring that food reaches those who need it most.

A lively discussion followed on the challenges of food deserts in both rural and urban areas of Iowa. State Representatives Brian Lohse, Chad Ingels and Sami Scheetz, along with business owners Teresa Davis and Jared DeVries, highlighted the work being done to combat limited food access in underserved areas. The panelists explored legislative solutions, community partnerships and the role of local businesses in increasing access to fresh, affordable food.

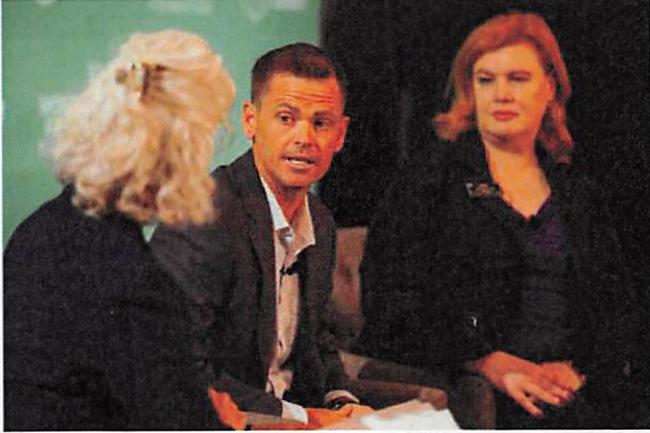


The next session, focused on ensuring that surplus food reaches those in need, featured Michelle Book (President/CEO of Food Bank of Iowa), Chris Purdue (Customer Business Manager at Hormel Foods) and Ivy Sprague (Director of Strategic Communications at Hy-Vee Inc.). They discussed the critical role of food distribution systems and corporate partnerships in reducing food waste and ensuring that excess food gets into the hands of those who need it most.



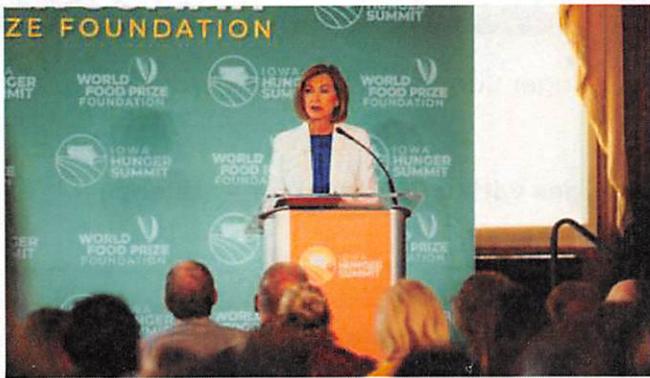
A special recorded announcement from Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig outlined Choose Iowa's new initiatives aimed at strengthening the state's food security programs and supporting Iowa's farmers. This announcement underscored the importance of state-level support in addressing hunger and fostering collaboration across sectors.

IOWA HUNGER SUMMIT



In collaboration with the Iowa Department of Land and Agriculture Stewardship, the Summit featured an engaging discussion regarding the Choose Iowa program, which promotes partnerships between farmers, food banks and consumers to support local agriculture.

Panelists, including Grant Menke (Deputy Secretary of Agriculture), Bob Howard (Marketing Director at Country View Dairy), Michelle Kenyon (Executive Director of Field to Family) and Jacob Wanderscheid (Executive Director of Food Bank of Siouxland), discussed how this initiative helps local farmers connect with food banks, ensuring that fresh, locally grown food reaches communities in need.



Governor Kim Reynolds delivered remarks on the state of food security in Iowa and presented the 2024 Iowa SHARES Award to Dr. Jim Blessman, recognizing his outstanding contributions to community service and hunger relief efforts. The award was a testament to the impact of individuals and organizations dedicated to addressing food insecurity. Dr. Jim Blessman presented a heartwarming acceptance speech during lunch.

The Iowa Hunger Summit underscored the power of collaboration across sectors—government, agriculture, business and community organizations—in creating a more food-secure future for Iowa. The discussions emphasized the need for continued innovation and partnership to address the challenges of food insecurity and build stronger, more sustainable communities statewide.



IOWA HUNGER SUMMIT



For deeper dives into unique initiatives across the state, the Iowa Hunger Summit Breakout Sessions included:

Beyond Empty Plates: Navigating and Resolving Hunger Challenges with a Roadmap for Resilience | Feed Iowa First and Sustainable Iowa Land Trust

Setting the Table for All Iowans: Our Health, Our Future | Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Iowa Department of Health and Human Services and Iowa Food System Coalition

Innovative Ways to Fight Rural Hunger | Hawkeye Area Community Action Program Food Reservoir, Food Bank of Iowa, Northeast Iowa Food Bank and River Bend Food Bank

Aging in Iowa: Innovations and Opportunities | Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, Community Nutrition for WesleyLife and Heritage Area Agency on Aging

Food Systems Advocacy - Creating Change through Citizen and Farmer Voices | Johnson County, Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry Network, Iowa Hunger Coalition, IFSC Local Food Policy Network Priority Team and Iowa Farmers Union

Central Iowa Food Insecurity Plan | United Way of Central Iowa, Urbandale Food Pantry and United Way OpportUNITY Food Insecurity Work Group

Exhibitors

Complimenting the event, the Foundation provided organizations with productive networking space and the opportunity to showcase their work at exhibit booths. Participating organizations included:

- Aetna Medicare Solutions
- Choose Iowa, IDALS
- Early Morning Harvest and That Iowa Girl
- Iowa Farmers Union
- Iowa Food Bank Association
- Iowa Food Systems Coalition
- Iowa Gleaning Network
- Iowa Hunger Coalition
- LSI Global Greens
- Norman Borlaug Heritage Foundation
- Nutrition and Aging Resource Center
- Outreach Program
- Wesleylife Meals on Wheels

NORMAN E. BORLAUG INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE



Gatherings were held at the Iowa Events Center, Hilton and Marriott Hotels in downtown Des Moines, generating revenue for Iowa-based venues and vendors. The well-coordinated programming drew praise from the global participants, reflecting on the state's capacity to host world-class events.

The 2024 World Food Prize Week of Events broke records, welcoming over 1,500 participants from over 500 organizations and nearly 70 countries, making it the largest gathering in the event's history. This impressive turnout brought agricultural scientists, scholars and agribusiness leaders to Iowa, generating significant economic exposure and reinforcing the state's role as a global hub for food and agriculture.

The week celebrated 2024 World Food Prize Laureates Drs. Geoffrey Hawtin and Cary Fowler and featured key events like the Borlaug Dialogue, Laureate Lecture Series, Global Youth Institute and Laureate Award Ceremony, along with a first-time visit to Dr. Borlaug's boyhood farm.



NORMAN E. BORLAUG INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE



The Borlaug Dialogue, held under the theme ***Seeds of Opportunity: Bridging Generations and Cultivating Diplomacy***, solidified its reputation as a leading global food security conference. With 32 mainstage sessions, nine breakout discussions, 30 side events and keynote speeches from African Presidents, global ministers and industry leaders, the event highlighted Iowa as a center for global collaboration and innovation. Increased participation from the Global South, including African nations, added diversity to the dialogue while underscoring Iowa's growing global influence.

Attendees included leaders from NGOs, businesses, governments, academia and civic organizations, all dedicated to advancing Dr. Borlaug's legacy. The event's record-setting attendance and global reach reaffirmed Iowa's role as a vital meeting place for addressing the future of agriculture and food security. All sessions were fully available to virtual attendees and more than 1,500 in-person registrants.

BORLAUG DIALOGUE BY THE NUMBERS

67

COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED



1,500

SCIENTISTS, FARMERS, AGRIBUSINESS
LEADERS, FELLOWS & STUDENTS



500

ORGANIZATIONS

32 MAIN STAGE SESSIONS
30 SIDE EVENTS
9 BREAKOUT SESSIONS



NORMAN E. BORLAUG INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE



GLOBAL LEADERS WHO SPOKE OR ATTENDED THE BORLAUG DIALOGUE:

H.E. JULIUS MAADA BIO
President, Republic of Sierra Leone

H.E. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN
President, United Republic of Tanzania

AMB. HANÈNE TAJOURI BESSASSI
Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to the United States of America

AMB. HAGIA ALIMAH MAHAMA
Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana to the United States of America

AMB. CISSÉ MINT CHEIKH OULD BOIDE
Ambassador of Mauritania to the United States of America

AMB. ELSIE SIA KANZA
Ambassador of the Republic of Tanzania to United States of America



NORMAN E. BORLAUG INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

GLOBAL LEADERS WHO SPOKE OR ATTENDED THE BORLAUG DIALOGUE:

**H.E. AMBASSADOR SIDIQUE
ABOU-BAKARR WAI**
Ambassador of the Republic of Sierra Leone to
United States of America

HON. SHAMATA SHAAME KHAMIS
Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources
and Livestock, Zanzibar

HON. REUBEN MTOLO PHIRI
Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Zambia

HON. LAURA SUAZO
Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock, Republic of
Honduras

HON. HUSSEIN BASHE
Minister of Agriculture, United Republic of Tanzania

HON. HENRY MUSA KPAKA
Minister of Agriculture and Food Security,
Republic of Sierra Leone

SPEAKERS FROM U.S. GOVERNMENT:

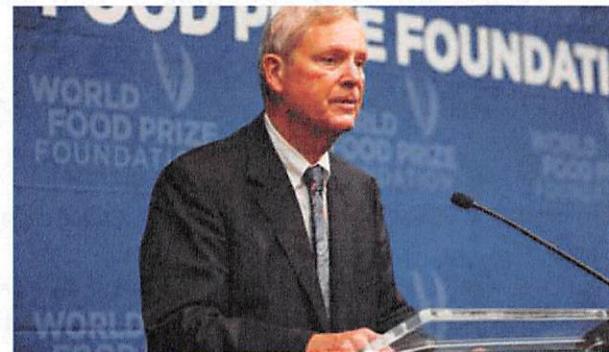
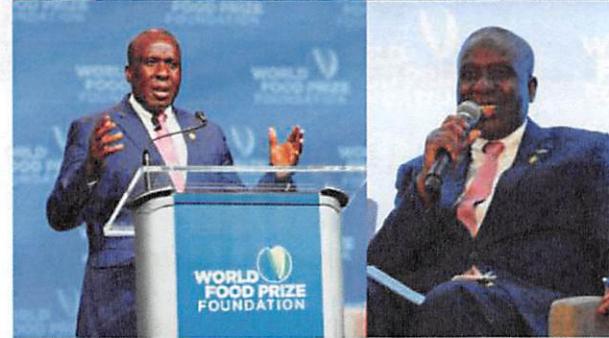
HON. TOM VILSACK
Secretary of Agriculture of the U.S. Department
of Agriculture (USDA)

HON. ISOBEL COLEMAN
Deputy Administrator, United States Agency for
International Development (USAID)

DINA ESPOSITO
Assistant to the Administrator for the Bureau for
Resilience, Environment and Food Security, United
States Agency for International Development (USAID)

CARY FOWLER
Special Envoy for Global Food Security, United States
Department of State

MANJIT MISRA
Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture
(NIFA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)



NORMAN E. BORLAUG INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

ADDITIONAL HIGH-LEVEL EXPERTS PRESENTED ON THE MAIN STAGE:

AMB. ANDREW YOUNG

Chairman, Andrew J. Young Foundation

AMB. ERTHARIN COUSIN

Former United States Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture

HON. AGNES KALIBATA

President, AGRA

HON. AKINWUMI ADESINA

2017 World Food Prize Laureate and President, African Development Bank Group

HON. GÉRARDINE MUKESHIMANA

Vice-President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

AJAY BANGA

President, World Bank Group

HON. QU DONGYU

Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

LINDIWE SIBANDA

Chairperson, CGIAR System Board

APPOLINAIRE DJIKENG

2024 Top Agri-food Pioneer and Director General, International Livestock Research Institute, ILRI

BRAM GOVAERTS

2014 Borlaug Field Award Recipient and Director General, CIMMYT

LAWRENCE HADDAD

2018 World Food Prize Laureate and Executive Director, The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEE

Olympic Legend and Philanthropist, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Jackie Joyner-Kersee Foundation

MANUEL OTERO

Director General, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

STEFAN SCHMITZ

Executive Director, Global Crop Diversity Trust

WENDY WINTERSTEEN

Member, World Food Prize Foundation Council of Advisors and President, Iowa State University



NORMAN E. BORLAUG INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

AN ARRAY OF CEOS AND LEADERS FROM THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES PRESENTED:

JULIE BORLAUG

Member, World Food Prize Foundation Council of Advisors and President, Borlaug Consulting

TIM BUCHER

2024 Top Agri-food Pioneer and Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, Agtonomy

HAN CHEN

2024 Top Agri-food Pioneer and Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, ZeaKal

INGRID FUNG

Vice President, Enterprise Ops and Strategy, GreenLight Biosciences

VIOLET GRGICH

President, Grgich Hills Estate Winery

ALEJANDRO JARAMILLO TRUIJILLO

Chief Executive Officer, Grupo Bios Animal Nutrition

BEN MCLEAN

Chief Executive Officer, Ruan Transportation Management Systems



ERIC MITCHELL

President, Alliance to End Hunger

JIM SCHWEIGERT

President, Gro Alliance, LLC

JEHIEL OLIVER

2024 Top Agri-food Pioneer and Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Hello Tractor, Inc.

JIM SNEE

Board Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Hormel Foods

SURITA SANDOSHAM

President and Chief Executive Officer, Heifer International

JASON WARGENT

2024 Top Agri-food Pioneer and Founder and Chief Science Officer, BioLumic



NORMAN E. BORLAUG INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

ALUMNI OF THE FOUNDATION'S YOUTH PROGRAMS SPOKE ON THE MAINSTAGE:

ALYSSA BROWN

Program Manager, World Food Prize Foundation

CALLA DOH

Student, Rice University

LAZARUS LYNCH

Chef, Psychotherapist, Social Worker and Author

ADDIE THOMPSON

Assistant Professor, Michigan State University



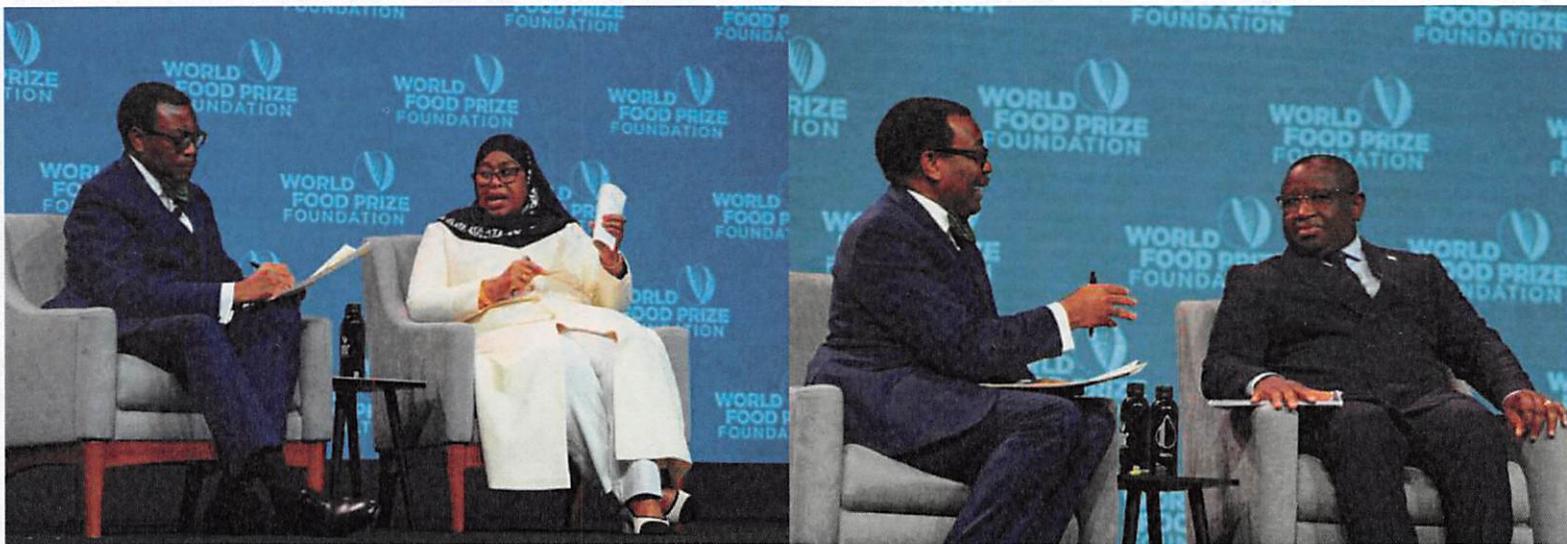
BORLAUG DIALOGUE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE AND GLOBAL LEADERS DISCUSSED BOLD MEASURES TO FEED AFRICA

The Africa Agriculture Dialogue is an annual gathering at the Borlaug Dialogue which addresses key milestones and developments in agriculture across the continent. The series of panels and keynotes, which are interwoven in the Dialogue's agenda across the three days, serves as a unique rallying platform for all stakeholders to evaluate existing strategies, identify constraints and commit to necessary action for shared and inclusive prosperity.

The objectives of the 2024 Africa Agriculture Dialogue included:

- Briefly recapping the outcomes of the Africa Agriculture Dialogue 2023, including updates on commitments by partners
- Catalyzing action toward five thematic areas in agriculture and food
- Accelerating the flow of capital to fuel agricultural growth
- Nourishing the continent with safe, healthy and affordable food
- Building resilience to all forms of shocks and stresses impacting productivity
- Spurring trade and investments across the continent and with the rest of the world
- Elevating the focus on Africa to curate and anchor African agriculture and food transformation processes and investments at the Borlaug Dialogue



To explore how Africa can accelerate its progress toward food security and agricultural transformation, the Foundation welcomed H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, and H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, for individual keynotes and a fireside discussion, each moderated by Akinwumi A. Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group.

To set the stage for the presidential sessions, Dr. Victor Oladokun facilitated a conversation with high-level leaders from the U.S. government, academia and industry. These sessions discussed the audacious innovations and strategies in agriculture, highlighting solutions necessary to achieve food self-sufficiency, improve livelihoods and reduce poverty across the continent.

The African Agriculture Dialogue included a side event hosted by the African Development Bank Group. Presidents, governors, ministers and industry leaders participated in the three-panel event focused on scaling technology adoption through compacts, advancements in special agro-industrial processing zones and unlocking capital at scale for agribusiness.

BORLAUG DIALOGUE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Youth in Action

Revitalizing Dr. Borlaug's unwavering passion for inspiring the next generation, the main stage featured alumni of the World Food Prize Foundation's Global Youth Institute. The keynotes, delivered by Lazarus Lynch, Addie Thompson and Calla Doh were inspiring and impactful, underscoring the transformative power of the Foundation's Global Youth Institute.

Each of these alumni shared personal stories of how the Global Youth Institute provided them with unique opportunities to engage with global food security issues and pursue careers focused on alleviating hunger.



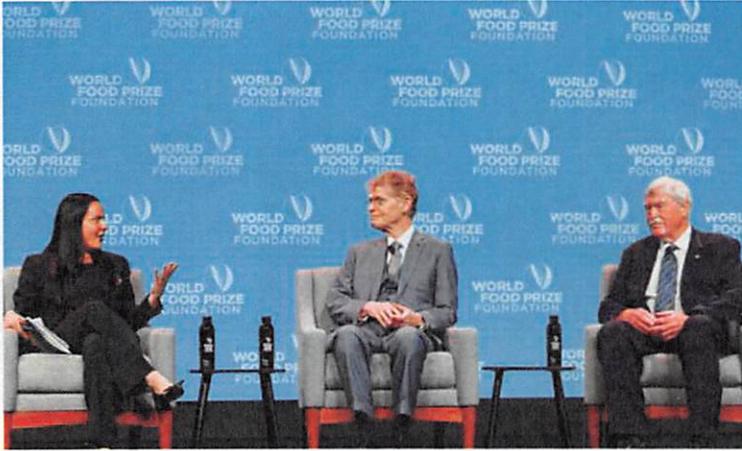
Farmer Focus

The participation of farmers like Stella Thomas, Judith de Vor and Shuichi Tokumoto was crucial in highlighting the real-world challenges and innovative solutions that shape global agriculture. As members of the Global Farmer Network, their voices brought critical perspectives on the importance of sustainable farming practices, climate resilience and food security.

Their firsthand experiences demonstrated how local agricultural decisions can have a global impact, fostering deeper conversations about policy and technology in farming. By sharing their stories, these farmers emphasized the need for farmers to be central in the global discussions about food systems, innovation and sustainability.

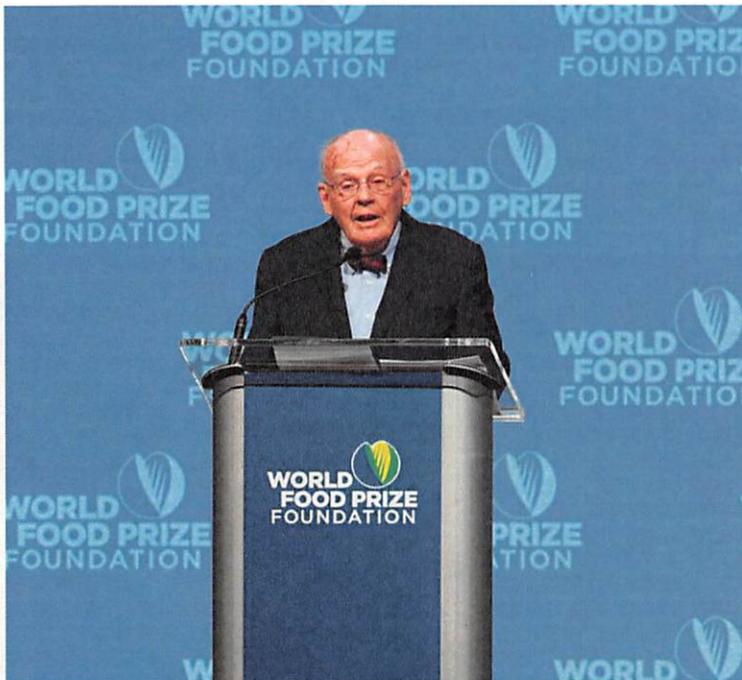
Notably, Shuichi Tokumoto was honored with the 2024 Kleckner Award for his advocacy for agriculture through music. During the Laureate Award Ceremony, he delivered an inspiring performance of a song about the challenges and rewards of being a farmer, further illustrating the vital role farmers play in feeding the world.

BORLAUG DIALOGUE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Laureate Inspiration

The second day of the Borlaug Dialogue began with a compelling conversation featuring the 2024 World Food Prize Laureates, Drs. Geoffrey Hawtin and Cary Fowler. Guided by the insightful moderation of international journalist Daphne Ewing-Chow, the discussion delved into the critical role of biodiversity in nourishing a growing global population. Their dialogue highlighted the urgent need to preserve and harness the planet's rich genetic diversity to ensure a resilient and sustainable food future for all.



John Ruan III Keynote Address

The John Ruan III Keynote Address, established in 2023, stands as a powerful tribute to John Ruan III, a visionary leader whose contributions played a pivotal role in elevating the World Food Prize Foundation. Conveying the enduring legacy of the Ruan family, this keynote celebrates their commitment to global food security.

Presented by respected journalist, attorney and businessman, Michael Gartner, the 2024 address paid a heartfelt tribute to the Ruan legacy. Mr. Gartner's reflective and inspiring message emphasized the continued importance of leadership, perseverance, and the pursuit of transformative solutions in addressing global hunger. His address served as a reminder of the Ruan family's enduring impact and the critical work that lies ahead in ensuring a more food-secure future for generations to come.



Global Ambassadors and Ministers on Stage

Ambassadors and ministers took the stage to explore the role of diplomacy in addressing the critical global challenge of food security. Leaders from Honduras, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and the United States shared their experiences and insights on how nations can collaborate to strengthen food systems, mitigate the impacts of climate change and ensure equitable access to food for all.

Through fostering partnerships and diplomatic efforts, these leaders highlighted the importance of unified global strategies to build resilience in agriculture and safeguard food security in an increasingly uncertain world.

BORLAUG DIALOGUE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Soy Industry Global Influence

The panel on generational farming explored how knowledge transfer across generations and industries fosters sustainability and innovation in agriculture. Prof. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda emphasized the importance of connecting farmers to global research and policy, while Tim Bardole highlighted U.S. Soy's role in bridging local expertise with international markets.

Alejandro Jaramillo Trujillo shared insights on advancing animal nutrition to enhance food security, and farmer Sejiro Michael Oke-Tojinu showcased adaptive aquaculture practices to address environmental challenges. The panelists demonstrated how sharing expertise strengthens both farming operations and communities, underlining the vital role of collaboration in ensuring agriculture's future prosperity.



Culinary Conversations: Serving Solutions for a More Sustainable World

The 2024 Borlaug Dialogue debuted an exciting new initiative in partnership with Des Moines Area Community College: a live chef demonstration showcasing the intersection of culinary creativity and sustainable solutions. Moderated by TV celebrity and author Lazarus Lynch, this dynamic session featured fellow TV celebrity and culinary innovator Eitan Bernath alongside acclaimed chef and author Sanaa Abourezk.

As the chefs prepared dishes inspired by their diverse culinary cultures, Lazarus led a thought-provoking discussion exploring their inspirations, the role of chefs in addressing food security and how traditional techniques can be harmonized with modern sustainable practices. The chefs shared actionable insights, from sourcing sustainable ingredients to reducing food waste, illustrating the culinary world's potential to lead impactful change.



Adding an interactive component, four Global Youth Institute students—Alexander Hutchinson, Kyndall Jiles, Karan Khanolkar and Sarah Lewis—joined the chefs onstage to sample the dishes, further connecting this engaging session to the future of food security.

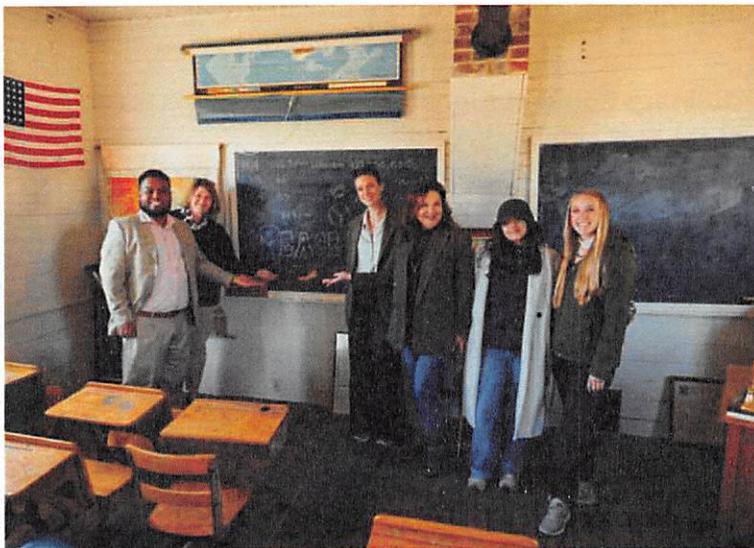
PLANTING SEEDS OF INSPIRATION: A JOURNEY TO BORLAUG'S ROOTS

For the first time, as part of the World Food Prize Week of Events, the Foundation took guests on a day trip to the Borlaug Farm in Cresco, Iowa. This special addition provided a unique opportunity to connect with the heritage of Dr. Borlaug, the "Father of the Green Revolution," by visiting the place where his passion for science, farming and humanity first took root.

Nestled in Iowa's rolling countryside, the historic farm served as a tangible reminder of how the agricultural traditions of this state helped shape a legacy that continues to feed millions worldwide.

Joining us on this journey were high school students from Honduras and Mexico, participants in the Global Youth Institute, who brought a vibrant international perspective to the experience. For some, this was their first trip to the United States, making the farm visit even more significant.

Walking the same fields that shaped Dr. Borlaug's early years, the tour group connected deeply with Iowa's rich agricultural heritage and gained a greater appreciation for the universal challenges and opportunities in global food security. The visit underscored an inspiring truth: it doesn't matter where you come from—even an Iowa farm boy from a small rural town can change the world and leave an enduring legacy.



LAUREATE LECTURE SERIES



The Laureate Lecture Series brings global speakers and attendees of the Borlaug Dialogue to communities across Iowa, building public awareness on issues related to agriculture, food and nutrition.

Since the series' inception in 2002, the Foundation has partnered with 41 Iowa colleges, universities, high schools, middle schools, businesses and civic organizations to host over 250 formal lectures and presentations by our esteemed World Food Prize Laureates, Borlaug Field Award Recipients and other international experts attending our annual World Food Prize Week of Events. Many of these lectures are open and free of charge to the public.

The cornerstone of this program is the prestigious Iowa State University (ISU) Norman Borlaug Lecture in Ames. Established in 2001, this premier event has become a highlight for ISU students and faculty. The Borlaug Lecture was given by the 2024 World Food Prize Laureates, Drs. Geoffrey Hawtin and Cary Fowler, and was titled "So Our Children Can Eat: Conserving and Protecting Crop Biodiversity." Iowa State University President Dr. Wendy Wintersteen hosted the event in the Memorial Union, which drew a large audience. The recording was also made available to view on the ISU Lectures website.

In addition to the Borlaug Lecture at Iowa State, 11 other in-person lectures took place in October 2024, at the following institutions:

- **ISU Global Resource Systems Program in Ames**
- **Central College in Pella**
- **Grand View University in Des Moines**
- **Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids**
- **Simpson College in Indianola**
- **William Penn University in Oskaloosa**
- **Drake University in Des Moines**
- **The Harkin Institute in Des Moines co-hosted by the Iowa Environmental Council**
- **Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo**
- **Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny**
- **The University of Minnesota in St. Paul**

Additionally, in February 2024, 2009 Laureate Gebisa Ejeta gave presentations at Simpson College and the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates for their celebrations of George Washington Carver Day in Iowa. The Foundation is pleased to make accessible these global hunger fighters to our fellow Iowans.



**INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION
OF GLOBAL LEADERS**

In 2024, the Foundation celebrated 30 years of investing in, educating and mobilizing a global youth community shaping sustainable food systems through highly innovative and impactful education programs.

The Foundation Youth Programs aim to educate and inspire the next generation of scientific and humanitarian leaders, reflecting the shared vision of Dr. Borlaug and John Ruan, Sr. When they created the Global Youth Institute in 1994, their goal was to empower young people to address global food security challenges through innovative solutions and leadership. Dr. Borlaug and Mr. Ruan's vision continues to guide the Foundation Youth Programs today.

In the beginning, the Global Youth Institute engaged 14 high school students from Iowa. Now in its 30th year, this event has become a cornerstone of the Foundation's educational outreach. Today, the Youth Programs have engaged nearly 90,000 students from around the world, offering impactful hands-on opportunities that enrich emerging leaders with the skills and knowledge needed to confront global challenges in hunger and agriculture.

Through a pipeline of transformational experiences, these educational programs honor the vision of their founders by cultivating young talent to meet the urgent needs of food insecurity and agriculture across the globe. Through these programs, young people develop:

- **An understanding of global food security**
- **Personal and professional growth**
- **An introduction to available educational and career pathways**
- **A strong voice and a seat at the table**
- **A unique skillset with experience in researching, writing, presenting and networking**



In 2024, the Foundation launched an alumni survey, collecting data from 30 years of Borlaug Scholars. The resulting impact report showcases how our educational experiences have empowered youth to tackle global food security challenges.

Alumni consistently describe the Foundation's Youth Programs as transformative, fostering global citizenship and a deeper understanding of agriculture and food security.

95%

agreed or strongly agreed that as a result of participating in the Foundation's Youth Programs, they gained a better understanding of global issues related to food security.

92%

agreed or strongly agreed that as a result of participating in the Foundation's Youth Programs, they learned how to think critically about issues related to global food security.

85%

of those who participated in programs beyond the Youth Institute level earned a degree related to global challenges.

82%

agreed that the Foundation's Youth Programs impacted their educational pathway.

79%

agreed that they learned about new career paths by participating in the Foundation's Youth Programs.

33%

of alumni reported working in agriculture.

32%

of alumni reported working in STEM.

32.5%

of Borlaug Scholars in the United States graduated college with a degree in STEM and/or agriculture fields (nationally, 18.2% graduate college with a degree in STEM and/or agriculture fields).

Iowa youth have benefited significantly from the Foundation's Youth Programs. Thousands of Iowa youth have attended a Youth Institute over the last 30 years and hundreds of those students continued in the Foundation's leadership development pipeline by participating in an internship or fellowship. The Foundation's Youth Programs are an important investment in Iowa's future workforce, advancing STEM education and innovation, youth empowerment, entrepreneurship and economic development statewide.

YOUTH INSTITUTES



The Foundation Youth Institutes engaged nearly 1,900 high school students this year in 20 states and 8 countries to explore issues related to agriculture, global hunger and STEM. Through this programming, high school students develop research, writing, problem solving and public speaking skills. The Youth Institutes are free and accessible to all students and educators.

To participate, students research and write a paper on a critical global challenge. Topics range from plant breeding, animal and human health, conflict, education, human rights, infrastructure, food waste and water scarcity. Students design their own original solutions, present their ideas to industry experts and take part in immersive, hands-on experiences. Youth Institutes provide an opportunity for students to explore potential academic and career opportunities focused on STEM, agriculture and global development fields. Through these programs, students are empowered to tackle challenges in their own communities and follow varied career, leadership and volunteer pathways related to agriculture and food security issues.

Youth Institutes are hosted in partnership with public and land-grant universities as well as private and community colleges, that bring together industry and applied research, teaching and technology focused on the needs and opportunities of tomorrow.

This year, the Foundation proudly launched three new Youth Institutes: the Colorado Grow Youth Institute as well as the Kenya and Uganda Youth Institutes, marking the first-ever Youth Institutes established on the African continent. For many participants in the Kenya and Uganda Youth Institutes, this was their first experience conducting research, providing a transformative chance to deepen their understanding of agriculture, food security and sustainability.

IOWA YOUTH INSTITUTE



The Iowa Youth Institute was created in 2011 as a dynamic public-private partnership to innovate and advance food security and agricultural development, STEM education and youth development, workforce training and economic growth in Iowa. Each year, Iowa high school students explore the most critical challenges facing food, agriculture, nutrition, health, energy and the economy through the Iowa Youth Institute, hosted in partnership with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University (ISU).

With nearly two-thirds of Iowa's public high schools having participated in these educational and leadership development programs, the Iowa Youth Institute is a model for increasing interest in STEM and agricultural careers among Iowa high school students. Since 2012, Iowa educators have engaged over 17,000 high school students across the state in researching critical issues in food security and development using the Foundation's Global Challenge curriculum. Thousands of motivated young leaders have gone on to participate in the Iowa Youth Institute at ISU.

This year, the Iowa Youth Institute was held at ISU's Memorial Union on April 29, 2024. Nearly 300 students and 100 educators from high schools across Iowa participated. ISU and the Foundation collaborated on educational activities and students presented their research to Iowa agriculture leaders and ISU faculty. These experts asked questions and provided feedback on the students' research and recommendations. Students were also directly connected with ISU faculty to learn about potential academic and career paths focused on agriculture, food security and STEM.

Featured speakers included:

- **Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds**
- **Iowa Farm Bureau Service Director Marty Schwager**
- **World Food Prize Foundation President Ambassador Terry Branstad**
- **Iowa State University Associate Dean Carmen Bain**
- **World Food Prize Foundation Board Chair Paul Schickler**

All Iowa students who participate in the Iowa Youth Institute can earn a \$1,000 scholarship to attend the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at ISU, and can receive up to \$12,000 in scholarships to ISU if they advance to the Global Youth Institute and are selected for a Borlaug-Ruan International Internship. To date, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at ISU has distributed over \$600,000 in scholarships to Iowa students for their involvement in the Iowa Youth Institute and the Foundation's Youth Programs.

GLOBAL YOUTH INSTITUTE



The Global Youth Institute is a week-long academic conference, focused on equipping young leaders with skills and knowledge related to agriculture, STEM and global food security issues. This event coincides with the Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue in Des Moines every October. Student delegates are selected through a competitive process based on their research papers and participation in one of the Foundation Youth Institutes.

Created by Dr. Borlaug and John Ruan, Sr. in 1994, the Global Youth Institute is designed to challenge and inspire the most promising young leaders to address critical challenges related to agriculture and global food security. Dr. Borlaug often stated, "I am certain that these students will become tomorrow's agricultural, scientific and humanitarian leaders in the fight to end hunger."

To date, nearly 4,000 students and over 1,000 teachers from 45 U.S. states and territories and 50 countries have participated in the Global Youth Institute. Of those, over 1,600 are Iowa students.

This year, 170 exceptional students from 8 countries, supported by over 85 educators, were selected from Youth Institutes to participate in the Global Youth Institute, and a significant number of them were from Iowa. The Global Youth Institute paralleled the content of the Borlaug Dialogue. Industry and government leaders joined to share their agriculture and food security expertise with the students, including:

- **United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack**
- **2024 World Food Prize Laureate and Special Envoy for Global Food Security with the U.S. Department of State Dr. Cary Fowler**
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Alexis Taylor**
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture's Chief of Staff of the National Institute for Food and Agriculture Dr. Michelle Samuel-Foo**
- **U.S. Department of State Acting Assistant Secretary Amy Holman**
- **President of the African Development Bank and 2017 World Food Prize Laureate Akinwumi Adesina**
- **Senior Vice President at AgriSompo Mondale Smith**
- **Director of Research and Development at Kemin Rebecca Lucas**
- **Former NASA astronaut Clayton Anderson**
- **President of Chevron Renewable Energy Group Stacey Orlandi**
- **Senior Research Scientist and Entomologist at the CSIR – Savanna Agricultural Research Institute Dr. Jerry Asalma Nboyine**
- **Farmer and Chairman of the Japan Biotech Crop Network Shuichi Tokumoto**

GLOBAL YOUTH INSTITUTE

As part of the conference, students had the unique opportunity to present their research to over 80 international experts in food security and agriculture. Their work spanned:



MORE THAN 20

CRITICAL TOPICS ACROSS

78 COUNTRIES

ADDRESSING ISSUES SUCH AS
MALNUTRITION, FOOD SECURITY, CONFLICT
AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE.

Additionally, students participated in a Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event, contributing to the preparation of 20,700 meals consisting of rice, soy and dehydrated vegetables for communities facing food insecurity worldwide. To deepen their understanding of food security and agricultural challenges, students engaged in immersive experiences with Iowa's leading agriculture and food security organizations, including:

- **Corteva Agriscience, Johnston**
- **Chevron Renewable Energy Group, Newton**
- **Des Moines Botanical Gardens, Des Moines**
- **DMARC Food Bank, Des Moines**
- **Kemin Industries, Des Moines**
- **Lutheran Services in Iowa, West Des Moines**
- **Wesley Life Hydroponic Farm, Des Moines**

These hands-on experiences provided students with invaluable insights into real-world solutions, helping them become future leaders in the global fight against hunger.

This year, for the first time, as the culminating experience of the Global Youth Institute, 10 students received a monetary award in recognition of their Global Challenge research paper and roundtable presentation. The top two students received \$1,000, the next three received \$500 and five received \$250. Three of the award recipients were from Iowa: Isabell Olsasky of Milo, Hadley Harvey of Des Moines and Nirmal Melam of West Des Moines.



BORLAUG-RUAN INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP



THE BORLAUG-RUAN INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP

provides high school and college students an all-expense-paid, hands-on professional experience working alongside world-renowned scientists and policymakers at leading research and development organizations. Borlaug-Ruan Interns explore their professional interests and contribute to solving agricultural, nutritional, health, economic and environmental issues around the world.

Since 1998, the Foundation has placed 431 students, including 231 from Iowa, in internships at 34 of the top agricultural research and development organizations in 23 countries, providing transformative learning experiences aimed at addressing critical food security challenges.

In 2024, the Foundation selected 14 young leaders to travel to 10 international organizations in 6 countries.

Iowa student intern Olivia Marti, a senior at Waukon High School in Waukon, Iowa, was placed at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center in Texcoco, Mexico. Olivia shared:



Prior to my internship, I had no idea how impactful it would be in my life. During my internship, I was able to gain experience in laboratory practices that helped me get a job at the Iowa State University Seed Science Center as a freshman. I had expected this internship to give me some insight on whether seed science was actually a career I wanted to pursue, and it did. Where it went above and beyond were the experiences I gained and the opportunity to develop my Spanish speaking abilities with native speakers.

Iowa student intern Saanvi Ram, a junior at Hempstead High School in Dubuque, Iowa, learned the importance of skills such as communication, adaptability and proactivity during her summer at the International Potato Center in Lima, Peru.



I learned that effective solutions in agricultural research often come from collaborating across various disciplines. Understanding how different areas of expertise intersect can significantly enhance the quality and impact of research.

BORLAUG-RUAN INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP



Foundation staff traveled to China and Taiwan to evaluate and revitalize partnerships and internship opportunities in Beijing, Changsha and Shanhua, ensuring robust safety measures are in place for interns. Following these assessments, a 2024 Borlaug-Ruan intern was successfully placed at the World Vegetable Center in Shanhua, Taiwan. Looking ahead to 2025, the Foundation plans to place interns at the Graduate School of the China Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Beijing and the China National Hybrid Rice Research and Development Center in Changsha, prioritizing safety and collaboration at every site.



This year, the Foundation introduced an exciting new initiative: a \$1,000 Internship Excellence Award to celebrate exceptional achievements by Borlaug-Ruan interns. The inaugural recipient, Lily Hestjean of Hammond, Indiana, exemplified excellence in every aspect of her internship at EARTH University in Costa Rica. Lily was recognized for her outstanding internship report, remarkable personal and professional growth, innovative communication skills, unwavering commitment to the program and her exemplary representation of the Foundation. This award highlights the extraordinary impact of our interns and their dedication to advancing the Foundation's mission.

USDA WALLACE-CARVER FELLOWSHIP



USDA WALLACE-CARVER FELLOWSHIP

named in honor of two extraordinary Iowans—Henry A. Wallace and George Washington Carver—pays tribute to their pioneering contributions to agricultural science and policy, which made transformative strides in combating hunger during the 20th century. Established in 2011 by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack, this prestigious program is a collaboration between the World Food Prize Foundation and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The Wallace-Carver Fellowship empowers emerging student scientists and humanitarians to address the challenges of the 21st century and carry forward the legacy of innovation and impact. Students collaborate with leading American scientists and policymakers at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through paid fellowships at 13 USDA agencies, 11 executive offices and over 90 research centers and laboratories across the United States.

Wallace-Carver Fellows have the opportunity to take part in groundbreaking field and laboratory-based research, analyze agricultural and economic policy and assist in the management of food, nutrition and rural development programs. Additionally, they participate in the Washington Leadership Symposium, a week-long high-level leadership event held in Washington, D.C.

In 2024, 14 Wallace-Carver Fellows were placed in paid, full-time professional positions at USDA in the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Economic Research Service (ERS), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM).

During the Washington Leadership Symposium, Wallace-Carver Fellows met with leaders at the United States Department of State's Office of Global Food Security; United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development; Food and Agriculture Organization; and United States Department of Agriculture.

USDA WALLACE-CARVER FELLOWSHIP



Iowa State University student Saumya Balaji, from Johnston, Iowa, spent her summer at the ARS Insect Genetics and Biochemistry Research Unit in Fargo, North Dakota.



Waukee Northwest High School senior Kiran Kothvale spent his summer at the ARS Animal Parasitic Diseases Lab in Beltsville, Maryland.

Both Iowans received outstanding feedback from their supervisors about their performance and futures. Kiran described his fellowship as “wonderfully fulfilling with lots to do both in the lab and at home.” He shared, “I can’t wait to work on another internship in D.C. next year!”



Ellen Schloemer of St. Marys, Ohio, won the Fellowship Excellence Award

This year, the Foundation introduced an exciting new \$1,000 Fellowship Excellence Award to honor exceptional accomplishments and performance during the fellowship experience.

Ellen Schloemer of St. Marys, Ohio, received this prestigious award for her remarkable contributions, including an outstanding scientific poster showcasing the effectiveness of eBeam technology in reducing Salmonella by an impressive 90%.

Ellen's dedication and achievement set a high standard for future fellows and underscored the transformative potential of the program.

WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION INTERNSHIP



Since 2000, the Foundation has offered nearly 400 students, primarily lowans, hands-on experience in the international non-profit sector, focusing on global food security, sustainability and professional development in areas like global programming, communications and event management. Interns work closely with staff mentors, contributing to events and programs while engaging with World Food Prize Laureates and leaders across science, industry, government and academia.

In 2024, the Foundation enhanced its internship program to better support young lowans and students at Iowa universities.

Returning to fully in-person programming after three hybrid years, the program now spans a full academic year, fostering deeper skill development and workforce preparation.

In 2024, Foundation staff mentored 23 interns—8 in the spring, 6 in the summer, and 9 in the new academic year cohort. Several spring and summer interns returned in fall, contributing as seasonal employees or Reserve Corps for the Borlaug Dialogue, highlighting the Foundation’s role in fostering professional development and networking for Iowa’s future workforce.



“*The Foundation Internship program is professionally immersive and gives interns valuable access to a diverse and impactful network of people. I learned a lot, and I would recommend this experience to anyone.*”
- Bailey Rees, Washington, IA, 2024 Foundation Intern



“*I would first describe the Foundation Internship by the career readiness skills that it offered - lots of development in technical skills but also the tools to apply those skills in things like resumes or LinkedIn. I would then describe it as a cooperative experience, where one is working with established professionals in their respective field.*”
- Elliot Nelson, Oskaloosa, IA, 2024 Foundation Intern

GOALS TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM



In 2024, 17 future agriculture educators from Alcorn State University, Penn State University, Tuskegee University, the University of Idaho and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore participated in the **Global Orientation to Agriculture Learning** program (GOALs), supported by the World Food Prize Foundation.

GOALs provides pre-service educators with global teaching experience, offering virtual training, projects and coaching, along with a week of immersive learning at the October World Food Prize Week of Events in Des Moines.

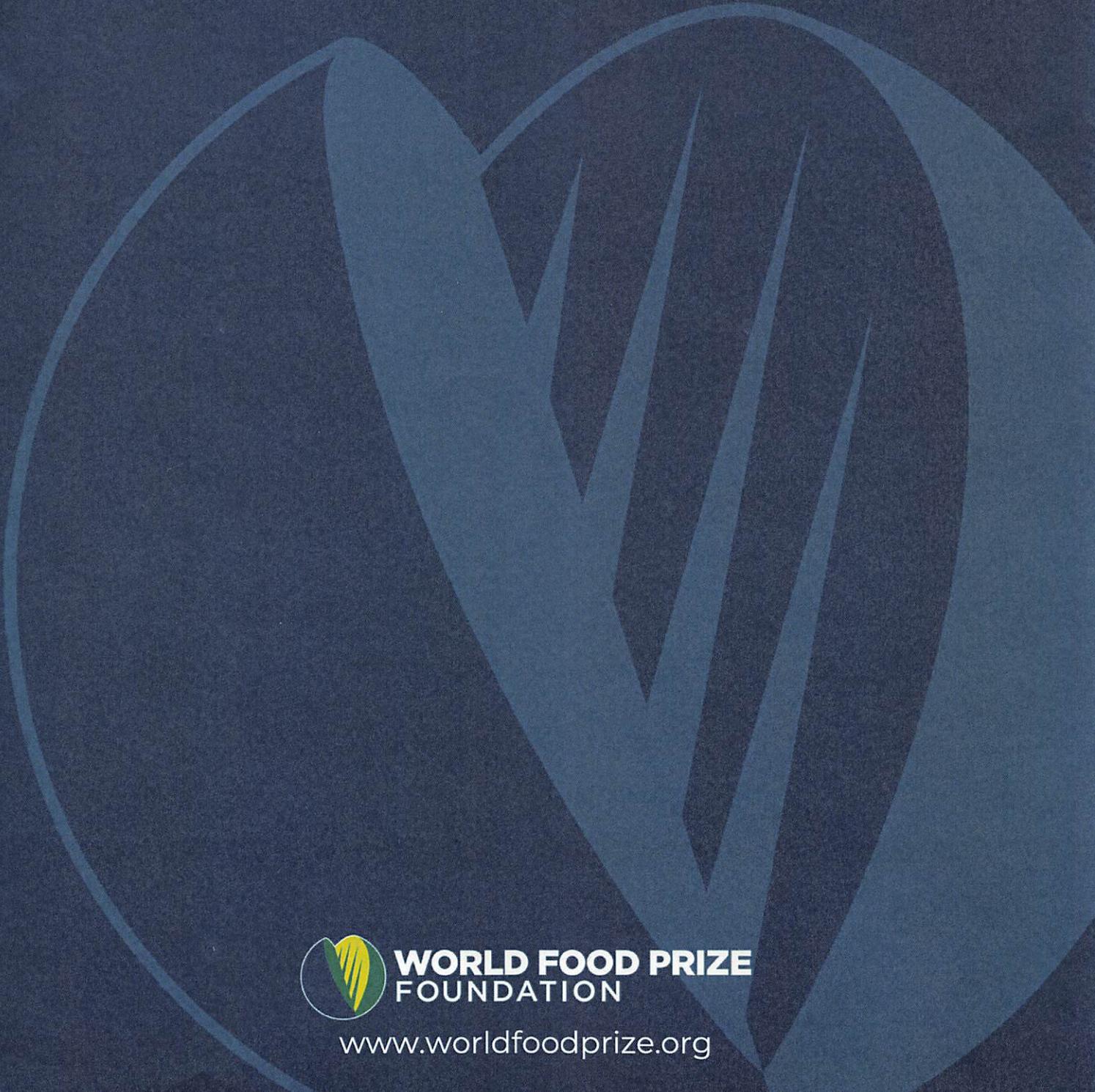
Since its launch in 2021, over 60 educators have participated, contributing to a growing network of globally-minded agriculture leaders shaping the future of agricultural education.

The World Food Prize Foundation takes immense pride in calling Iowa its home for over 30 years and is excited for the continued growth and success it will experience in its home state for decades to come.

With unwavering enthusiasm, we are dedicated to showcasing Iowa on the global stage, drawing the international community to our vibrant state through its prestigious convening and awarding platforms, as well as the iconic Hall of Laureates.

The Foundation is committed to inspiring the next generation of Iowa students to become visionary leaders, agricultural innovators and problem solvers who will address global food security challenges.

We are deeply grateful for the steadfast support, inspiring spirit and strong partnership from Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, the Iowa Legislature and the State of Iowa.



WORLD FOOD PRIZE
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