

2015 IOWA HUNGER SUMMIT LUNCHEON
Luncheon Keynote Speaker: Ray Offenheiser
October 13, 2015 - 12:00 p.m.

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn

President - World Food Prize Foundation

So, welcome, welcome, everybody to the Hunger Luncheon. We're so fortunate to have a wonderful bipartisan representation of the state government who's here. I want to acknowledge all of them.

Governor Terry Branstad is here – Governor, thank you. Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds is here, Congressman David Young; Mrs. Barbara Grassley is here, sitting in the sessions all morning. And also here we have Representative Marti Anderson, Senator Bob Dvorsky, Representative Chuck Isenhardt from Dubuque, where I grew up, Representative Dan Kelly, Jasper County, Newton, Senator Matt McCoy, my senator here, Representative Kirsten Running-Marquardt – there she is. Secretary Bill Northey, Mr. Secretary. Secretary Paul Pate – thank you for loaning Mark to us all week to take care of our laureates; hope he's not in trouble. Ah, a little bit, so, sorry, Mark. And then Auditor Mary Mosiman here, Attorney General Tom Miller, also from Dubuque. Colonel Bob King is here, representing the Guard.

I have a special thank you that I want to send out to our Hunger Summit sponsors: Craig Hill is here, Iowa Farm Bureau and FBL Financial. Thank you so very, very much. We couldn't do this without you all, for your involvement for five years now.

Floyd Hammer and Kathy Hamilton are here – it's their food that we're going to be having. Thank you for that, from Outreach. I knew you guys were just a small-town operation when I first met you in Governor Branstad's office at Des Moines University the first time. I said, "Oh, isn't it nice, what they're doing?" Look it – you're the king and queen of feeding hungry people in Iowa, so God bless you for what you do.

All day long, the Iowa Hunger Fight has been going on, sponsored by DuPont Pioneer and Meals from the Heartland, so they've been packing meals, and here you get a chance to see them in action. Bishop Pates lets us use his building for our students' meal packing, and it's a perfect place for that, but it fits so much with your mission, feeding hungry people.

We have a present for everyone, the Borlaug Day poster. You'll be able to get one. It's been distributed to all Iowa schools. It's got this original artwork. Here's Dr. Borlaug in the back, inspiring people in the fight against hunger and on the back all these amazing facts put together. We worked through all the area education agencies. There's one in every school to help celebrate October 16th, Norman Borlaug Day.

So now it's my pleasure to introduce to you for welcoming remarks a man I have known since the time he was lieutenant governor and just starting and is about to become in two months the longest-serving governor in the history of the United States of America. And I am so proud to know and to introduce to you today The Honorable Terry Branstad, the governor of Iowa.

The Honorable Terry E. Branstad

Governor, State of Iowa

Thank you. Wow! Thank you very much. Ambassador Ken Quinn, thank you very much for that nice introduction. I was going to introduce the state officials and legislators, but you've done that already. So I want to introduce everybody else that hasn't been introduced, and thank you all for coming. Thank you for attending this Hunger Summit, this event, I was here at the first one; I've seen it grow, and it's become the largest annual assembly of hunger fighters here in the state of Iowa. And we're so proud of so many people and so many organizations that are engaged in this important effort.

One of the world's most well-known hunger fighters, of course, was Dr. Norman Borlaug, and he was the inspiration for this event. In fact, I had the honor last year of being at Borlaug's hundredth anniversary of his birth, in Washington, DC, with Ambassador Quinn, all the Iowa delegation, and many other special guests to see the Borlaug statue put in Statuary Hall in Washington, DC. What a great event it was, and, Ken, thank you for chairing that commission that I appointed and doing such a phenomenal job and I'm proud to see it. And anytime you get to the nation's capital, you need to go and see that Borlaug statue. We're very proud of it. I also was in India and saw a statue of Norman Borlaug in India. So he is truly world renowned, and I know that he would be very proud of this continued success, due in large part to the leadership of Ambassador Quinn and his talented staff and also the John Ruan family.

So, as we know, Dr. Borlaug had a real passion to reduce and eliminate hunger, and he is accredited with saving over a billion lives in the world. This amazing accomplishment is one that has inspired more progress through education, research, technology, collaboration and humanitarian outreach. With that inspiration in mind, I was very pleased to see the program that you have put together for this year. I personally know many of the presenters. Dr. Yogi Shah from Des Moines University is one of the presenters later this week, and Dr. Shah worked with me when I was at Des Moines University. He heads up our program that reaches out to the world and gives students the opportunity to do rotations in Africa and South America and Central America, and I had the honor of traveling with him to South Africa to visit some of the students and to meet with some of the doctors when I was Des Moines University president. And we also know that through the Global Health Initiative at Des Moines University, they're doing a world of good.

Lieutenant Governor Reynolds will speak on Wednesday, sharing her ideas on empowering women and girls through STEM education. We're very excited that Iowa is really leading the way in a lot of exciting things going on in science, technology, engineering and math. Lieutenant Governor Reynolds, and now her co-chair happens to be from Kemin Industries, so it's really wonderful that we have that kind of leadership, to have Dr. Nelson from Kemin Industries and the lieutenant governor so involved in the STEM efforts and that strong role that

we recognize that women need to play in the future, not only of agriculture but also in the STEM fields. And I also want to congratulate Rev. Russell Melby for being named the recipient of the 2015 Robert D. Ray Humanitarian Award. Governor Ray is a great humanitarian, and it's wonderful to have this award named in his honor. And, Rev. Melby, congratulations on this well-deserved honor for your decades of devoted service.

And now I have the privilege to sign an official proclamation making October 16th as Dr. Norman E. Borlaug and World Food Prize Day in Iowa. And I've already signed my name to the proclamation, but I will read it for your benefit:

WHEREAS, Dr. Norman E. Borlaug was born in Iowa and educated in a one-room school, and worked his way through college during the Depression, earning a PhD in plant pathology; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Borlaug spent decades in Mexico, developing a new variety of wheat, which could dramatically increase yields and resist disease, which he then brought to India and Pakistan as a great famine threatened those countries; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Borlaug received the Nobel Peace Prize as the Father of the Green Revolution, thereby saving as many as a billion lives by averting mass starvation; and

WHEREAS, the World Food Prize Foundation was endowed by Des Moines philanthropist John Ruan, enabling this award to be presented to laureates around the world; and

WHEREAS, the State of Iowa and the Iowa legislature have expressed consistent support for the mission of the World Food Prize and enacted a permanent day of recognition on October 16th, as Dr. Norman E. Borlaug World Food Prize Day; and

WHEREAS, the United States Senate designated October 16th as World Food Prize Day throughout America in recognition of Dr. Norman E. Borlaug; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Borlaug was acknowledged as one of history's greatest humanitarians by receiving the Congressional Gold Medal, America's highest civilian honor, with receipt of the award, became one of only three Americans in the whole history of the United States of America to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Congressional Gold Medal; and

WHEREAS, based on his remarkable achievements in the fight against hunger, Dr. Borlaug's statue was installed on March 25th, 2014, at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC, on what would be his 100th birthday.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terry E. Branstad, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim October 16th, 2015, as Dr. Norman E. Borlaug World Food Prize Day in Iowa;

And I urge all people of Iowa to take steps to recognize Dr. Borlaug and commemorate his achievements by taking part in the World Food Prize events during the week of October 12th through the 18th, 2015.

I further call upon all educational institutions in the State of Iowa to take appropriate steps to ensure that Dr. Borlaug's achievements and his impact on humanity are known to all students so that future generations of Iowans will appreciate the enormous contributions to mankind made by this Iowa hero and World Food Prize laureates in the battle to alleviate world hunger.

I want to present this now to Ambassador Ken Quinn.

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn

Thank you, Governor. This is just wonderful. Thank you.

Ambassador Quinn

Thank you, Governor. That's so wonderful. I have to say, I used to work for Governor Ray, and we used to write proclamations, and they're kind of dry. But I was tingling over there when you read this, and it just brought home what a great hero Dr. Borlaug is. And, you know, the statue wouldn't be in Statuary Hall except for you and the bipartisan legislature who did that, so it was a great achievement.

And we have 780 people who registered for the Hunger Summit today – that's a record – plus 150 students. So I think Bishop Pates would recognize this as something of a loaves and fishes miracle that will feed them all who are here.

I want to invite Rev. Russell Melby, Russ Melby to come up on the stage. So you've got your collar on

Rev. Russell Melby

I do.

Ambassador Quinn

So I was going to say something about, you know, you should have worn a tie when you're getting an award or something here, not a T-shirt, but I know this is a special T-shirt from today.

Russ Melby... It's okay to call you "Russ," isn't it?

Rev. Russell Melby

Yes.

Ambassador Quinn

Yeah, and we're so glad, Jan, that you're here... is the first hunger fighter I met, other than Dr. Borlaug, when I came back to Iowa. And he told me about the CROP walks that they were doing, and I thought CROP walk was something where you walked up and down the row of corn or something, checking the beans or something. You know, I'm a city boy from Dubuque – what did I know? But he's, for 30 years, he's gotten people out walking to fight hunger. And it's such a good fit with your Healthiest State Initiative and healthy and fighting hunger – what could be better. And he's been doing this for 30 years, laboring out there. And I was so touched and inspired by what he did and have been involved with him in starting this, and he's always the person I turn to for counsel. He's involved 500,000 Iowans in this effort and raised over \$12

million. And I hope CROP Walk and everything is signed up in the Iowa Hunger Directory, right?

Rev. Russell Melby

Yes, sir.

Ambassador Quinn

Oh, to be sure. And he helped launch the Iowa CARES Program, and I know, Governor, that was something that you did in your first term, supporting that, so that Iowans could reach around to the Horn of Africa and hungry people there. And I want to say that the fact that you're also a Norwegian and the Governor is Norwegian and Dr. Borlaug is Norwegian, didn't have anything to do with you being recognized today.

But it's so fitting then, when we established three years ago the Robert D. Ray Iowa SHARES Humanitarian Award that we are in fact establishing what is the pantheon of the hunger fighters. Lucille Wilson, who is here, was our first recipient, and there's Lucille over there. Last year was Merry Fredrick and Self-Help. I don't know, is Nora Tobin here or Self-Help folks? And now Russ, with you, to add you appropriately to that Hall of Fame, that pantheon of Iowans who have worked so hard and labored and have helped so many, that you would receive this because of the way you've emulated both Dr. Borlaug and Governor Ray in all of your life's work.

So I'm going to walk over and get the award – I'm not leaving – and ask the Governor to join and to present this to you, the Robert D. Ray Iowa SHARES Humanitarian Award, presented to Russell Melby in honor of your exceptional work, dedication and sustained efforts to alleviate hunger. Congratulations.

Rev. Russell Melby

Thank you so much.

Ambassador Quinn

We'll get a picture or two... and invite you to offer your comments.

Rev. Russell Melby

Thank you, Governor Branstad, and thank you, Ambassador Quinn and all of you for your generous support of the ministry of Church World Service and CROP. Thanks especially to my wife Jan and my son David and daughter Kristin who are also here today. Most of all, I want to say thank you to all of the volunteers throughout the 30 years that I was privileged to serve as the Iowa Director of Church World Service and CROP.

And I would ask that any person who participated in a CROP Hunger Walk or a sister organization known as the Des Moines Area Hunger Hike, whether through walking, contributing or volunteering in any other way, if you would please stand.

The participants in Iowa CROP Hunger Walks in Iowa and throughout the United States are the people who make this effort work. They are the backbone of Church World Service and CROP Hunger Walks. I always will be grateful for your support.

Finally, I'd like to ask if any of my former colleagues are here. I believe, I know one is here, the Rev. Juanita Scriven is here, I believe, somewhere. She was... There she is. Hi, Juanita. Please stand. Juanita and I were colleagues for nine years in the Iowa office. As you can tell, she nicely complemented the old guy.

Thank you again for this great award and for the privilege that it is.

I will share one other brief anecdote. In 1985, one of my former colleagues, Ms. Doris Knight, walked into the old office of Church World Service and CROP at 315 E. 5th Street in Des Moines and said she would like to volunteer. I asked her to tell me something about herself, and she did. And one of the first things she said was, "I have just earned my master's degree in history from Creighton University." So my question was, "What was the title of your master's thesis?" and she said, "Church World Service – the Humanitarian Hope." And I said, "Doris, I'll do everything I can to hire you to be with me with Church World Service – Church World Service, the humanitarian ideal.

Thank you all very, very much for this special honor.

Ambassador Quinn

Iowa CARES raised \$800,000 for Ethiopia, like Iowa SHARES before it that raised about \$600,000 for Cambodia. The generosity of Iowans is incredible when people are in need. I'm so proud to be from this state and so proud, Russ, to call you a friend in this.

I have one announcement to make about our World Food Prize Symposium. You know, last year as Governor Branstad said, was the 100th anniversary of Dr. Borlaug's birth. This is the 101st year, so the name of our symposium is Borlaug 101, and everybody signed up to take the course – *The Fundamentals of Global Food Security*.

And tomorrow we're going to have an ad in *The Register* that will show the incredible array of dynamic women leaders who are going to be speaking and participating in our symposium. And we have a huge focus on educating girls and empowering women as a way of alleviating poverty. And arriving to speak on Thursday, added to that will be Her Excellency Mrs. Joyce Banda, the former president of Malawi, the second woman to ever lead an African country, who will be here to be part of our panel on Thursday morning and to be at the ceremony at the state capitol on Thursday night. So we're pumped about that. Wait 'til you see the other distinguished scientists, business leaders, educators. It's an amazing array who will be here.

Anyway, our meal is provided today by Outreach, Floyd and Kathy Hammer, thank you again. The three meals were all developed at Iowa State University. We have a fortified rice and beans dinner, fortified macaroni and cheese dinner and the tomato basil dinner, so you'll get one of those. Enjoy your meal. I'll be back after that to introduce Ray Offenheiser, who will be giving our luncheon keynote. So please be welcome and enjoy conversation with your table.

LUNCHEON KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:

Ray Offenheiser

President, Oxfam America

When I arrived today, someone looked at my name card and welcomed me as a fellow Norwegian – not accurate, but I'll take the compliment.

Ambassador Quinn, I want to thank you so much for that kind introduction, and also thank you for your tremendous service to our nation as an ambassador during a very, very difficult period in our history in Southeast Asia and now in your role as president of the World Food Prize, which you've been leading so ably here for so many years.

Governor Branstad, Lieutenant Governor Reynolds, and Congressman Young, it's wonderful to be back in Iowa and see firsthand how agriculture can flourish when farmers are given the tools and the opportunity to succeed. I just wish we had a bit more of your topsoil and a few less rocks in Massachusetts, and maybe we could compete.

And, Rev. Melby, what can I say other than a huge congratulations to you on winning this award today. Oxfam and Church World Service have actually worked together on the ground in the field for literally decades. And whatever success I think that together we have achieved is owing to people like you who create the bridges of understanding between the U.S. faith community and people less fortunate in countries around the world. So I thank you for work and congratulate you on your award.

So it's a deep honor for me to be here today among friends and colleagues with whom Oxfam shares the fight to end world hunger. This annual pilgrimage for us to come to Des Moines, as Ambassador Quinn has outlined, for some years now, offers for each of us at Oxfam and I think all of you a unique opportunity for fellowship, for energy and for inspiration to continue this work, this important work that we're all doing both here at home and around the world.

The World Food Prize to be awarded this Thursday, as Ambassador Quinn has said, has special meaning for me this year, because the prize winner is an old friend, Fazle Abed, founder of BRAC, one of the world's most extraordinary nongovernmental organizations – special because my current organization, Oxfam, provided some of the earliest funding to Abed in the aftermath of the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971.

Special also because, in the early 1990s while serving as country representative for the Ford Foundation in Bangladesh, I chaired BRAC's donor consortium and had the chance to travel widely throughout the country, witnessing firsthand the enormous breadth and impact of the programs of BRAC. This is truly an amazing organization that emerged unexpectedly from a country that most of the world knows very, very little about. Starting modestly as a relief agency responding to the massive Bangladesh famines in the aftermath of the Liberation War of 1971, BRAC today is the largest nonprofit in the world, with programs in agriculture and health, education and microfinance. I'm delighted that through the course of this week, you're all going to get to know this organization far better.

The other great leader who was always a presence at the World Food Prize is of course Dr. Norman Borlaug; and, in preparing these remarks today, I found myself reflecting on what Dr. Borlaug and this year's laureate, Fazle Abed, share in common. And I arrived at a simple conclusion. They share a deep belief in the need for us to start our work with a singular focus on farmers, their needs and their wellbeing, to start our work in the field and to finish it in the lab, to empower farmers with tools, ideas and investment.

I realize, actually, this reflection that, myself included, often simplify the lessons of Dr. Borlaug and miss some of his most important insights. We tend to see him as a scientist but miss perhaps his wider vision.

In 2009, for example, Dr. Borlaug wrote in *The Wall Street Journal*, and I quote, "Given the right tools, farmers have shown an uncanny ability to ignite the economic engine that will reverse the cycle of chronic poverty. And their escape from poverty offers a chance to achieve even greater political stability in their countries as well."

This vision of Dr. Borlaug encapsulates the critical role he feels farmers can play not only in addressing world hunger but also in reshaping entire societies and driving economic growth and creating a more peaceful and equitable world.

Fazle Abed, this year's laureate, shares this belief, this belief in the energy and initiative of particularly small farmers. And he's established an institution that harnesses that energy in a myriad of unique programs that reach into tens of thousands of Bangladeshi villages and households.

One of the important lessons I think we can draw from the contributions of Dr. Borlaug and Fazle Abed is that seeds, soil and water only go so far. Productive agriculture can only succeed in a social, political and legal environment that fully supports farmers and food production. Dr. Borlaug's vision and voice led a whole generation of political leaders, scientists, businessmen, academics and farmers to invest in agriculture. Their work created in many poor countries rural extension systems, land grant universities, rural credit programs, and today's network of international agricultural research centers. These investments drove a rural revolution around the world that enabled whole societies to avert massive famines.

Unfortunately, those investments have waned over the last several decades and we've arrived at another critical moment when the international community must double down on its investments in agriculture and do so in a very different and very, very challenging context. Climate change, conflict, global inequality, as well as decreasing arable land and water, depleted soils in land-rich Africa, volatility in fuel and fertilizer prices, and exploding urbanization threaten our efforts to feed nine billion people by 2050.

And as Sir Gordon Conway, who was with us today, has so eloquently put it, today we need a doubly Green Revolution, one that increases yields while at the same time recognizing planetary limits, and the need for sustainability as a governing principle to all of our efforts.

So where are we in meeting these challenges? How are we doing? Well, 2015 could prove to be a decisive year in driving this new investment agenda for agriculture. Investments, for example, begun under President Bush in response to the global food price crisis of 2008 have continued

with President Obama's Feed the Future Initiative now operating in 19 countries with positive results.

Meanwhile, African nations have agreed to increase their annual budgetary commitments to agriculture from 1% to 10%. While progress is slow, there is in fact movement. At the recent U.N. General Assembly in New York, the member nations of the United Nations committed themselves to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. And top among those goals is the effort to eliminate extreme hunger and ensure adequate nutrition for all by 2030. And finally, in December in Paris the nations of the world will gather to make commitments to address the challenge of climate change.

So the good news is, there is some renewed focus on the agricultural sector. However, it remains to be seen whether at the global and national level these commitments will translate into real investments and action and whether they will yield real impact at the local and national level where it really matters. Real impact will require that nations take a serious look at their food security challenge, stop relying on the availability of abundant cheap food from the international markets, now proven to be an unreliable strategy, and instead make food security and nutrition one of their highest priorities.

The real test will be to see that these investments reach and benefit billions of small producers who produce 70% of the world's food, yet who are paradoxically the majority of the world's chronically malnourished. We will not address the problem of global hunger if we cannot create a vision that includes the small producer.

While global food production is important, producing more food is no guarantee we will end hunger. Growing massive quantities of food to end hunger is a bit like printing more money to end poverty. The two things are connected but unfortunately not in the way that seems most obvious.

Rather, we need to ensure that investments in agriculture benefit not just the better off, those farmers with access to land, water, infrastructure, credit and technology, but also reach those with smaller holdings, whose production is equally vital. Not to do so may mean that all we achieve is the acceleration of the mass relocation of rural small producers to cities where they may in fact be more vulnerable and more food insecure.

So how do we shape a program of investment that tackles both our need to increase production and address the challenge of hunger? Well, let's start with land, women and innovation.

First, land. I think there's one clear fact in rural development. Farmers are more secure, successful and less vulnerable to both fraud and abuse when there is a clear recognition of their tenure rights as well as transparent, responsive and judicious lands governance systems. Governments, therefore, must intensify efforts to address what you might call "tenure insecurity" in much of the world where farmers do not have a secure title.

Governments today can increase both the efficiency and effectiveness of these efforts by availing sophisticated GIS and other state-of-the-art mapping technologies to register the land of small farmers. The World Bank and other funders have recognized the importance of this

work and have been actively investing in the creation of modern systems of land administration and cadastral surveys.

With regards to women, we know, we know for a fact that women play an enormously important role in agriculture across all cultures and geographies, yet they face significant and persistent discrimination in accessing resources, credit, services and markets. Securing women's rights to land in particular has a clear multiplier effect that we know and we've seen in numerous countries, and it brings a variety of co-benefits.

In Ghana, for example, research has found that the larger the share of household land owned by women, the larger the share of household expenditures spent on food and education. While in Ethiopia, increases in the amount of land bequeathed or gifted to a woman reduced household food insecurity by 36%. And these findings are echoed in Nepal, where children in households with plots owned solely or jointly by a woman were found to be half as likely to be severely underweight.

So, clearly, one of the top priorities for decades to come must be how to put the economic and social empowerment of women at the heart of the rural development agenda.

In terms of innovation, investments in good agronomic practice and technology for large and small producers are certainly critical. The tendency today, however, is to scale up toward the more capital-intensive and fossil fuel dependent agriculture. While there is a place for this in some contexts, more priority must be given to low-input, climate smart technologies and practices, ones that could be readily adopted by large numbers of small farmers, enabling them to grow incomes, improve livelihoods, and keep communities healthy.

The Vietnamese Government, for example, has introduced the system of rice intensification into its rice sector. This alternative to traditional practice reallocates labor, lowers input costs for seeds and fertilizers while more than doubling yields and leaving producers with a sizable profit. Indicative of its success, some 1.6 million farmers have joined this program in just three years, and similar success is being seen with teff production, the traditional grain of Ethiopia, among Ethiopian smallholders.

Reimagining rural extension for the 21st century is another significant challenge. Governments, of course, must assume primary responsibility for driving this transformation, but there are important complementary roles where both the private and nonprofit sectors can add value.

In this transformation, it is especially important to increase extension's accountability to its clients, to the small farmers that they serve. Emphasis needs to be placed on its capacity to mobilize and support farmer organizations and accessing both affordable inputs as well as production and marketing advice.

We know today, for example, that extension programs can be much more effective in reaching more farmers when they incorporate the use of Internet platforms that can bring critical market and technical information to small farmers by cell phone. Innovative nonprofits in India and Africa are already designing a variety of new applications to do exactly that. In numerous countries, poor farmers are already using cell phones to follow market pricing, enabling them to negotiate more favorable prices.

The training of agro-dealers who can act as intermediaries between small-scale farmers and markets help reduce the transaction costs related to working with smallholder farmers. Another option is to reenergize efforts to organize small-scale producers into cooperatives of 50 to 1,000 farmers to achieve economies of scale. This kind of aggregation will ensure more effective integration into markets and supply chains while improving standards of production and facilitating credit access for these smaller farmers.

And finally, we must acknowledge the private sector as the newest actor and investor in the emergent and developing country markets. There is today a real opportunity to harness private sector investments for the wellbeing of farmers large and small. Major global corporations, like Unilever, Nestlé, Coke and others, are undertaking real efforts to incorporate human rights, sustainability and environmental standards into the heart of their supply chain sourcing standards and their business practices.

In practice, this means these companies are committing to respect human rights in their labor practices, zero tolerance for land grabs, protecting and replenishing water supplies, lowering their carbon footprints, to name only a few. In the case of Unilever, there's an explicit commitment of senior management to proactively seek the means to incorporate small farmers directly into their national and international supply chains. In the case of Nestlé and Mars, this has meant recognizing the role of women in their cocoa supply chains and committing to pay equity. These companies have made these commitments not for reasons of charity or altruism. They have made them because they believe it is good business practice, and moreover, it will ensure the social and environmental sustainability of their supply chains far, far into the future.

Public-private partnerships are another means for linking the interests of government, business and not-for-profits and new ventures that can unlock real value for small producers. The key question, however, is whether such public-private partnerships have a demonstrable impact on poverty reduction. Given that the benefits to the poorest citizens are often unproven and the risks to the most vulnerable are often high, these initiatives must be approached with caution by governments with scarce public funds.

But there are examples of success. Swiss Re, a multinational insurance company, is partnering with Oxfam, the Ethiopian government, the World Food Program, Columbia University, and REST, an Ethiopian not-for-profit, to develop a weather index insurance product for small farmers in drought-affected regions of Sub-Saharan Africa. This successful pilot is now being replicated in three other African countries, and Swiss Re wants to do a lot more. And there are other companies seeking to engage in similar types of ventures.

So how do we harvest these initiatives to empower small farmers? In the end, Dr. Borlaug's big vision will be realized on the ground in the many small villages of Bangladesh where BRAC staff toil every day amongst small farmers, women and the landless. It's in those villages where the visions of Dr. Borlaug and Fazole Abed merge, where the high-yielding varieties of the Green Revolution are planted, harvested, hulled and marketed by thousands of Bangladeshi small farmers.

It's in those fields that we see on a daily basis that the solutions to the global food security problem require both the best of agronomic innovation as well as the kinds of institutional, political, and economic support that organizations like BRAC and others can provide.

In closing, I'd like to revisit those powerful words from Dr. Borlaug's 1970 Nobel Prize speech, which I believe are a call to action to us all. He said, and I quote, *Almost certainly, the first essential component of social justice is adequate food for all mankind. Food is the moral right of all those who are born into this world.* In very unequivocal terms, Dr. Borlaug calls on each of us to commit in our own way to the realization of this right for all of those for whom justice has failed, to commit to empower those farmers who are the backbone of the global food system but who lack sufficient food and income to nourish their own households.

So now let's get busy in turning this shared commitment into action, that action into a moral imperative, and that moral imperative into a world without hunger. Thank you very much.

Ambassador Quinn

Ray, that was terrific. I could almost hear Dr. Borlaug here in the room saying those words. Let's have another round of applause for Ray Offenheiser, who has been living those words he just spoke for 20 years or more in the global struggle against hunger and that's why the World Food Prize is so proud and feels so privileged to be able to work so closely with Oxfam America and to have you here today. I know you have important meetings that you were going to, but you made time in your schedule to come and be here today. We're very, very grateful.

So, thank you for coming in record numbers today. Russ Melby, congratulations to you. Governor, bipartisan representatives, thank you for being here today for this Hunger Luncheon.