



THE WORLD
FOOD PRIZE

He Kang
1993 Laureate

A Prize for the World

This year—1993—marks the seventh awarding of The World Food Prize. The World Food Prize is the foremost international award recognizing--without regard to race, religion, nationality or political beliefs--the lifetime achievements of individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity, or availability of food in the world.

The prize recognizes contributions in any field involved in the world food supply—food and agricultural science and technology, manufacturing, marketing, nutrition, economics, political leadership, and the social sciences.

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

The laureate receives \$200,000 and a sculpture created by world-renowned designer Saul Bass.

Why the Prize Was Created

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

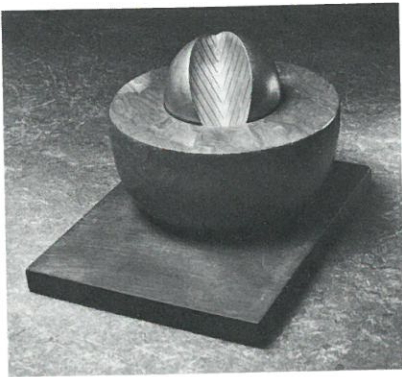
The Prize Program

The World Food Prize is sponsored by The World Food Prize Foundation, established by John Ruan, and is located in Des Moines, Iowa, USA.

The prize is guided by a Council of Advisors in the establishment of policy and in the annual review of the prize.

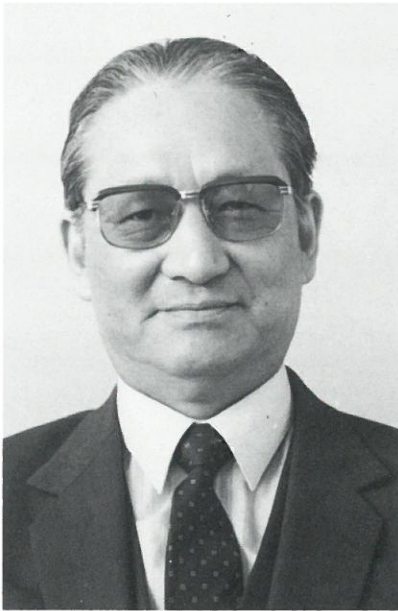
The Iowa State University College of Agriculture in Ames, Iowa, serves as secretariat for the prize. Each year, more than 3,500 institutions and organizations around the world are invited to nominate candidates for the prize. The secretariat reviews all nominations for appropriateness and completeness, and forwards them to the selection committee, which selects the candidate deemed most worthy of the award according to the prize's objectives.

The selection committee is composed of nine distinguished individuals who are knowledgeable about various aspects of nutrition and food production, processing and distribution, including research, policy development, and business management. Members of the selection committee remain anonymous, except for Dr. Norman Borlaug, the group's chairman.



The commemorative sculpture of The World Food Prize was created by world-renowned designer Saul Bass. This sculpture symbolizes the world, its food and the nourishment of its peoples.

He Kang 1993 Laureate



“China has contributed to the agricultural development of the world by being able to feed 22 percent of the world population on 7 percent of the world’s arable land. As a member of the world, China needs cooperation with world agriculture. This can promote China’s agriculture to a new stage and is conducive to the common development of world agriculture.”

Minister He Kang

The 1993 World Food Prize has been awarded to He Kang, former Minister of Agriculture of the People’s Republic of China. Minister He Kang provided the leadership that enabled China, in little more than a decade, to become self-sufficient in basic food for the first time in modern history. This is a major accomplishment when one considers that China, with over one billion people, has twenty-two percent of the world’s population but only seven percent of its arable land.

Minister He Kang served as deputy commissioner of the State Commission of Agriculture, deputy commissioner of the State Planning Commission, and the Minister of Agriculture during the period of 1979 to 1990. Concurrent with this time frame China went through a major revolution in agricultural science and education and in agricultural production. The Cultural Revolution had left the agricultural universities stripped of equipment, and most faculty had been sent to work in the fields and were out of touch with Western agricultural science. During his tenure as a member of the Agriculture and Planning Commissions, He Kang was the key person who mapped out the strategies for agricultural reform. He was subsequently appointed Minister of Agriculture to implement the reform policies.

These reforms caused agricultural output in the early 1980s to grow in excess of eight percent per year. At the same time rural income more than doubled and poverty in rural areas decreased dramatically. Today, the Chinese are among the most efficient farmers in the world in terms of output per area. The quality of life in China has been steadily improving and hunger no longer poses a threat to the general population.

Minister He Kang brought two essential components together for a successful program. First was the revitalization of China’s agricultural science and education system. It was through his warm personality and openness that he was able to establish exchanges of scientists and scientific information from around the world that were essential to recover the agricultural science and education foundation after the Cultural Revolution. Second, and equally important, was the implementation of the family unit of production which provided the incentive for using new knowledge and technology to increase food and fiber production. This integration of agricultural science and policy simultaneously revitalized private farming while still creating a centralized support system that provided the needed inputs for modern agricultural production. Subsequently, Minister He Kang introduced a program to encourage rural enterprises to provide economic benefits to rural communities which helped improve the quality of life in rural areas and



He Kang with Premier Zhou Enlai at Hainan Tropical Academy examining new rubber varieties, 1960.



He Kang in Ningxia Province inspecting the apple crop.



He Kang in Dengzhou City inspecting the "Taiyou No. 2" oil crop, May, 1989.

encouraged people to remain in rural areas rather than migrate to cities. This was essential as the efficiency of agricultural production increased.

The success of China's agricultural reform in production and distribution was, in great part, the result of He Kang's aggressive organization of technological and human resources. He Kang's administration strengthened and restored agricultural schools and research institutes, established new and specialized research and education centers, and developed new extension mechanisms. Through these and other programs, innovative modern farming technology was quickly developed and applied to improve the quantity and quality of production in agriculture, animal husbandry, and fisheries.

Through He Kang's ministrations, China's agriculture has flourished. His contribution in modernizing China's agricultural science and educational system will ensure that China's remarkable agricultural achievements will continue far into the future. In his current capacity as a member of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress and as President of the Rural Enterprise Association he continues to provide guidance for agricultural development in the rural economy.

Dr. Norman Borlaug, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and chairman of the selection committee for the World Food Prize, recognized the vision and leadership of He Kang, adding that "As China's food supply has increased and the basic nutrition of Chinese people has been enriched, He Kang and his colleagues have been able to turn their attention to other vexing problems facing modern agriculture--matters such as environmental concerns and economic development in rural areas. These are issues that concern people in all nations and all of us should attempt to learn from and cooperate with China in its search for solutions to these complex problems."



He Kang's contributions in the area of production and distribution of food were not limited by the boundaries of China. He initiated far-reaching programs of international exchange and agricultural cooperation, signing technical agreements with more than 90 countries and regions. In addition, he arranged for the exchange of plant and animal germ plasms between China and other countries.

(Clockwise from upper left) He Kang with Tibetan, with dairy farmer in New Zealand, inspecting wheat in Heilongjiang Province, with India's Minister of Agriculture in Bhajan lab, with American farm family, visiting greenhouse in the former Soviet Union, in Africa with Agriculture Minister Moulage Mohamed Haidara and visiting farmers in Hunan Province.

Curriculum Vitae



He Kang with Yi minority people.

He Kang

Born on February 26, 1923 in Hebei, China

Education

B.Sc. Agronomy, Guangxi University,
Liuzhou, Guangxi, China, 1946

Positions Held

1993 - present

Member, Standing Committee of the
People's Congress

1991 - present

President, Rural Enterprise Association

1991 - present

Deputy Chair, Advisory Board, State
Environmental Protection Bureau

1991 - present

Science Advisor, Environmental Protection
Commission, State Council

1983 - present

Vice President, Chinese Association of
Science and Technology

1983 - May 1990

Minister, Ministry of Agriculture (formerly
Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry
and Fishery)

1982 - 1983

Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture,
Animal Husbandry and Fishery
Deputy Commissioner, State Commission
of Planning

1979-1982

Deputy Commissioner, State Commission
of Agriculture

1978 - 1979

Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and
Forestry

1972 - 1977

Deputy Director, Bureau of State Farm in
Guangdong

1957 - 1972

President, Chinese Academy of Tropical
Crops

President, South China College of Tropical
Crops

1954 - 1956

Director, Bureau of Tropical Crops, Ministry
of Agriculture

1952 - 1954

Director, Bureau of Tropical Crops, Ministry
of Forestry

1950 - 1952

Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and
Forestry, Eastern Region of China

1949 - 1950

Director, Bureau of Agriculture, Shanghai

1946 - 1949

Manager, Nanking Agricultural Experiment
Station, Nanking

Professional Affiliations and Activities

Professor, Beijing Agricultural University and
South China Agricultural University

Vice Chair, FAO/Netherlands Conference on
Agriculture Development and Environment.
April 1991. (Chair: Former Netherlands'
Agriculture Minister, Mr. Biaks)

Chair, International Advisory Council on the
Economic Development of Hainan Province
in harmony with the Natural Environment
(Co-Chaired with Dr. Holgate, Director
General, IUCN for the first Hainan
International Conference in Sept. 1990)

Advisor, Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

President, Chinese Association of Township
Enterprises

Editor-in-Chief, Agriculture Yearbook

Editor-in-Chief, Agricultural Map

Editor-in-Chief, Chinese Agricultural
Encyclopedia

Honorary Chairman, Chinese Society of
Agronomy

President, Floricultural Society of China

President, Society of Bio-Gas, China

Chairman, International Advisory Council on
the Environment of Hainan

Honors and Awards

Honorary Doctoral Degree of Science,
University of Maryland, College Park,
Maryland, USA, 1986

First Grade Award (October 1991) for the
book, *Strategies for Developing Food and
Agriculture in China*, published by Chinese
Agricultural Publishing House, Beijing, in
May 1989. He Kang was the chief editor and
the first author of the book.

Previous Laureates



Dr. Edward F. Knipling



Dr. Raymond C. Bushland

Dr. Edward F. Knipling 1992

Dr. Raymond C. Bushland 1992

Edward F. Knipling and Raymond C. Bushland, a team of entomologists, developed the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT), an environmentally friendly method of controlling or eradicating insect pests that threaten the world's food supply.



Dr. Nevin S. Scrimshaw

Dr. Nevin S. Scrimshaw 1991

Nutritionist Nevin S. Scrimshaw developed the principle for low-cost, protein-rich food products to help prevent malnutrition in developing countries.



Dr. John S. Niederhauser

Dr. John S. Niederhauser 1990

Plant scientist John S. Niederhauser discovered and utilized a durable resistance to the potato late blight disease, which boosted the food supply and improved nutrition for many nations.



Dr. Verghese Kurien

Dr. Verghese Kurien 1989

Verghese Kurien turned the milksheds of India into cooperatives that produce, process, and market milk in urban centers of the country.



Dr. Robert F. Chandler, Jr.

Dr. Robert F. Chandler, Jr. 1988

Robert F. Chandler, Jr. guided the development and distribution of new varieties of rice with double and triple the yield potential of traditional rice.



Dr. M. S. Swaminathan

Dr. M. S. Swaminathan 1987

M. S. Swaminathan, architect of India's "Green Revolution," led the introduction of high-yielding wheat and rice to Indian farmers.



The World Food Prize Council of Advisors

John Ruan

Chairman
The World Food Prize Foundation
Des Moines, Iowa, USA

Norman E. Borlaug, Ph.D.

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate
President, Sasakawa Africa Association
Former Director, Wheat--CIMMYT
Mexico City, Mexico

The Honorable Jimmy Carter

Chairman
The Carter Center
Atlanta, Georgia, USA

A. S. Clausi

President, Institute of Food
Technologists
Senior Vice President, Ret.
General Foods Corporation
Cos Cob, Connecticut, USA

Gordon P. Eaton, Ph.D.

Director
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory
Columbia University
Palisades, New York, USA

Michael G. Gartner

Editor and Co-Owner, *Ames Daily
Tribune*
Retired President, NBC News
Des Moines, Iowa, USA

Robert D. Havener

President Emeritus
Winrock International Institute for
Agricultural Development
Solvang, California, USA

Dean R. Kleckner

President
American Farm Bureau Federation
Park Ridge, Illinois, USA

Pekka Linko, Ph.D.

Professor
Biotechnology and Food Engineering
Helsinki University of Technology
Espoo, Finland

Robert S. McNamara

Former President
The World Bank
Washington, DC, USA

Olusegun Obasanjo

Former Head of State of Nigeria
Chairman, Africa Leadership Forum
Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria

*For additional information about
The World Food Prize program, please contact:*

The World Food Prize Foundation

601 Locust Street, Suite 350
Des Moines, Iowa 50309, USA
Tel 515-245-3783 Fax 515-245-3878