

Dedication

It was in a remote village in the Mekong Delta in 1969 that I first encountered the agricultural miracle that Norman Borlaug had unleashed. His combination of new high-yielding seeds, fertilizer, and irrigation tripled production and dramatically improved lives in a remarkably short time. It truly was a Green Revolution.

Thirty years later, I finally met this great but humble man when I assumed leadership of the World Food Prize, the award he created to be the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture." During the next decade, we spent hours and hours together, during which Norm recounted to me many stories from his life, which I have endeavored to faithfully inscribe on the following pages.

On July 17, 2007, I was privileged to be present as President George W. Bush and the bipartisan leadership of Congress gathered in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol to award the Congressional Gold Medal, America's highest civilian honor, to Dr. Borlaug. In all of history, only five persons have ever received the Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Congressional Gold Medal. Norman Borlaug was one. The other four were Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, Elie Wiesel, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Congressional Gold Medal was the capstone of an extraordinary personal journey that began on an Iowa farm on March 25, 1914. It would take Norman Borlaug to: the University of Minnesota; hardscrabble farm fields of rural Mexico; famine-threatened areas

of India and Pakistan; Norway to receive the Nobel Peace Prize; poverty-stricken villages of Africa; the White House to accept the Presidential Medal of Freedom; the faculty of Texas A&M University; and eventually back to Iowa to establish the World Food Prize.

Athlete. Scientist. Humanitarian. Educator. All are appellations that capture an essential aspect of his life. World leaders would call him pioneer, genius, laureate, and hero. But he remained humble and true to his origins despite all of these laurels. Ever the teacher, his commitment to educating and inspiring young students was an overriding passion of his life.

I recall being in the rotunda of the Iowa State Capitol on the day his native state was establishing October 16 as an official Day of Recognition in his honor (only the second time in the history of Iowa this had been done). As the governor was about to begin the ceremony, we discovered Norm was missing. I eventually found him down a hall with a group of fourth graders, explaining to them one of the exhibits about Iowa history.

In preparing this final tribute to Norm, I have endeavored to trace the story of the career and sacrifices of this great man. It is dedicated to him, his family, and all those who assisted and supported him in his six-decade-long agricultural and humanitarian odyssey that culminated in the Green Revolution and his being credited with saving "more lives than any other person who has ever lived."

- AMBASSADOR KENNETH M. QUINN
President, The World Food Prize

Iowa Roots

Named by *TIME Magazine* as one of the 100 most influential minds of the 20th century, Norman Borlaug's was a quintessential American success story.

Norm, as he was known to all who worked with him, was born in 1914 to Norwegian-American parents outside Cresco in northeastern Iowa. His boyhood was spent on a Norman Rockwell-esque farm, where the value of hard work was indelibly etched on his psyche, first by his family and later by his teachers and mentors.

His formal education began in a one-room schoolhouse. It was there that a young Norm Borlaug first learned the lesson that confronting the harsh realities of prairie farm life could bring disparate people together and impel them to cooperate. Each morning, Borlaug recalled, the Lutheran Norwegian children from Cresco and the Czech (Bohemian) Catholics from Spillville would stand and sing "The Iowa Corn Song," celebrating their new identity and the bond they now shared as Iowans.

Borlaug and his classmates discovered in that small Iowa school that they had much in common, just as their parents found that working together to ensure sufficient food for all was more important than any ethnic, religious or linguistic differences that might initially divide them. It was an insight that would remain with Borlaug throughout his life and permeate his work.

Norm developed a dogged tenacity from participating in his high school wrestling program – another quality that would play a crucial role in some of his greatest achievements. His coach taught him never to give up, no matter how formidable his adversary. This attitude propelled Borlaug to the top of the inter-collegiate wrestling world and would later earn him induction in the NCAA Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Still another lesson Norm Borlaug absorbed was the critical importance of rural roads to spreading the word about the latest agricultural innovation and helping farmers get crops to market. Iowa was dramatically affected by the Great Depression, with foreclosures on family farms bringing displaced families close to insurrection. The network of farm-to-market roads being built all over the state not only facilitated agricultural production, but also the transport of children to school and access to medical care. The roads uplifted an entire generation of rural Iowans in a way almost nothing else could. Life improved and the specter of political unrest receded.

All of these factors came together in a way that steered Norman Borlaug to seek a university education, the first person in his family to do so. His initial thought was that he would study at Iowa State Teacher's College and prepare for a career as a high school science teacher. This was a particularly arduous undertaking in the heart of the Great Depression. After graduating from high school, Norm labored for 50 cents a day as a hired farm hand to save enough to pay for a year of college.

“ Dr. Borlaug's life story is an inspiration for all. He was born on an Iowa farm and he never forgot his roots. Dr. Borlaug is an American hero and a world icon. ”

- PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH
Member, World Food Prize Council of Advisors

A Focus on Plant Pathology and Wheat

Eventually Norm had earned enough money to pay for college and made his way north to the University of Minnesota, where he would major in agricultural science, become an accomplished wrestler, meet his wife Margaret, and earn a Ph.D. in plant pathology.

To help pay his way through college, he first worked on neighboring farms for 50 cents a day. Later, Borlaug worked in a coffee shop, served meals in a sorority house, and parked cars. He earned 10 cents an hour doing clerical work in a Depression-era relief program on campus, and credits the Roosevelt administration with enabling him to get his degree. He was deeply affected by the urban misery and hopelessness he encountered in Minneapolis when he saw people sleeping in the streets. His commiseration with these poverty-stricken people would remain with him for the rest of his life.

Thanks to his major in forestry, he obtained a summer job as a ranger with the U.S. Forestry Service stationed along the Salmon River in a remote part of Idaho and later in western Massachusetts. He came to embrace the solitude of the forest and cared deeply about the plants and wildlife that were sustained in this habitat. His expectation was that upon graduation, he would become a full-time employee of the Forest Service.

However, fate intervened to redirect his life and to impact human history.

As Norm told the story, just a few weeks before graduation, he received a letter from his supervisor in the U.S. Forest Service informing him that a tight budget situation meant that he could not start his new full-time Forest Ranger position for another six months. A disappointed Borlaug agreed to delay his arrival and decided to take some additional courses on the Minnesota campus. One day, he saw a notice on a bulletin board for a lecture by Dr. Elvin Stakman, the head of the university's plant pathology department. Borlaug decided to attend.

Norm was riveted by Stakman's lecture on rust – the parasitic fungus that attacked a wide variety of plants, especially wheat. As Lennard Bickel wrote in his 1974 biography of Borlaug, *Facing Starvation*, "that night . . . Stakman was a magnetic and compelling teacher. His style, his sincerity, the intensity of his delivery made his words ring in Borlaug's ears."

Stakman ended his discourse with a moving charge that it was science which would ". . . go further than has ever been possible to eradicate the miseries of hunger and starvation from this earth." Norman Borlaug was hooked. Following the lecture, he rushed after Stakman seeking admission to the Ph.D. program in plant pathology and giving up the possibility of a career in the Forest Service. It was a decision that would change his life, and save one billion people.

“Dr. Borlaug's scientific leadership not only saved people from starvation, but the high-yield seeds he bred saved millions of square miles of wildlife from being plowed down. He is one of the great men of our age.”

- HON. GEORGE MCGOVERN
2008 World Food Prize Laureate





Confronting Poverty in Mexico

Graduating in the middle of World War II, Dr. Borlaug went to work for the DuPont Corporation. But he was soon approached about joining a fledgling research project being initiated by the Rockefeller Foundation in rural Mexico. After completing his obligatory wartime service at DuPont, he accepted the offer. There, he first saw the plight of poverty-stricken farmers barely able to sustain themselves due to repeated poor harvests.

Once again, Borlaug found a wide chasm to be bridged. There was an instinctive hesitation on the part of most subsistence farmers to adopt untried new technologies and an understandable reluctance to trust the word of an American college boy who didn't even speak their language.

Borlaug admitted to being extremely discouraged in this initial venture into the developing world. But his commitment to learn Spanish, a healthy dose of the determination he learned in high school sports, and his willingness to get his hands dirty working in the fields eventually enabled him to connect with some farmers who tried his new approach to wheat production. As Professor R. Douglas Hurt observed:

"In 1944, when Borlaug arrived in Mexico, its farmers raised less than half of the wheat necessary to meet the demands of the population. Rust perennially ruined or diminished the harvest. . . . Borlaug labored

for 13 years before he and his team of agricultural scientists developed a disease resistant wheat. . . (but) still problems remained."

While the new wheat variety he had developed increased yields and resisted rust, it did not have stems strong enough to hold the now heavy heads of grain.

Plants would topple over in the wind and rain. Dr. Borlaug then turned to Japanese dwarf strains, which he crossbred with the varieties being raised in the hot, dry climate of northern Mexico. To accelerate his research and the development of new varieties, using "shuttle breeding," Borlaug and his team would rush seeds to southern Mexico where it was possible to carry out a second growing season each year. The results were as astonishing as they had been difficult to attain.

Aided by the use of fertilizer and irrigation, Borlaug's new wheat varieties enabled Mexico to achieve self-sufficiency in 1956. His belief in scientific research and a hands-on connection to the farmers paid off in what was considered an agricultural miracle.

Borlaug's accomplishments on wheat plants were perhaps unexpected given his upbringing in the cornfields of Iowa. This anomaly was noted by Vice President Henry A. Wallace, himself a native Iowan, on a visit to Mexico in the 1940s (shown at left). Wallace jokingly asked Borlaug, "What's a good Iowa boy like you doing working on wheat?"

“What's a good Iowa boy like you doing working on wheat?”
- VICE PRESIDENT HENRY A. WALLACE

India, Pakistan and The Green Revolution

Inspired by his breakthroughs in Mexico, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the Rockefeller Foundation asked Borlaug to turn his attention to the Middle East and South Asia.

In the immediate aftermath of World War II, famine and the prospect of mass starvation haunted the Indian sub-continent and other parts of the globe. The great Bangladesh famine in the late 1940s seemed an ominous harbinger of starvation that would extract a devastating toll, adding to the more than 160 million people worldwide who had already died of famine or starvation during the previous 100 years.

But, much of the developing world was pulled back from the precipice of enormous human tragedy by the scientific pioneers who ushered in the Green Revolution. Leading them was Norman Borlaug, and the young agricultural scientists he had trained at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) located outside Mexico City.

Having overcome great resistance by farmers in Mexico, Borlaug and his compatriots faced the seemingly impossible task of convincing the leaders of both India and Pakistan – two countries bitterly divided – to embrace an entirely new approach to agriculture. Borlaug recalled that going in to speak to these two most powerful political

leaders required summoning the same amount of courage as when he stepped on the wrestling mat. But he went forward and presented the options available to the political leaders of both countries.

With the support of Malik Khuda Bakhsh Bucha (then Minister of Agriculture in Pakistan) and C. Subramaniam (then Minister of Agriculture and Food of India) and young scientists like Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, both countries made the courageous decision to adopt Borlaug's breakthrough technology. It arrived just in time to prevent a human catastrophe. By increasing crop yields in Pakistan and India fourfold, those traditionally food-deficient countries became self-sufficient in an amazingly short time, saving hundreds of millions of lives.

Borlaug's achievements in wheat spread throughout the Middle East and North Africa with similar life-saving results. Beginning in the early 1960s, his approach to wheat breeding was introduced in Egypt, Tunisia, Syria, Iran, Libya, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, Afghanistan, Algeria, and Saudi Arabia, in many cases through young scientists who had studied with him at CIMMYT.

Dr. Borlaug's innovations were also adapted to rice and helped transform agriculture throughout Southeast Asia, to the benefit of hundreds of millions of the citizens of these countries.

“Borlaug has become a household name in almost all areas of the Middle East and Southeast Asia where wheat is grown. In Mexico, it is a general saying that four factors caused the agricultural revolution—seeds, water, fertilizer, and Borlaug.”

- DR. M.S. SWAMINATHAN
1987 World Food Prize Laureate



The Nobel Peace Prize

Dr. Norman Borlaug was presented the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his accomplishments in India and Pakistan and for his role as “Father of the Green Revolution.”

It is indicative of the kind of person he was that on October 20, 1970, when the phone call came to advise him of his selection as the Laureate, Borlaug was in a remote farm field in Mexico. His wife Margaret had to drive for over an hour to tell him the news and ask him to return home to respond to the call, and the accompanying press requests.

Lennard Bickel, in *Facing Starvation*, describes Norm’s reaction: He told Margaret that he didn’t see how he could possibly come to speak on the phone since he and his assistants still had much more work to do. He then went back to recording data on his test plots. It was there that the TV camera crews found him two hours later.

In a sense, when Borlaug received the Peace Prize on December 10, 1970, his life had come full circle. Here he was, the descendent of immigrants who had left Norway due to extreme food shortages,

now, back in their country of origin to receive one of the world’s highest honors for his role in increasing the world’s food supply.

As he stood in the great hall of the University of Oslo, Borlaug was lauded as a man who fought “not only weeds and rust fungus but just as much the deadly procrastination of the bureaucrats and red tape that thwart quick action. . . More than any other person of this age, he has helped to provide bread for a hungry world.”

Borlaug remains the only agricultural scientist ever to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, and one of its least known recipients. It is ironic that his name is so little recognized, since he has probably saved more lives than all of the more celebrated honorees put together.

In his Laureate address, Borlaug stressed that the agricultural breakthrough achievements for which he was being honored were only providing a brief window of time during which the world must confront the specter of a burgeoning population that would have to be fed. As a result, Dr. Borlaug’s efforts did not cease or even slow after this recognition by the Nobel Foundation.

“The Nobel Committee of the Norwegian Parliament has awarded Nobel’s Peace Prize to a scientist, Dr. Norman Ernest Borlaug, because, more than any other single person of this age, he has helped to provide bread for a hungry world . . . Dr. Borlaug is not only a man of ideals but essentially a man of action.”

- MRS. AASE LIONAES
Chair, Nobel Committee

Bringing the Green Revolution to Africa

While many individuals might consider retiring after receiving such high recognition, Dr. Borlaug worked even harder in the struggle against world hunger and malnutrition in the four decades following his selection as the Peace Prize Laureate.

Even in his tenth decade of life, Dr. Borlaug kept a heavy travel schedule, pressing forward with projects in Africa, passionately advocating the primacy of science and technology in improving global food security, devoting significant time and energy to education, and promoting biotechnology as a way to preserve the environment.

Starting in 1986, Dr. Borlaug headed the Sasakawa Africa Association, whose programs aimed at defeating malnutrition and poverty in Africa. His activities centered on bringing science-based crop production methods to the small farms of sub-Saharan Africa. Proven agricultural technology,

he believed, was the key to overcoming widespread food shortages that condemned millions of people in Africa to lives of hardship and hunger. Part of the Sasakawa Global 2000 endeavor, Sasakawa Africa projects were initiated in a dozen African countries.

Perhaps the most significant achievement of this effort was the wide distribution of highly nutritious corn – known as Quality Protein Maize – which offers great promise in preventing acute malnutrition among children in Ghana, Mozambique, and other African countries, as well as in Mexico.

Perfected by longtime Borlaug protégés at the Maize and Wheat Improvement Center in Mexico, Dr. Borlaug and the Sasakawa Africa Association helped spread this life-saving food into villages with immediate effect – enhancing and saving the lives of tens of thousands of children.

“Throughout his life, Dr. Borlaug was committed to alleviating hunger and improving food production technologies that have saved millions of lives. I have experienced first-hand the reverence that thousands of Africans have for Dr. Borlaug’s untiring efforts to relieve their hunger. His compassion and humanity will continue to inspire generations to come.”

- PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER
Member, World Food Prize Council of Advisors



The World Food Prize

One of Norman Borlaug's most lasting contributions may be the creation of the World Food Prize. Norm often said he believed he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize because there was no Nobel Prize for Agriculture or efforts to counter poverty and hunger. Dr. Borlaug felt there should be, so shortly after receiving the Peace Prize, he approached the Nobel Committee urging the creation of a new Nobel Prize for Agriculture.

But it was not possible. Not even Borlaugian grit and determination could change Alfred Nobel's will. Undeterred, Norm set out to create just such an honor.

In 1986, with the assistance of Carleton Smith and Robert Havener and the support of James Ferguson and A.S. Clausi of the General Foods Corporation, he established a new award to recognize exceptional achievement – The World Food Prize.

The \$250,000 Prize was eventually endowed by philanthropist and businessman John Ruan, himself with origins in a small Iowa town like Borlaug. Ruan "rescued" the Prize when General Foods withdrew its sponsorship in 1989.

Ruan and Borlaug, both born in 1914, became fast friends and partners in building "the foremost international award" in the struggle against hunger on the plains of their home state. They moved the Prize to Des Moines and established a foundation with a bipartisan Council of Advisors that included: former Philippine President Corazon Aquino; former U.S. Presidents Jimmy Carter and George H.W.

Bush; and Olusegun Obasanjo, the former President of Nigeria.

Borlaug served as head of the Selection Committee that chose the World Food Prize Laureates, while John Ruan served as Chairman of The World Food Prize Foundation. In 2003, his son, John Ruan III, became Chairman.

Since its creation, the World Food Prize has honored individuals who have made significant breakthrough achievements in improving the quality, quantity, and availability of food. Recipients of the Prize include experts and scientists born in or representing Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Cuba, Denmark, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United Nations, and the United States.

In addition to the Laureate Award Ceremony, which takes place in the magnificent Iowa State Capitol, Borlaug and Ruan created an International Symposium and Youth Institute to foster a dialogue on world hunger and related issues.

The symposium, recently renamed "The Borlaug Dialogue," brings over 700 people from more than 60 countries to Des Moines each October for what organizers call "the most significant observance of World Food Day anywhere around the globe."

To honor Dr. Borlaug, the Governor and State Legislature have designated October 16 - World Food Day around the globe - as Norman Borlaug/World Food Prize Day in Iowa.

“ The World Food Prize is the Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture. ”

- H.E. JOHANNES RAU
Former President of Germany

Inspiring the Leaders of Tomorrow

Dr. Borlaug has been committed to youth activities and education throughout his career. While pursuing agricultural breakthroughs in Mexico, he served as Scoutmaster for his son's Boy Scout troop and as coach of the first Mexican Little League baseball team. Even when in his nineties, he continued to devote himself to passing on to the next generation his passion for science and education as the means to uplift people mired in poverty. Between attending conferences and giving lectures around the world, he continued to teach at Texas A&M University, where he held a post as a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences for almost 25 years.

To promote interest in global food security, he teamed with John Ruan to create The World Food Prize Youth Institute, which is held in conjunction with "The Borlaug Dialogue" each October in Des Moines. There, high school students interact with World Food Prize Laureates and other experts to discuss the potential solutions to world hunger and the roles they, the leaders of tomorrow, might play in making them a reality.

In 1994, its first year, the Youth Institute had only 13 schools represented. A decade later, over 100 students and 100 teachers are attending each year and, thanks to a generous grant from Norm's close friend Clay Mathile, the Youth Institute is being expanded into a national program.

Under Dr. Borlaug's direction, the Youth Institute added the Borlaug-

Ruan International Internship program, which each summer sends a dozen exceptional high school students on eight-week internships to international agricultural research centers in Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad, and Turkey. Norm wanted them to have that same type of life-altering experience that he had when he heard Elvin Stakman speak on that cold Minnesota night in 1937.

When speaking to young people in the early years of the 21st century, Borlaug often paraphrased Thomas Jefferson as rhetorically asking whether:

"Ease and security – were these the drugs that abated the eternal challenge of the minds of men?... Did nations, like men, become lethargic when well fed and bodily comfortable?"

It is clear that Borlaug worried that this may be the case, particularly now that almost all young Americans are physically removed from farming, and the connection between our food supply and agricultural production is no longer so clearly understood. But no doubt, he took heart when some of the students returning from their Borlaug-Ruan International Internships told him that coming face to face with third-world poverty was a "life-changing experience," perhaps not unlike Borlaug's own epiphany as he listened to Stakman—his mentor—almost 70 years ago.

“One of the most inspirational moments in my life was a conversation with Dr. Norman Borlaug. He said that if I wanted to make a difference, 'Don't be afraid to work hard.' It sounds so simple but this little phrase helped change my life.”

- MEREDITH NELSON LEGG
1999 Borlaug-Ruan International Intern

Extraordinary Recognition for a Humble Man

Dr. Borlaug's position as one of history's greatest humanitarians was cemented with the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal, America's highest civilian honor, on July 17, 2007.

With receipt of the award, Dr. Borlaug became one of only five people in all of history to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal. The other four are Nelson Mandela, Elie Wiesel, Mother Teresa and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

At the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal, President George W. Bush pointed to Borlaug as a testament to the idea that "one human being can change the world."

"Ours is a land of hope and promise and compassion," said President Bush. "And we see that compassion and promise in the man we honor today — a farm boy, educated in a one-room schoolhouse, who left the golden fields of Iowa to become known as 'the man who fed the world.'"

"The name Norman Borlaug may not be known in many households on Earth, but his life's work has reached almost every kitchen table on Earth," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi recalled President John F. Kennedy's 1963 declaration that "the war against hunger is truly mankind's war of liberation."

"No person, before or since, has done more to answer the call to help liberate the world from hunger," said Pelosi. "As such, Dr. Borlaug is one of the greatest liberators the world has ever known."

Proving that he was not satisfied to rest on his laurels, Dr. Borlaug stressed the importance of continuing the fight against hunger.

"We need better and more technology, for hunger and poverty and misery are very fertile soils into which to plant all kinds of 'isms,' including terrorism," he said.

The Congressional Gold Medal capped several significant awards and recognitions Dr. Borlaug received in the twilight of his life. Others included the U.S. National Medal of Science in 2004 and India's Padma Vibhushan, that country's second highest civilian honor and an award that is rarely given to foreigners, in 2006.

Never one to seek recognition, Dr. Borlaug nonetheless became one of the most honored individuals in modern history.

“Norman Borlaug has lived his life with urgency. He has long understood that one of the greatest threats to global progress is the torment of human hunger.”

- PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

A Lasting Global Legacy

Exhibiting the virtues he learned growing up, Norm Borlaug traveled the world to promote greater attention to, and investment in, education, agricultural research, and rural infrastructure (like roads and railroads). Norm believed all these are essential if we are to have the next “Green Revolution,” – the one which will lift the remaining one billion people out of the misery of malnutrition and end pandemic poverty.

In his speeches he advocated biotechnology and the crucial role he saw for it in feeding and enhancing the nutrition of those still in tenuous food security situations, particularly in Africa. His dream was that one day a scientist would discover the gene in the rice plant that prevents it from developing rust disease, and transplant it into wheat and other crops devastated by this scourge.

Genetically modified crops are controversial, but, never one to back away from a confrontation, Dr. Borlaug argued that we must rely on science and research to answer the questions about whether such foods pose any environmental risks.

He lamented the declining trend in support for public agricultural research, such as at CIMMYT, where the crucial discoveries that led to the first Green Revolution took place. In June 2002, he and all the living World Food Prize Laureates issued a statement at the World Food Summit in Rome calling for a reversal of this trend.

At the conclusion of his speeches, something of the old forester would come to the fore. Dr. Borlaug would point out that with the earth’s population increasing exponentially, all these new people can be fed in only one of two ways. Either we significantly increase yields on the land now in production, or we plow under the remaining rainforests and other habitats for wild animals in order to have more land to farm. Biotechnology, he stressed, will help preserve the ecosystem while also reducing hunger and malnutrition by providing these increased yields. As he once told a group of Iowa high school students, he may have saved more trees as a plant pathologist than he ever would have as a forest ranger.

Norman Borlaug’s message may be just as relevant for those who seek to counter terrorism and bring a lasting peace in the Middle East and South Asia. It just may be that a “New Green Revolution” represents one of the most potent forces available to this generation to dissipate the sources of terrorism – which breed and are sustained in the poorest parts of the world, such as Afghanistan and Somalia.

As the person who has probably saved more lives in the Islamic world than anyone who has ever lived, it would be only fitting if Norman Borlaug’s 20th century message of using seeds and roads to reach across political, ethnic, and religious chasms to uplift hungry, suffering people, would be the vehicle that brought peace and reconciliation to a deeply troubled and divided 21st century world.