

TIME RECOGNIZES BORLAUG

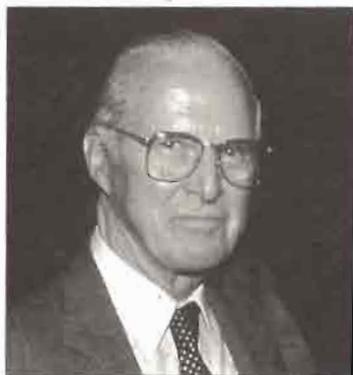
Nobel Laureate Norman Borlaug, the agronomist credited with launching the "Green Revolution" that spared Asia from widespread famine, was featured in a special edition of *Time* magazine, which recognized the greatest scientists and thinkers of the 20th Century.

Borlaug, still very active at 85, serves as a Distinguished Consultant with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in Mexico. He is the President of the Sasakawa Africa Association, which works with President Jimmy Carter toward alleviating poverty and hunger in sub-Saharan Africa. He also finds time to teach a semester of advanced coursework at Texas A&M University.

Time wrote:

"Two hundred years ago, the English economist Thomas Malthus calculated that the world's population would soon outstrip its food-growing capacity. What he didn't anticipate was Norman Borlaug. Working in Mexico from 1944 to 1960 – long before the advent of modern technology – the U.S. biologist developed a

hybrid strain of wheat that was enormously more prolific than its natural cousins. Borlaug's 'miracle wheat' allowed Mexico to triple its grain production in a matter of years, and when his hybrid was



Dr. Norman Borlaug

introduced in south Asia in the mid-1960s, wheat yields there jumped 60 percent. Miracle strains of rice and other grains followed in short order, triggering a global Green Revolution that put the lie to Malthus' gloomy calculation. For his role in helping stave off world starvation, Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1970."

Dr. Borlaug continues to push for more agricultural research, warning that potential famines loom in sub-Saharan Africa and throughout the developing world.

"To avoid future tragedies, worldwide wheat production will need to increase by at least 40 percent, and maize production by 45 percent – and most of that will have to take place in the developing world," warns Borlaug. "The world's population is increasing by 200 people per minute – mostly in developing countries; that's the equivalent of a city the size of Paris being added to the world's population each week."

The *Time* recognition is the most recent in a long line of honors for Borlaug. Besides holding numerous honorary degrees, he was recently presented the U.S. State Department's highest honor for a civilian. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told Borlaug that he has "left an indelible mark on the world in your overwhelmingly successful fight to feed the world's hungry and eliminate the many ills associated with hunger." 🌱

NEW HEADQUARTERS FOR ICLARM

Following a carefully considered process over more than six years, the ICLARM Board of Trustees has decided to pursue the offer from Malaysia to relocate its global headquarters from Manila, Philippines to Penang. A recent CGIAR External Program and Management Review of ICLARM recommended urgent action on the headquarters decision and commended the Board on the objective and thorough approach taken to select an appropriate site.

The selection process had been based on many considerations, including operational costs, communications, transport links, and the facilities available on the site. Penang is considered to offer signifi-

cant advantages on all fronts. The Center had especially been seeking a site where it could have a modern office, along with state-of-the-art laboratory facilities.

While relocating its global headquarters, ICLARM will be forming a Philippine program to continue the country-specific projects and activities, and to develop new research and training activities in partnership with its many Philippine collaborators. The Philippine Department of Agriculture and the Center see many opportunities to combine in a new spirit of partnership, including in the policy field as implementation of the new Fisheries Code and the Agricultural and Fisheries

Modernization Act begins.

In addition, a small number of ICLARM's projects will remain in the Philippines so as not to disrupt their final stages. The Center will also remain involved with the GIFT Foundation International, located at the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) and jointly established by CLSU, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and ICLARM. The Foundation is now the home of the GIFT strain of improved tilapia. The Board's decision also includes measures to offer a number of Philippine recruits regional staff positions at the new Penang site and to assist all affected staff. 🌱