

There are so many people that I need to thank for having made this such a successful consultation:

- First, let me thank our hosts and co-convenors, the government of Rwanda,
 - We were very honored that Prime Minister Habumuremyi joined us for the opening ceremony
 - A heartfelt thank you to Minister of Agriculture, Agnes Kalibata who was our host, gave our conference visibility with government, and spent so much time here at the conference.
 - I would also like to recognize Minister of Health, Agnes Binagwaho, for her contributions to the conference and her time.
- Several Ministers who attended from Uganda and Nigeria, and the high-level delegation from Pakistan
- Our keynote speakers – Minister Akinwumi Adesina, Professor MS Swaminathan, and Dr. Chris Elias
- A special thanks to Mahabub Hossain and Rachel Kyte for anchoring our two high-level panels; and to all those who served as panel members on all three days.
- Thanks to Jeff Koinange for his excellent and entertaining moderation, to Jurgen Haggman of PICO-Team for his superb facilitation, to Roger Thurow for his great moderation of the panel session on Day 2.

- To the moderators of the Ideas Lab and for producing their briefs. Going through the full set of briefs gives a sense of how complex it is to develop, test, disseminate, and measure impact. These are the people who do the work of HarvestPlus, including those who do the nutrition studies and measure the impact. Not me, I am just the one to stand up on the stage.

- Wolfgang Pfeiffer, Deputy Director of Operations at HarvestPlus has not gotten the attention here he deserves. Wolf has led the breeding from the beginning of HarvestPlus and is now also in charge in Delivery. It is Wolf's team that get things done on the ground.

- Everyone from the Rwanda Agricultural Board, please stand up
 - Jean Jacques Mbonigaba Muhinda, Director-General from RAB

- It is the team at RAB who received germplasm from Steve Beebe, (whom I acknowledged in my opening speech), then did the crosses, variety development, multi-locational testing that resulted in the ten bean varieties being released.
- I would like to extend special recognition to Lister Katsvairo, the HarvestPlus Country Manager for Rwanda – and his team in Rwanda -- who managed so many things in the weeks and months leading up the conference, including arrangements for the field trips. Not to mention keeping the HarvestPlus bean delivery program running smoothly at the same time. We're here in Rwanda because of the great success of the Delivery program here.

Next I would like to thank those who worked behind scenes to make sure all our logistical needs were met: It was no small miracle to organize plane flights/hotels/visas, everything involved in bringing 300 people together, most from outside of Rwanda, and to get you here each day, and out to the field visits.

- Christian Gakwaya and his staff from Rwanda events
- The support staff from HarvestPlus offices at IFPRI
- The HarvestPlus media team. Vidushi, Denis, Joslin

Let me now thank to those who put in so many long days over the past several months who were responsible for organizing the program:

- To the ten people who served on the Conference Advisory committee and those who served on the Rwanda local advisory committee;
- To the members of Process Steering Group which met every evening to assess how to move forward on the following day
- To those who facilitated the four Work streams in the breakout groups that were convened each day
- Venkatesh Mannar and the Kigali Principles writing team
- Jeff Waage for taking leadership in getting the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition involved in this consultation
- Lynn Brown and Nabeeha Kazi and her staff at Humanitas for all that they do in helping us to reach out to so many diverse institutions and people, and in helping us strategize for the conference

- Lastly, I want to deeply thank the three people on the HarvestPlus staff, who together took leadership in conceptualizing and implementing this conference especially over the past six months, but even longer than that. Yassir Islam, Thom Sprenger, and Pam Wuichet. They should feel a great sense of accomplishment at this moment. I know they are the happiest people in the room, since tomorrow they are anticipating finally getting their lives back.

They say that challenging and extending oneself, being stressed, making it through to a successful end – all that builds character. Well, if that's true then Pam, Thom, and Yassir have built a lot of character, especially in the last month. Now they deserve a long rest.

After all that work, what have we decided, what have we accomplished during the past three days?

I feel that one important thing that we have done, as embodied by the Kigali Principles which we have just discussed, is that we have begun a **process** of mapping the way forward for making biofortification a sustainable strategy -- the leading example at this point that a specific agricultural intervention can improve nutrition.

Importantly, we have identified the types of institutions and competencies that will be needed to scale up biofortification and to make it a sustainable strategy, and what are the priority activities.

When I say **we**, I mean the broad community of institutions that are working on biofortification, a community which includes HarvestPlus.

Just as we have done at this conference, I think that HarvestPlus can play a catalytic role in moving this process forward. In fact, having started the process by convening this conference, I should think it is an **obligation** of HarvestPlus to move the process forward. In fact, I am sure the HarvestPlus Program Advisory Committee will make certain that we don't drop the ball !

Let me assure you that this process will be consultative of the many institutions represented here. And if HarvestPlus is not consultative, the process will break down, the process will not work.

Related to this process, there are three specific things that I will commit HarvestPlus to do, two in the short-run, one in the long-run.

- First, investigate forming a group of champions who will assist us in global and regional advocacy. We had thought we might make some progress in this area at the conference, but we ran out of time.
- Second, and linked to the first, we will look for an opportunity to convene a much smaller group (say one year from now or less) to assess progress in accomplishing the activities laid out in the Kigali Principles. In my opening speech, I set an ambitious, but I think doable goal, of reaching 1 billion people with biofortified crops by 2030. In discussions at a breakfast meeting convened by Chris Elias and Peter McPherson yesterday morning, the point was made that 2030 did not jive well with 2025 Zero Hunger Challenge. We need to make an ambitious but well-thought-out and thoroughly-discussed goal for 2025, which can be approved at this proposed follow-on meeting.
- Third, and this is the long-term commitment, HarvestPlus will convene the Third Global Conference on Biofortification three years from now. At the First Global Conference we made the same commitment to convene the Second Global Conference – we missed by six months.

While we are the topic of commitment, or contributions, or whatever term you are comfortable to using for your own institution, we have been gathering statements of “commitments/contributions” from various institutions. The conference provides the occasion and some time pressure for getting this done.

For example, on Day 1 Frank Rijsberman made a wonderful commitment by the Consortium/CGIAR Centers to mainstream breeding for minerals and vitamins. That was a watershed moment for many of us, and twenty years in the making by way of the evidence collected to support its feasibility.

This morning we have heard statements from USAID, FARA, Syngenta Foundation, the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, Bangladesh Agricultural Extension service. In some cases, I already have written statements from these institutions.

We will continue collecting statements from various organizations until the end of April, and then we will share them all with the group.

Let me give some examples by type of institution.

Mainstreaming in Current Activities

Private Sector

Seed Companies

Nirmal Seeds, India with operations in Africa

In 2012, we have successfully commercialized the first high iron cultivar of pearl millet-ICTP 8203 -Fe in India. We are also pro-actively engaged with crop development and commercialization of high iron pearl millet Nirmal- hybrids, and high zinc wheat in India.

As long-run goal for us, we at Nirmal Seeds are committed to act as private sector advocacy organization for promoting Biofortification and to stipulate that biofortified rice, wheat, and pearl millet would be included in Government of India food subsidy programs.

SeedCo

SeedCo has been collaborating with HarvestPlus in the evaluation and development of bio fortified orange maize in the East,Southern and West African Regions. Our commitment to HarvestPlus and biofortification is that SeedCo has and will continue to mainstream crop development, seed production and distribution of bio fortified maize seed varieties in its group portfolio and all the 15 countries where we operate across Africa.

Food Processing Companies

International NGOs

World Vision

In January 2014 World Vision signed an MoU with HarvestPlus committing to collaborate across business, government and civil society in countries where HarvestPlus is not operational, but where World Vision is working. Initially, World Vision will target Burundi, Tanzania, Malawi, Ghana and Sierra Leone for the introduction of

biofortified crops. We have started activities in Burundi with plans for other countries contingent on availability of resources and appropriate varieties.

Multi-lateral Organizations

World Food Programme

WFP has incorporated bio-fortified crops into our corporate Nutrition Policy (see below), and will increasingly use biofortified grains and pulses in our food basket as the availability increases. Through our P4P programme, we are already linking farmers cooperatives to Harvest Plus and government research entities to multiply seed, in Rwanda and elsewhere.

Research Organizations

CGIAR Centers

EMBRAPA

MS Swaminathan Research Foundation

HarvestPlus – nutrition studies

National Governments

Nigeria

Minister of Health told us yesterday

Zambia

Government

Sun Movement

NGOs

Donor Organizations

USAID

European Commission

DFID

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

HarvestPlus Commitments

- Demonstrating Scaling Up and Measuring Cost-Effective Impact in Nine Target Countries;
- Will continue to invest heavily in breeding;
- Others but I won't go into it here.

Let me now make some closing remarks.

Our pre-conference surveys showed there were some skeptics among you that biofortification will work. I hope this number is now reduced after our three days of discussions. Those of you in the audience who were working with us in the 1990s will recall that it was hard to get 10 people in a room to talk about biofortification – and 9 of those 10 were telling us that biofortification would not work.

It is amazing now to see the global map that was prepared for this conference of all the countries where biofortified crops have been released and are being tested for release. And to know that 1.5 million farm households are now growing biofortified crops.

But inspiring as that is to me personally after 21 years of effort, success is by no means assured. Let me read a quote:

“Such intimately related subjects as agriculture, food, nutrition and health have become split up into innumerable rigid and self-contained little units, each in the hands of some group of specialists. The experts, as their studies become concentrated on smaller and smaller fragments, soon find themselves ... learning more and more about less and less. Everywhere knowledge increases at the expense of understanding ... the remedy is to look at the whole field covered by crop production, animal husbandry, food, nutrition, and health as one related subject, and then to realize the great principle that the birthright of every crop, every animal, and every human being is health.”

That quote, which seems very current, was written by Sir Albert Howard in a book titled “Soil and Health,” which was published in 1945, nearly 70 years ago.

The lesson that I take away from this quote's seeming currency -- 70 years after publication -- is that we have considerable obstacles to overcome still. It will take great perseverance to stay the course. But it will be a most worthwhile outcome -- having agriculture achieve its primary goal, that of providing adequate nutrition and so health.

Let me end with two positive stories from this conference that give hope in regard to this quote.

- Ministers of Agriculture, Health, Gender and Family Promotion, Commerce waiting for the Prime Minister to arrive.
- At last night's gala dinner, we had the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Health from three African countries (Rwanda, Nigeria, and Uganda) in the same room. Ministers of Ag convene, Health convene, in a single country of course they are together for cabinet meeting, but am I exaggerating when I say that this might be the first time in history that this happened for three countries.
- Maybe our goal for the Third Global Conference should be to include also the Ministers of Education and Finance!

I hope you have you have enjoyed interacting with participants from outside your usual spheres of knowledge and experience. This is the type of interactions we like to celebrate at HarvestPlus.

There is never enough time for all the discussions that we want to have. But now we know each other better, and have a clearer direction of where we collectively want to go. We have met new friends and colleagues and will need to follow up to complete those unfinished conversations and discussions. Let me end by thanking all of you, the participants, for your time, creativity, and energy during the past three days.