



The 2nd Global Conference on  
**BIOFORTIFICATION**   
**Getting Nutritious Foods to People**



**A Global Consultation**  
March 31 - April 1, 2014 Kigali, Rwanda

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to share with you the Kigali Declaration on Biofortified Nutritious Foods, developed through the conversations and insights of participants at the Second Global Conference on Biofortification held March 31 – April 2, 2014 in Kigali, Rwanda.

The Conference in Kigali, which was generously hosted by the Government of Rwanda, demonstrated how far biofortification has progressed in Rwanda and globally. It was truly inspiring to see how policymakers and program leaders are embracing evidence of the impact of biofortified crops and adding these nutritious foods to their array of interventions to fight hunger and malnutrition.

We have made remarkable progress in taking biofortified nutritious crops from research facilities to the farm and on to the fork. As participants in Kigali affirmed, now is the time to scale up these crops and ensure that those who suffer most from micronutrient deficiencies have consistent access to them. The Declaration outlines a call to action to achieve this goal.

This is an ambitious goal and not something HarvestPlus can or should seek to accomplish on its own. The most effective and far-reaching initiatives are developed as a result of diverse, multi-sectoral organizations working together in partnership.

We invite you to join us in supporting the realization of the Kigali Declaration, and help lead efforts to determine how these crops can best be integrated into food and nutrition security responses.

You have my commitment that HarvestPlus will continue to be a technical resource as well as a catalyst to bring together key sectors and stakeholders. In mid-2015, one year after the Conference, we will convene a group to assess progress against the commitments made in the Kigali Declaration to ensure that we are on track to meet our shared expectations.

Through our joint actions, I know that we can build a world free of hunger and malnutrition.

I thank you for your tremendous work and leadership to date.

Best Regards,

Howarth E. Bouis  
Director, HarvestPlus



## Kigali Declaration on Biofortified Nutritious Foods

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*The Second Global Conference on Biofortification titled “Getting Nutritious Foods to People” was held in Kigali, Rwanda, from March 31 to April 2, 2014. The conference was officially hosted by the Government of the Republic of Rwanda and organized by HarvestPlus.*

*More than 300 leaders in agriculture, food, nutrition and health participated in this highly interactive global consultation. Together, they identified the most pressing gaps and challenges in increasing access to more nutritious foods, especially for those suffering from micronutrient deficiencies, and proposed how policies, programs and markets could be used to make positive changes.*

*The following Kigali Declaration on Biofortified Nutritious Foods was informed and developed by conference attendees, and reflects the priorities and commitments of international leaders working together to end hunger and malnutrition in our lifetime.*

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### **I. We, the participants of the Kigali Conference, recognize that:**

1. There is an acute need to improve the nutritional profile of food consumed in regions of high malnutrition burden.
2. Changing and dynamic urban and rural food systems are driving a global nutrition transition that impacts health outcomes and further exacerbates the problem.
3. Gender-sensitive agricultural, food and nutrition development, and effective food systems are the foundation for improved nutrition and health outcomes. Women are catalysts to foster nutrition, health, and economic impact.
4. We must address the special needs of women and children, especially during the 1,000 Days window of opportunity.
5. A range of complementary approaches are required to improve nutrition security.
6. Biofortified nutritious crops offer a unique opportunity to contribute significantly to closing the gap in micronutrient intakes in high-burden communities. Efforts are already underway to develop, evaluate, and disseminate high-yielding, biofortified nutritious staple food crops.

7. Around the world, countries are beginning to integrate biofortified nutritious crops into their food and nutrition strategies. By the end of 2013, at least 1.5 million farming households in Africa, South Asia, and Latin America planted new, nutritious varieties of pearl millet, rice, wheat, cassava, beans, maize, and sweet potato.
8. A collaborative effort is critical to scale biofortified nutritious crops. There is potential to rapidly scale up these efforts to achieve maximum coverage.

**II. We, the participants of the Kigali Conference have identified the following preliminary activities that can underpin sustained expansion of biofortified nutritious crops into the food system, especially in countries with a high burden of hunger and malnutrition:**

1. Demonstrate in multiple country settings that the development and delivery of biofortified nutritious crops can be scaled and have a significant and cost-effective public health impact.
2. Strengthen inter-sectoral collaboration at the national level across agriculture, education, and health.
3. Integrate scaling up of biofortified nutritious crops into international, regional and national research, agricultural development, and nutrition programs.
4. Actively promote the role of smallholder farmers and small businesses, and the participation of civil society and consumers in scaling up efforts.
5. Incorporate biofortified nutritious crops into the core activities of a range of stakeholders and organizations committed to reducing mineral and vitamin deficiencies.
6. Deliberately target communications and advocacy to all relevant stakeholders in a manner that will yield the desired impact.
7. Develop demand creation strategies at different levels of the value chain.
8. Increase investments in crop development and research capacity to expand the pipeline of nutritious varieties, and mainstream breeding for mineral and vitamin traits.
9. Build a body of evidence to address different stakeholder needs and unique gaps in the food value chain.
10. Collect and evaluate best practices to inform critical stakeholders for the scaling up process.
11. Support the evidence base on nutrition and health impact with a special focus on the 1,000 Days window of opportunity.
12. Continue efforts toward the recognition of biofortification in national and international standard-setting agencies.

### **III. We, the participants of the Kigali Conference, call upon:**

1. National governments and donor communities to support the expansion of existing crop varieties and continue to support collection of evidence on health and nutrition impact.
2. National governments to identify how biofortified nutritious food crops can be integrated into comprehensive efforts to improve food and nutrition security.
3. The diverse private sector members, starting with seed companies and spanning the food value chain, to integrate biofortified nutritious crops into their activities and pipelines.
4. International organizations to continue dissemination of evidence and best practices, and continue to collaborate with the research community to build the evidence base.
5. The research community to continue the development and dissemination of biofortified nutritious crops coupled with nutrition and health impact assessments.

### **IV. We, the participants of the Kigali Conference, pledge to:**

1. Actively engage with all sectors in creating enabling and context-appropriate environments for the integration of biofortified nutritious crops into food and nutrition security efforts.
2. Follow up on our organizations' specific commitments as made during the conference.
3. Share and evaluate evidence and country experiences.
4. Serve as a credible and representative voice for biofortification as an accessible and impactful option within a comprehensive framework to reduce micronutrient deficiencies.

Finally, we, the participants of the Kigali Conference, commit ourselves to communicate the intentions and outcomes of this global gathering to our respective governments, institutions, networks and communities.

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## Endorsements

*As of November 2014*

