

A Message to AITC Teachers from Nobel Laureate Dr. Norman Borlaug

The current backlash against, and misunderstanding of, agricultural science and technology in some industrialized countries is hard for me to comprehend. How quickly humankind becomes detached from the soil and from agricultural production! Less than 4 percent of the population in the industrialized countries, and only 2 percent in the United States, is directly engaged in production agriculture. Thus, it no longer possible for urban children to spend summer vacations on their grandparents or uncles' farms. With low-cost food supplies and a largely urban population, is it any wonder that consumers take for granted the world food supply? Yet we need a more highly trained workforce to expand it further for the nearly 85 million new children that are born into this world each year. I believe we must address this educational gap by making it compulsory in secondary schools and universities for students to take courses on food and agriculture production, as well as science and technology policy. Programs like Ag in the Classroom are vital to developing the agricultural literacy that is fundamental to the next generation of scientists, teachers, and leaders to ensure an adequate and equitably distributed world food supply.



Dr. Norman Borlaug

For over a half century, the scientific and humanitarian achievements of Dr. Norman Borlaug (Nobel Peace Prize winner, Medal Of Freedom Winner and recipient of over 35 honorary Doctorate Degrees) has kept starvation at bay for millions of people in third world countries. Dr. Borlaug, “Father of the Green Revolution” is waging his final battle against starvation in Africa. Gregg Easterbrook writes of Borlaug “Though barely known in the country of his birth, elsewhere in the world Norman Borlaug is widely considered to be among the leading Americans of our age.