



Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

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The speakers may be available for individual interviews now.

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

Audio Conference Press Briefing: World Food Crisis

On Tuesday, April 29, 2008, 9:30 am Washington DC / 2:30 pm London / 4:30 pm Nairobi (13:30 GMT)

World-Leading Scientists Address Key Issues Underlying Food Crisis – and Show a Way Ahead

Three of the world's most prominent experts on food and agriculture will hold an **audio briefing next Tuesday, April 29 at 9.30 Hours EDT**, to discuss the many factors behind the rapid increase in the price of food and give their ideas on how to address the issues in a comprehensive fashion. The scientists, who represent a variety of backgrounds related to food production, will clearly lay out steps that policymakers need to take in the months and years ahead. Among the topics that will be discussed:

- Is the world food crisis a temporary shock or a long-term trend, and what are the driving forces and hardest hit regions?
- Are biofuels starving the world?
- Is industrialized, grain-fed livestock production driving up food prices?
- What alternatives do the poor have if the prices of rice, wheat, and corn continue to skyrocket?
- With the world's population expected to grow by 50 percent – to 9 billion – by the year 2050, how can farmers continue to feed the planet?
- What is the biggest threat to crop production in the future: an energy crisis, or global warming?
- What solutions for optimizing crop productivity are available that have not been brought to scale?
- Have years of inadequate investment in agricultural research led to this crisis?

The scientists are leaders of three of the 15 centers that are supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the largest alliance of international agricultural research centers. The centers include 8,000 scientists working in more than 100 countries throughout the world. These scientists are on the cutting edge of agricultural research that is producing hardier, higher yielding crop varieties as well as more resilient crop and livestock systems; evaluating the impact of climate change on agriculture; and offering policy advice to governments around the world on how they can respond more effectively to major challenges, like rising food prices, that have harsh consequences for the poor.

WHO: *Speakers:*

Robert Zeigler, Director General, International Rice Research

Institute (IRRI) (Philippines)
Joachim von Braun, Director General, International Food Policy
Research Institute (IFPRI) (Washington, DC)
Carlos Seré, Director General, International Livestock Research
Institute (ILRI) (Nairobi, Kenya)

WHEN: **9:30 am Washington DC / 2:30 pm London / 4:30 pm Nairobi
(13:30 GMT)
Tuesday, April 29, 2008**

DETAILS: **To access the audiobriefing, reporters should dial:**

U.S.: +1 800 895 0198
Outside of the U.S.: +1 785 424 1053
Conference ID: 7CGIAR
Program Title: CGIAR Conference

A playback recording of the briefing will be available via telephone for
48 hours. To access the recording, reporters should dial:
Toll-free in US: +1 800 839 7414 (or +1 402 220 6068)
Or email mdold@burnesscommunications.com to download an audio
file of the briefing.