



24 April, 2017

The World Food Prize Foundation Selection Committee
100 Locust Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309 USA

Dear Selection Committee:

Congratulations and thank you for your ongoing contribution to the World Food Prize foundation. The 2017 World Food Prize will undoubtedly again provide for much needed and welcome inspiration as well as important recognition to provide for critical advancement of human development by improving the quality, quantity or availability of food.

I am confident you will find the contribution of Dr. Victor Villalobos, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) as more than worthy of the Prize. Victor has made a major and unique contribution to the global food supply during his extensive career. His related successes are many, including accomplishments in multiple fields, that ultimately benefit the entire planet. I wish to convey my strong endorsement for his candidacy.

As you review the Victor's enormous body of work you, like many others, will appreciate his lifelong contributions largely focused on the many aspects of agricultural development in Latin America, Central America and the Caribbean. While advancing this region's contribution to feeding the world, Victor has been a visionary leader and mentor to many, myself included. In my personal experience, no one person has more effectively bridged critical gaps between knowledge, experience, capacity and economic and political realities in implementing world class research and programing. Victor has truly in an unprecedented way combined his scientific accomplishments with public advocacy and leadership to produce exceptional results consistent with the purpose and vision of the World Food Prize.

2017 is an ideal year to honor Victor. His service and accomplishments as Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture should be highlighted as IICA celebrates its 75th anniversary. Along with his many lifelong contributions, I see the innovative and successful programing Victor has implemented as IICA's leader and mentor to be very impressive and direct examples of what Dr. Norman E. Borlaug envisioned honoring and promoting.



It is my humble honor to add my view from the forefront of the global marketplace for grains and other plant products whose international trade is critical to stabilizing and advancing the human condition, to the many references and endorsements for Dr. Victor Villalobos to be the 2017 World Food Prize Laureate!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary C. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gary C. Martin
President
International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC)
www.igtglobal.org

President
North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA)
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