

World Food Prize Laureate says that people and animals and nature depend on one another

AMES, Iowa – (October 25, 2011) Reverend David Beckmann, who was awarded the 2010 World Food Prize, said that the One Health approach “just makes sense” in his speech entitled “One Health: World Health through Collaboration”, delivered. October 12, 2011 in conjunction with the 25th anniversary World Food Prize events in Des Moines, Iowa. Reverend Beckmann's lecture is the first of the One Health Lectureship Series established in the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine in honor of Dr. Roger Mahr, CEO of the One Health Commission. Rev. Beckmann is also an economist and a laureate of the World Food Prize.

Rev. Beckmann, head of the organization Bread for the World, has had significant impact in shaping international development programs to reflect the needs of the poorest people in the world. He helped mobilize a grassroots effort for more focused policies and increased appropriations for alleviating hunger by the U.S. government and its partners.

Rev. Beckmann's presentation was the first of the newly endowed ISU One Health Lectureship Series that was established in the College of Veterinary Medicine in honor of Dr. Roger Mahr, CEO of the One Health Commission.

“The One Health message could not have been delivered better,” said Dr. Mahr. “Ensuring a safe, available, affordable, and high quality food and water supply is perhaps at the heart of the One Health approach. This integrated approach is vital to improving the health of people, animals, plants and the environment.”

"This lecture series will help convey a continuing awareness of the value that can be achieved through collaborative efforts at the local, national and global levels," said Dr. Mahr.

The One Health Commission, Iowa State University and the ISU-led One Health consortium formed an alliance in January to provide needed leadership towards establishing closer professional interactions, collaborations, and educational and research opportunities across the health science professions, together with their related disciplines and institutions. This leadership will further advance awareness of the value of the One Health approach and create a better understanding of the important relationship between the health of people, animals, plants and the environment.

"Rev. Beckmann's insight into global food security issues is timely and an important reminder of the role that veterinarians and veterinary colleges must play in ensuring the adequacy and safety of the world's food supply," said Dr. Lisa Nolan, Dr. Stephen G. Juelsgaard Dean in Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University.

Future topics in the One Health lecture series may include: convergence of humans, domestic animals, wildlife, plants and the environment; water, food and nutrition; basic and translational research related to both infectious and chronic diseases; emerging zoonotic disease surveillance, prevention and response; chronic disease prevention and control related to cancer, obesity and diabetes; environmental agent exposure, detection and response; and disaster preparedness and response.

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