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Former World Food Prize Laureate Recognized for Communicating the Importance of Agriculture and Science in Humanitarian Programs

CAST Recognizes Catherine Bertini with Borlaug CAST Communication Award

DES MOINES, IOWA – The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) today awarded this year's Borlaug CAST Communication Award to Catherine Bertini, professor of Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. Professor Bertini plays a pivotal role in communicating the importance of innovation and science in agriculture, with a focus on the discussion of developing countries where women comprise the majority of the agricultural workforce. CropLife Foundation (CLF) is a proud sponsor of the Borlaug CAST Communication Award and recognized Professor Bertini's achievement at CropLife America's 2011 Annual Meeting that recently concluded in Dana Point, California. Professor Bertini received her award in-person today at the World Food Prize in Des Moines, Iowa.

"Through his vision, Dr. Borlaug showed us that agriculture is life. Without adequate nutrition billions of people do not live to their full potential on this Earth; he showed us that much can be done to change that and we must not accept that situation," said Bertini. "Our challenge is to reach policymakers in the U.S., and in governments and communities around the world, to make sure they know what's necessary to improve agricultural production and development, especially for poor farmers, especially in developing countries, and especially for women, who are the bulk of poor farmers."

Serving as Chief Executive from 1992 – 2002 at the United Nations' World Food Program (WFP), Bertini was the motivating force behind institutional reform of the WFP, placing the organization as the prominent international agency in efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, and income. Bertini's hands-on approach often sets her apart; she not only implements wide-spread and effective programmatic changes but is willing to spend numerous hours on the ground observing food distribution processes.

While Professor Bertini is most often recognized for her work with the UN, her tireless advocacy on behalf of needy families and female farmers has secured her place as one of agriculture's most influential dignitaries. Through various roles as senior fellow and committee chair of assorted organizations, she

provides a strong voice for women to ensure their key role in food production is not lost among policymakers. Continuing her campaign to improve the lives of impoverished female farmers, she started the Catherine Bertini Trust Fund for Girls' Education at the Friends of the World Food Program with her 2003 World Food Prize proceeds, where food aid is used to expand access to education for girls and women.

"Catherine Bertini dedicates her career to the promotion of sound agricultural policy and the reformation of existing procedures in order to provide food assistance to those that need it the most," said Jay Vroom, chairman of the Board of Directors of CLF. "Professor Bertini's dedication to end famine, to decrease hunger and empower women through the use of food aid, encompasses the work of Norman Borlaug and continues the growth of the Green Revolution."

CropLife Foundation thanks AgraQuest, Bayer CropScience, Crop Production Services, DuPont Crop Protection, FMC Corporation, Land O' Lakes/Winfield Solutions, MGK, Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc., and Valent USA Corporation for their sponsorship of this award. The Borlaug CAST Communication Award is dedicated to Dr. Norman Borlaug, author of the first CAST publication in 1973, and to Dr. Charles A. Black, the first president and executive vice president of CAST. Dr. Borlaug won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his work on the first Green Revolution that brought greater global attention to modern science and technology. The award is presented annually by CAST for outstanding achievement by a scientist, engineer, technologist, or other professional working in the agricultural, environmental, or food sectors and communicating its significance to policymakers, media and the public. Since 1986, CAST has honored 23 outstanding scientists (www.cast-science.org). For more information, visit www.croplifefoundation.org.