

The First of our Human Rights

I can feed myself and my family. – M.D. Stauffer

Much has been said and written on the subject of *human rights*. There are a number of rights but none as important, or basic, to improving mankind's condition as this first human right. Travelling to various places around the world and seeing the food problem many of our Earth's inhabitants endure, the inescapable conclusion one reaches is that the most desperate among us are also the most disadvantaged. As such, they are generally without a voice...and the hungry in the world, like all other disadvantaged people, have little chance to correct the 'wrong' and make it 'right'. This unfortunate situation forces society to create a code of human rights. Food is life...and life is the priority.

The readers of this publication are sensitive to, and diligent in their effort to correct, the plight of hungry people throughout the world. By committing our efforts to this most basic of human rights, whereby everyone can say, *I can feed myself and my family*, we begin a whole and essential process of enabling and empowering the individual. Once food security is provided, people and their societies develop in significant and meaningful ways. Farmers prosper and cities thrive. That is why it is important for us to see beyond the science, the research, the education, to the real outcome of our labor.

Often, I think there is an unspoken question or concern by researchers, particularly in the developing countries of the world. It is this: Am I making a difference? You are. The current economic situation in many parts of the world is depressed and may seem to be overpowering our progress, although the benefit of rising yields...or the potential for raising yields...is being discovered. Once revealed to key policy makers and influential leaders, this wrong will become a right in reality, so all can say *I can feed myself and my family*. That is the underlying objective of this publication...helping people feed the world in ways that are economic and environmentally protective...helping others understand the needs and opportunity.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. D. Stauffer'.

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