



Speaker Summary Note

Session: Vote of Thanks

Rajul Pandya-Lorch

Speaker: Head of the 2020 Vision Initiative and Chief of Staff
International Food Policy Research Institute

Title: Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health

Your Excellency, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India; Your Excellency, Mr. John Kufuor, Former President of the Republic of Ghana; honorable ministers; distinguished guests and colleagues:

It is a great privilege for me to express warm and sincere thanks on behalf of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to His Excellency Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for his stimulating and timely remarks and for his gracious participation in this inaugural session. He has long demonstrated his interest in and commitment to improving human well-being, and his remarks show the scope of his thinking on these important issues that affect the lives of so many.

We are especially pleased to be able to hold this conference in India. As an emerging economy facing both exciting opportunities and difficult challenges, India is showing leadership in the search for solutions. In addition, India is home to a long history of learning and discourse on ideas. It is thus an appropriate venue for this “marketplace” of ideas in which we will be engaged for the next several days.

The success of this conference depends on the efforts of many people. We would like to thank our cosponsors whose enthusiasm and support has allowed so many of us to come together in this ground-breaking exchange of views and perspectives. We are grateful to the Conference Advisory Committee, whose members have shared valuable insights that have shaped the thinking behind this conference. We also express our warm appreciation to the many people behind the scenes who worked hard to make this conference happen.

This gathering brings together nearly 1,000 participants from 65 countries, representing all areas of agriculture, nutrition, and health. As we bring all of you together, we cannot even imagine the knowledge and ideas that will be generated and the relationships that will be formed. Our hope is that this conference will not only break new ground in terms of content, but also serve to “break the ice” between our various sectors.

This gathering marks the fifth in a series of conferences organized by IFPRI’s 2020 Vision Initiative and designed to bring together a wide range of stakeholders to consider emerging issues affecting the global development community. We are extremely pleased that this conference has generated so much interest and attracted such a wide range of participants, and we hope that you will leave here with new ideas and renewed energy for achieving our common goals.

Please join me in expressing our appreciation to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for taking the time to be with us today to consider these crucial issues.

Thank you.