

October 1995



CONFERENCE

Twenty-eighth Session

Rome, 20 October - 2 November 1995

PRESENTATION OF A.H. BOERMA AWARD 1994-95

1. The Eighteenth Session of the FAO Conference in November 1975 adopted Resolution 1/75 as a "vote of thanks" to former Director-General Addeke H. Boerma, and decided to institute a new permanent activity in FAO as a continuing tribute to Dr Boerma for his services to the Organization, in various capacities, for nearly three decades. The Conference requested the Council to choose and initiate such an activity.
2. At its Seventy-first Session in June 1977, the Council welcomed the proposal of the Director-General that an A.H. Boerma Award be presented biennially to a journalist, or other persons, whose writing on development questions had helped to focus public attention at the international or regional levels on important aspects of the world food problem, particularly related to agricultural and rural development in developing countries, with the likely result of having increased public support of measures leading to its solution. The Council recommended that a prize of US\$10 000 be awarded to one person, or shared between several winners. It further recommended that the Award need not necessarily be confined to the written word, but within constraints of a practical nature, could be extended to productions in all the information media, including particularly television and radio.
3. The Nineteenth Session of the Conference in 1977 adopted the following paragraph in its Report:

"The Conference noted the decision of the Council at its Seventy-first Session that the A.H. Boerma Award should consist of one biennial US\$10 000 prize for one or more writers whose work was likely to have increased international public awareness of the world food problem and of measures leading to its solution. The recipient or recipients would be selected by the Director-General, bearing in mind the relevant recommendations made by the Council, and the presentation would take place during the Conference sessions".
4. The Award consists of:
 - i) A scroll describing the recipient's achievements
 - ii) A cash prize of US\$10 000
 - iii) An all-expenses-paid visit to Rome to receive the Award for the Award winner and spouse.

./.

For reasons of economy, this document is produced in a limited number of copies. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring it to the meetings and to refrain from asking for additional copies, unless strictly indispensable.

SELECTION OF AWARD WINNERS

5. The Award winner (or winners) is selected by the Director-General in consultation with the Independent Chairman of the Council and the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees, after earlier review of all nominations carried out by the Information Division, and of selected entries by the A.H. Boerma Award Review Committee.
6. Regional Representatives are encouraged to utilize their Regional Information Officers in the search for and evaluation of potential nominees. FAO Representatives in member countries are asked to keep watch for potential entries of sufficient merit and, where appropriate, may obtain suggestions from the United Nations Information Centres in their respective countries of assignment. The Assistant Director-General, Department of General Affairs and Information, acting through the Chairman of the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) may, as appropriate, seek suggestions from other organizations of the United Nations system.
7. The materials upon which nominations are based must have been published or publicly presented during the four-year period ending on 31 March of the Conference year in which the Award is presented.
8. The deadline for submission of nominations to FAO Headquarters is 30 April of the Conference year in which the Award is presented.
9. The Award is presented by the Director-General at a special ceremony held during the first week of each regular session of the Conference. The Award for the 1994-95 biennium will be presented at the Twenty-eighth Session of the FAO Conference, at a ceremony to be held on Friday, 20 October 1995.
10. On this, the ninth occasion, the Award is being given jointly to Ms Fawzia El-Moualled from Egypt for her strong commitment and significant contribution over the past forty years, both on radio and in print, to development issues, particularly with regard to the rural population; and to Mr Michael Pickstock from the United Kingdom for the dedication shown, throughout his career, to covering agriculture in developing countries, particularly with regard to increasing food production through sustainable agricultural development, and for the contribution he made to improving public awareness and understanding.
11. Ms Fawzia El-Moualled has been a famous radio journalist and researcher over the past half century with writings and contributions supporting development issues, in particular the rural population. She prepared a report on FAO following her mission as a rural radio journalist in late 1977. During her long career with the Egyptian Broadcasting Corporation, she presented some 34 000 radio programmes, talks, interviews and features on agricultural development. She has visited some 3 500 villages out of some 4 650 villages in Egypt. She has published 15 books and 70 papers on the role of mass media in promoting agricultural and food production, family planning, drought control, combating illiteracy, village grassroot level development, etc. She has been honoured by both Presidents Al-Sadat and Murabak for her highly professional work.
12. Mr Michael Pickstock has dedicated his journalistic career to covering agriculture in developing countries, both on radio and in print. For more than 30 years he has been, at various stages a producer, editor and regular contributor to BBC's "The Farming World", providing regular updates from the frontlines in the battle to increase food production through sustainable agricultural development. Since founding WREN (World Radio for Environment and Natural Resources) in 1986, he has produced radio broadcast material for FAO and numerous other international and non-governmental organizations concerned with agriculture and rural development. He writes for and assembles a bi-monthly magazine of technical and scientific information on rural and agricultural development (CTA's bulletin SPORE).
13. In a wider sense, the dedicated work of both of the A.H. Boerma Award winners has contributed greatly to heightened public awareness and understanding of important aspects of the world food problem.