

# conference

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ROME

## Twenty-sixth Session

Rome, 9 - 28 November 1991

### PRESENTATION OF THE B.R. SEN AWARDS (1990 and 1991).

1. The B.R. Sen Award was established in pursuance of Resolution 33/67 of the Fourteenth Session of the Conference, as a permanent feature. The Award, which is conferred annually, is named after a former Director-General of FAO, Mr B.R. Sen, and is directed towards the goals he served. Any officer who has served in a field post in any of the activities of FAO in the year for which the Award is made is eligible for nomination. The recipient of the Award must have a minimum of two years' continuous service in the field and must have an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the country or countries to which he/she was assigned. This contribution must be clearly identifiable; it may take the form of technical innovations in agriculture, fisheries or forestry; institutional or development support improvements; discoveries of new resources as a result of surveys or other investigations; establishment of training and research institutions.
2. The elements of the Award are:
  - (i) a medal bearing the name of the recipient;
  - (ii) a scroll describing the achievements of the recipient;
  - (iii) a cash award of US\$5 000;
  - (iv) round-trip travel to Rome for the recipient and spouse.

### Selection of Award Recipients

3. The B.R. Sen Award Review Committee, consisting of all the departmental Assistant Directors-General at Headquarters, the Director of the Field Programme Development Division, and the Director of the Personnel Division, reviews nominations received from Regional Representatives, FAO Representatives and Department Heads, and establishes a short-list. The final selection of the award recipients is made by the Director-General, jointly with the Independent Chairman of the Council and the Chairmen of the Programme and the Finance Committees, from the short-list drawn up by the Review Committee supplemented by the views of the Governments where the nominees are serving or have served.

Conferment of Awards

4. The Awards are conferred by the Chairman of the Conference at a special ceremony during the first week of each regular session of the FAO Conference. At the Twenty-sixth Session of the Conference, the presentation ceremony will be held for the 1990 and 1991 Award winners.
5. For 1990, the recipient of the Award is Mr Komi S. Gbeblewoo of Togo. For 1991, the recipient of the Award is Mr Peter E. Kenmore of the United States of America. Brief notes on the two recipients and on their achievements are given below.

Mr Komi Gbeblewoo

Mr Komi S. Gbeblewoo was born in Lomé, Togo in 1944 and holds a degree in Tropical Agronomy from the Institut d'enseignement supérieur agricole de Belgique (ATH), Belgium, and a Certificate in Statistics from the Université de Laval, Quebec, Canada.

Mr Gbeblewoo has had fourteen years of professional service in progressively responsible positions in food and agricultural statistics. He worked as national supervisor of field operations and data processing of the first national agricultural census in Togo from 1972 to 1976. In this position he issued the census results for the Kara Region. As a senior officer in the Ministry of Rural Development, where he was responsible for the coordination of data collection activities in the Coastal Region, he made a positive contribution to the development of a data base for the monitoring of agricultural development projects in the Region.

In 1982, Mr Gbeblewoo rose to the position of Director, Agricultural Surveys and Statistics Department in the same Ministry and until 1985 was responsible for data collection, analysis and dissemination of all statistics in the rural sector, which post he held concurrently with the position of National Manager of the FAO/Government of Togo National Census of Agriculture project.

In this important position Mr Gbeblewoo liaised with international organizations in joint cooperative efforts; among his main achievements was the implementation of a reliable permanent system of data collection. He also conducted the census till its end in 1985 when the final results were disseminated.

With this background and valuable experience Mr Gbeblewoo joined FAO in 1985 as Agricultural Statistician.

He began his FAO career as a Liaison Officer in Zaire with the Regional Bureau of Agricultural Statistics under Project ZAI/84/008, rising rapidly in seniority to Chief Technical Adviser in July 1988 and then continuing under a further Agricultural Statistics Project, ZAI/88/004.

In Zaire, the second largest country in Africa, which was formerly characterized by an endemic lack of agricultural data, Mr Gbeblewoo has made an outstanding contribution to institution-building in the development of an up-to-date, reliable nationwide agricultural statistical

service. Since October 1986, working under Zaire's exceptionally difficult physical and economic circumstances and beset by logistical and manpower constraints, he has planned, implemented and coordinated the development of ten regional agricultural statistical offices, through which village-level census-type surveys have been conducted in all regions for the preparation of national estimates of agricultural structures. These institutional structures now provide a firm basis for the collection, analysis and publication of the results of a permanent annual agricultural survey. To ensure the sustainability of this national agricultural statistics system, Mr Gbeblewoo has achieved the training of 15 professionals in statistics and data processing outside the country, and local training of 700 field staff in statistical data collection techniques. In order to further evolve and sustain these developments, he has also played a key role in establishing the National Commission of Agricultural Statistics to foster regular dialogue between producers and users of agricultural statistics. Zaire today has not only a permanent agricultural statistics system but also reliable and up-to-date data on several aspects of agriculture.

Mr Gbeblewoo managed these complex, large-scale projects in close consultation with national counterparts, enhancing national capabilities to plan and manage projects in this field and mobilizing significant funding from the donor community, in particular USAID, the World Bank and the European Economic Community.

The experience in the development of an agricultural statistics system in Zaire is undoubtedly a model for other countries in Africa. The credit for this goes to Mr Gbeblewoo, whose personal commitment, enthusiasm and initiative bring honour to FAO and its Field Programme and constitute an example for all of its staff.

By virtue of his managerial skill, tact and understanding, enthusiastically pursued, Mr Gbeblewoo has also been entrusted with the duties of Officer-in-Charge of the FAO Representation in Zaire on several occasions.

#### Mr Peter E. Kenmore

Mr Peter E. Kenmore was born in Stuttgart, Germany in 1952, and is a national of the USA. He obtained a B.A. in Biology from Harvard University in 1974, and a Ph.D. in Entomology from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1980.

During his academic career, Mr Kenmore received several honours, including the Harvard National Scholarship, the Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship and membership in Phi Beta Kappa. He served as a lecturer in entomology and ecology at the University of the Philippines, Los Banos and the University of California. He undertook his doctoral studies at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines, conducting field research on the role of natural enemies on the population dynamics of the brown planthopper, a major rice pest. He demonstrated the negative effect of chemical applications on natural enemies of rice pests, i.e. that these result in ever-increasing pest outbreaks. His main research areas were insect ecology, crop physiology, sociology and system analysis in the context of Integrated Pest Management.

Integrated Pest Management is now considered to be the best pest control strategy in the context of agricultural sustainability: IPM reduces risks for the environment and human health, stabilizes yields, increases farmers' profits and provides national savings by reducing pesticide importation and subsidies. Mr Kenmore has played a key role in the development and implementation of IPM strategies in Asia, and has been most innovative in the application of principles of anthropology and mass communication to make IPM available for farmers.

Mr Kenmore joined FAO in 1982, and since then has held positions of increasing responsibility in the project "Intercountry Programme for the Development and Application of IPM in Rice in South and Southeast Asia". He started as Liaison Training Officer, became Acting Project Leader in 1985, and has been Project Manager/Regional Programme Coordinator since 1986. Since 1989 he has also been Chief Technical Adviser for the project "Training for Development of IPM in Rice-Based Cropping Systems" in Indonesia. The regional project, which is in its second five-year phase, is funded by the Governments of Australia, the Netherlands and the Arab Gulf Fund. The project operates in 9 countries: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam and its budget is US\$12.5 million over the 10-year period. The second project is a two-year national programme for Indonesia, financed by a Unilateral Trust Fund of US\$5.4 million.

Both projects aim to develop and adapt IPM strategies for rice, and to support extension programmes for the implementation of IPM by farmers. Highly innovative field research and extension methodologies have reached some 400 000 farmers and 30 000 extension workers in the region. The strategies developed by Mr Kenmore are considered as an example to be followed by similar IPM projects.

Mr Kenmore is responsible for the management, administration and implementation of this extensive IPM programme in Asia, a task he is carrying out with full dedication and commitment, allowing the programme to expand and improve. His catalytic role in the implementation of IPM is fully recognized by participating countries and donors. Two additional countries, Laos and Korea, have now asked to join the Regional IPM Programme. There are good prospects for the extension of both projects for a further phase, and a similar programme for IPM vegetables will soon be implemented in Asia while national IPM projects are in the pipeline for Bangladesh and India.

During the nine years he has spent with FAO, Mr Kenmore has demonstrated a very sound technical background - he is a recognized scientist and researcher worldwide - and has shown exceptional ability in training, extension, socio-economics and policy advice. His dedication and his ability to work with people of different backgrounds have assisted in bringing about substantial changes in the life of many rice farmers in Asia and have influenced policy decisions of the participating governments: Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, India and Bangladesh have declared IPM as their official pest control strategy and have accordingly reallocated resources from pesticide subsidies to IPM research and extension.

Mr Kenmore has effectively coordinated the establishment of a regional and international network of IPM specialists and communication experts who, in cooperation with the national plant protection services and rice farmers, have developed and continue to adapt a simple and reliable set of pest management practices. A series of fundamental changes were introduced by Mr Kenmore and his team; the concept of pest control by preventive use of chemical pesticides was replaced by the principle of growing a healthy crop. The focus for technology development moved from the research stations to the farmers' fields: farmers now participate in IPM strategy development and have become conscious managers of their own fields and the related agro-ecosystem. Extension workers also do not "instruct" farmers on pest control "technology", but develop jointly with them a better awareness of the field ecosystem.

The work of Mr Kenmore and his team in Asia is a substantial contribution to FAO's effort towards the achievement of sustainable agriculture.