



Norman Borlaug Institute
for International Agriculture
Texas A&M Agriculture and Life Sciences

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Dr. Edward B. Knipling
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Dear Ed,

On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Fort Collins National Seed Storage Laboratory, I want to express my congratulations to USDA and ARS for maintaining and enhancing the work of this most important facility. I have seen this facility grow from its beginning and its value to scientists and humanity have become even greater with each passing year.


The world's demand for secure food is increasing at a phenomenal rate and the breeders need assurance that they will have the resources to combat the diseases, insects and changes in the environment. There is no question that the NSSL in its new Center for Genetic Resources Preservation is the world's most important national repository for crop resources. It has supplied many of those to the international community of CGIAR Centers as well as to national programs. I am also pleased that you have chosen to send duplicate samples to the new Global Crop Trust Seedbank at Svalbard to assure the world's community of their availability.

CIMMYT has benefitted from the assurance that its wheat and maize collections are now backed up at NSSL. They are accessible easily and your Fort Collins staff has generously worked hard to ensure that those collections are secure and linked in the databases.

Now, as we tackle one of the biggest threats to world food production with wheat stem rust race Ug99, I know that NSSL and the Aberdeen site are working hard to see that samples are available to wheat breeders throughout the world.

Again, congratulations to ARS for its stewardship of the seed collections at NSSL and for its continued success in the future. Best regards.

Sincerely,



Norman E. Borlaug
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

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