



Dear Participants of the World Food Day Colloquium,

Dear honourable members of the Jury of the Justus von Liebig Award for World Nutrition,

Dear award winners, Dr. Eva and Dr. Fred Weltzien Rattunde!

Today we celebrate for the fourth time the ceremony for the award winners of the Justus von Liebig Award for world nutrition. The award was originally endowed by the Alfred Toepfer Foundation F.V.S. in Hamburg between 1949 and 2006. During that period, the prize was awarded to 76 distinguished individuals who had made outstanding contributions to the science and practice of agriculture in Europe. Alfred Toepfers idea was shortly after the 2. World War to honour those researchers and practical workers who made possible that Europe was getting self-sufficient in the area of food and nutrition. Let me make it clearer: An award for ending hunger in Europe.

When Dr. Hermann Eiselen heard that the Alfred Toepfer Foundation planed in 2008 to change their award system and ending with this prestigious award, he asked Birte Toepfer, the former Head of the Board of Trustees of the Alfred Toepfer Foundation whether the Eiselen-Foundation would be able to continue with the Justus von Liebig Award. And Dr. Eiselen received a positive reactions by the official of the Toepfer Foundation. On the basis of an agreement with the Toepfer Foundation the Eiselen-Foundation continued the award with a slightly modified aspiration in 2009. Now, we look for those you researchers and practical workers who will help to end hunger on our planet. After the death of Dr. Eiselen, in January 2010, the Foundation fiat panis took over the Justus von Liebig Award for World Nutrition.

Individuals, associations or institutions who have made preeminent contributions to the improvement of world food supply or the mitigation of under- and malnourishment are eligible to be nominated. There are no national or other limitations, and the prize can be awarded for both singular achievements or contributions and lifetime accomplishments. The prize is endowed with 25,000 Euro. The decision on the

winner will be made by an independent jury. Let me here thanks the jury namely Prof. Lucia Reisch, Dr. Ursula Schäfer-Preuss, Dr. Andreas Büchting, Dr. Frank Plessmann, Dr. Hans-Joachim Preuss and Prof. Dr. Joachim von Braun for their work in selecting this year award winners.

Justus von Liebig, we all know quite well, was a German chemist who made major contributions to agricultural and biological chemistry, and was considered the founder of organic chemistry. He emphasized on the essential plant nutrients. All we learnt his formulation of the Law of the Minimum which described the effect of individual nutrients on crops. Here we have the talented scientist. But in later life he became scientific advisor to King Maximilian II of Bavaria who was willing to transform the University of Munich into a centre for scientific research and development. Already in the late 19th century in remembrance of this the great scientist a gold and a silver Liebig medal was awarded to deserving German scientists with the motto "for the purpose of encouraging research in agricultural science".

Today the Foundation fiat panis, as successor to the Father and Son Eiselen Foundation, awards the Justus-von-Liebig Award World Nutrition to Dr. Eva and Dr. Fred Weltzien-Rattunde for their outstanding achievements in the agricultural and nutritional sciences, which contributes to improving world nutrition. Their life's work up to now has been in the service of a world free of hunger.

It is that what Dr. Eiselen was aiming at to present to the public the work of women and men who are dedicated to the end hunger by their scientific or practical work. Because, I quote Dr. Eiselen, "Only a world without hunger, will be a peaceful world." Today, we have both: man and woman, scientific and practical work. A perfect situation. We will immediately learn what the couple's achievements are.

**Laudation text from the certificate
for Eva and Fred Weltzien-Rattunde**

Drs. Eva and Fred Weltzien-Rattunde contributed significantly to food and nutritional security of smallholder farming families mainly in West Africa, but also in India and Syria, by developing important holistic methodological approaches to crop improvement with and for resource-poor farmers living in marginal stress environments. For three decades, their research has focused on the effective use of sorghum, pearl millet and barley genetic resources for variety development and seed systems that best meet vulnerable smallholder farmers' needs. The unique combination of farmer participation and empowerment with classical, nutrition-informed crop improvement, modern molecular breeding tools and innovative seed systems research implemented in numerous multi-disciplinary projects encompassing research, development-organizations and end-users has been vital to realizing these objectives. For these reasons, the Foundation fiat panis is proud to present Drs. Eva and Fred Weltzien-Rattunde with the Justus von Liebig Award for World Nutrition 2015.