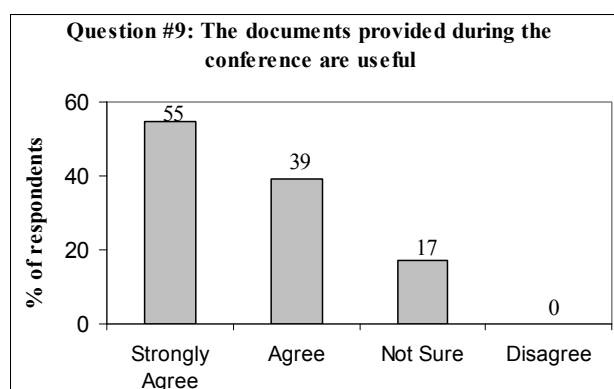
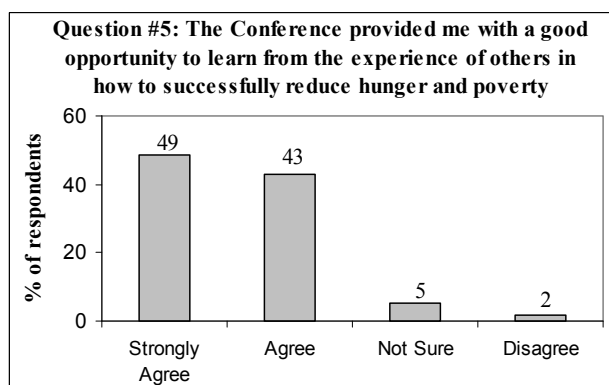


**IFPRI 2020 Conference:  
‘Taking Action for the World’s Poor and Hungry People’  
October 17-19, 2007  
Paper and Internet Survey Results<sup>1</sup>**

Concerned that millions of the world's poorest and hungry people remain in poverty and hunger, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) facilitated a consultation process, which includes the conference "Taking Action for the World's Poor and Hungry People" on October 17-19 in Beijing, to examine what new and different action is required to improve their welfare." Of the 400 participants who attended, 117 completed a survey (for the questionnaire see ANNEX I) intended to assess their observations regarding the conference.

After a review of the responses (for a summary of the results see ANNEX II), it is fair to say that overall the Conference was evaluated very positively. Here are three examples that illustrate this:

- Over 90% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that the conference provided them ‘with a good opportunity to implement strategies and actions to successfully reduce hunger and poverty’ (question 5).
- Again, over 90% of respondents were in agreement that ‘the documents provided during the conference were useful’ and no one disagreed with this statement (question 9).
- Lastly, almost 90% of the respondents were in agreement that the Conference ‘took stock of those who are left behind from progress in reducing hunger and poverty’ (question 1), ‘assessed why poverty and hunger persist for these people’ (question 2), and ‘provided good ideas on how to implement strategies and actions to successfully reduce poverty and hunger’ (question 4).



Selected Quotes from respondents regarding insights and information gained at the conference

- ‘The depth of the hunger crisis’
- ‘The importance of optimizing social services so that investments in agriculture are not crowded out’

<sup>1</sup> The survey was conducted by IFPRI’s Impact Assessment Team.

- ‘How serious the problem of social/political/economic exclusion is’
- ‘Poverty reduction & alleviating hunger need to be locale-specific in the choice of tools (science, tech, resources) and bottom-up; climate change should be included’
- ‘The sub-categorization of the poor into: a) subjacent b) medial c) ultra’
- ‘Several innovative mechanisms: 1) in E. Asia & Pacific, poverty decreases but in adjacent areas - S. Asia it is increasing ; 2) IFPRI's global hunger index’
- ‘How many countries have success stories to be replicated in other countries’;

One comment for concern mentioned by some of the respondents was that the Conference should have been more focused on action/implementation of the discussed strategies for aiding the world's poor and hungry. Further suggestions for the Conference were that there could have been more group discussion/participation and to have the papers and presentations available to participants prior to the presentation.

## **ANNEX I:**

# **Beijing Conference Questionnaire**

## Taking Action for the World's Poor and Hungry People

关注贫困，行动起来

Agir en faveur de ceux qui souffrent de la pauvreté et de la faim dans le monde  
Pasando a la acción en favor de los que sufren de pobreza y hambre en el mundo

Beijing, China • October 17-19, 2007

### QUESTIONNAIRE

We are delighted that you participated in this Conference. In order to appropriately assess the impact of and gain valuable lessons from the Conference activity, we would be most grateful to receive your feedback. Please take a moment to complete this questionnaire and return it in the marked boxes at the Secretariat desk or inside the main plenary hall. Kindly check the box that indicates your response.

The Conference:

1. Took stock of those who are left behind from progress in reducing hunger and poverty  
[1] Strongly Agree  [2] Agree  [3] Not sure  [4] Disagree
2. Assessed why poverty and hunger persist for these people  
[1] Strongly Agree  [2] Agree  [3] Not sure  [4] Disagree
3. Made me aware of new findings and approaches to reach those left behind  
[1] Strongly Agree  [2] Agree  [3] Not sure  [4] Disagree
4. Provided good ideas on how to implement strategies and actions to successfully reduce poverty and hunger  
[1] Strongly Agree  [2] Agree  [3] Not sure  [4] Disagree
5. Provided me with a good opportunity to learn from the experiences of others in how to successfully reduce hunger and poverty  
[1] Strongly Agree  [2] Agree  [3] Not sure  [4] Disagree
6. The conference added value to other initiatives and processes already ongoing to reduce hunger and poverty  
[1] Strongly Agree  [2] Agree  [3] Not sure  [4] Disagree
7. The conference contributes to raising public awareness about the need for building effective partnerships and appropriate policy actions to reach the poor and hungry  
[1] Strongly Agree  [2] Agree  [3] Not sure  [4] Disagree
8. The conference contributed to identifying areas of consensus on strategies and actions for reducing poverty and hunger  
[1] Strongly Agree  [2] Agree  [3] Not sure  [4] Disagree

Hosted by 承办

International Poverty Reduction Center in China ♦ International Food Policy Research Institute ♦ Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences

中国国际扶贫中心

国际食物政策研究所

中国农业科学院

<http://www.ifpri.org/2020ChinaConference/index.htm>

9. The documents provided during the conference are useful

[1] Strongly Agree  [2] Agree  [3] Not sure  [4] Disagree

10. The conference enabled me to broaden and deepen my networks and partnerships

[1] Strongly Agree  [2] Agree  [3] Not sure  [4] Disagree

11. The Conference motivated and inspired me to take action to reach the poor and hungry

[1] Strongly Agree  [2] Agree  [3] Not sure  [4] Disagree

12. I now have a better understanding of:

a. who the poorest and hungry are

[1] Strongly Agree  [2] Agree  [3] Not sure  [4] Disagree

b. what can be done to improve their welfare

[1] Strongly Agree  [2] Agree  [3] Not sure  [4] Disagree

c. how to effectively take action to reach them

[1] Strongly Agree  [2] Agree  [3] Not sure  [4] Disagree

13. What new or surprising information and insights did you gain from the Conference?

14. Are there any suggestions, ideas, comments that you would like to share with us? If so, please note below:

15. My affiliation is best described as:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> farmers/farmer association             | <input type="checkbox"/> regional/sub-regional institutions/networks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> media                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> NGO/CBO                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> high-level policymaker                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Research organization                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> parliamentarian                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Academia/University                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> policy advisor/ministerial staff       | <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Industry                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bilateral/Multilateral/UN organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                                       |

16. I work:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| [1] in Asia <input type="checkbox"/>                            | [2] in Sub-Saharan Africa <input type="checkbox"/>             |
| [3] in Latin America and the Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/> | [4] in Europe, North America, Oceania <input type="checkbox"/> |
| [5] Other <input type="checkbox"/>                              |  |

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.  
Please return the questionnaire before you depart the Conference.

## **ANNEX II:**

# **Summary of the Results**

	Questions	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree
1	The conference took stock of those who are left behind from progress in reducing hunger and poverty	48%	40%	8%	3%
2	The conference assessed why poverty and hunger persist for these people	50%	39%	7%	3%
3	The conference made me aware of new findings and approaches to reach those left behind	42%	39%	14%	3%
4	The conference provided good ideas on how to implement strategies and actions to successfully reduce poverty and hunger	34%	45%	17%	3%
5	The conference provided me with a good opportunity to learn from the experiences of others in how to successfully reduce hunger and poverty	49%	43%	5%	2%
6	The conference added value to other initiatives and processes already ongoing to reduce hunger and poverty	39%	44%	13%	3%
7	The conference contributes to raising public awareness about the need for building effective partnerships and appropriate policy actions to reach the poor and hungry	44%	40%	13%	1%
8	The conference contributed to identifying areas of consensus on strategies and actions for reducing poverty and hunger	35%	50%	11%	3%
9	The documents provided during the conference are useful	55%	39%	2%	0%
10	The conference enabled me to broaden and deepen my networks and partnerships	39%	48%	6%	2%
11	The conference motivated and inspired me to take action to reach the poor and hungry	38%	46%	9%	3%
12	I now have a better understanding of				
a	who are the poorest and hungry	37%	46%	12%	3%
b	what can be done to improve their welfare	27%	50%	20%	3%
c	how to effectively take action to reach them	27%	49%	29%	2%

13	<b>What new or surprising information and insights did you gain from the Conference</b>
	subdivision of the extreme poor
	Need for focused attn on poverty & hunger as an issue for all institutions & individuals w/in society
	The sub-categorization of the poor into: a) subadjacent b) medial c) ultra
	poverty & hunger can be tackled collectively not single handedly as a single country. Poverty is not lack of resources but in most cases lack of knowledge/ideas ...
	That how similar the problems were all over the world

I greatly appreciated the focus on scaling-up & found some of the presentations very informative & providing some new insights

no surprising new information

poverty traps ; sub-Saharan Africa situation

some data is not very accurate

experience of China

impressive efforts of the Chinese gov't & its people

the innovations and challenges still facing countries in achieving poverty reduction and elimination of hunger

the typical econ view that growth is sufficient to address poverty reduction & inequality is clearly inadequate. More attention was paid to social dev. & politics in order to address inequalities. Also some insights into the special needs of Africa

1) concept about dev of China ; 2) World Agricultural Dev. Report

several innovative mechanisms: 1) in E. Asia & Pacific, poverty decreases but in adjacent areas - S. Asia it is increasing ;  
2)IFPRI's global hunger index

As a research on poverty & malnutrition, I do not think I learnt that much new, but very important to have the opportunity to meet old colleagues & new would-be colleagues

the importance of optimizing social services so that investments in agric are not crowded out

We got to learn a lot about China, much more ... level of info that is available about this countryoutside it

The success of China and Brazil

that when we speak of poor, I though it is one group, but many sub groups

New categories of the poor; flows rather than stocks, in measuring poverty (?)

the impact of inequality on poverty reduction

list of countries that have already achieved MDG1

China's effort in reducing poverty

on the racial dimension of poverty alleviation

how many countries have success stories to be replicated in other countries

The importance of developing a scaling-up plan (although its not clear when in the whole process of project implementation will it be done - before, during or after project; testing? Modeling?) & the reason why scaling rarely happens

resource person & speakers are knowledgeable & skills & experiences

1)impressive performance of Brazilian Br... families (?); 2)fact that evaluations of CCT, while showing success, have not shown that 'cond...' element is essential for this

Lessons from China, Brazil, India & Philipp.

I enjoyed most learning about the Brazilian experience with conditional cast transfers

the # of people in the world who are hungry

the depth of hunger crisis

the extent to which malnutrition caused by parents & hunger leads to infant mortality in developing countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa

China's data

poverty reduction & alleviating hunger need to be locale-specific in the choice of tools (science, tech, resources) and bottom-up; climate change should be included

how serious the problem of social/ political / economic exclusion is

very little

the extent to which the vulnerable people are poor & hungry

- 1) target poverty alleviation
- 2) manage poverty funds
- 3) 2 problems in China: a) too market-oriented, no policy for sustainable growth b) rural-urban difference

view of research & action

Global players are all concerned with poverty and related social issues. Although everybody has different points of view, I'm sure we will be able to find moreeffective approaches to reduce poverty by working collaboratively

fully discuss China's experience, which is recognized by the world

it's surprising to notice the sever poverty issue in the whole world, especially Africa, Asia & LAC, for example Zambia poverty rate = 68%, extremem poverty = 53%. Bio-enhancement research is great and shuld get more support

Africa: conflicts, infrastructure

Gender Discrimination after the baby was born; malnutrition & poverty

3rd factors

Chinese poverty line should increase to match \$1/day. It is good that more & more people care about poverty issues

Biotech will help poverty and malnutrition

Chinese gov't could use more private sector in poverty reduction

biotech projects to solve malnutrition

- 1) understand what is anti-poverty aim
- 2) three different poverty groups
- 3) the poor people in China larger than Africa
- 4) surprised at number of Chinese disabilities
- 5) 1 child died in low nutrition in 6 minutes

I'm surprised that most poverty reductions still focus on hunger, malnutrition, etc. World poverty is beyond my lower level expectations

discrimination as a cause of poverty & hunger

14

**Other suggestions, ideas, comments that you would like to share:**

more on the ground, specific; macro-micro link

either more science or operational

Conf. should have been much more focused on ACTION with people in action - such as private sector, activists, NGOS. Too many academics, donors, policy people; too much abstraction

I want a section on making a good picture of policy intervention in the past and in the future. They do not discuss cost & benefit analysis & optimal allocation of efforts into each project & over time.

Absence of PNL and Pacific nations / representatives

Int'l forums can be a vehicle to learn experiences and help to remove poverty & hunger

keep up the excellent work

- 1) Needed paper on how poor / hungry can benefit from variations (regional) in natural endowments & agro-climatic conditions ;
- 2) role of media in fight against poverty / hunger

More focus on: 1) impact of global warming & possible mitigation measures ; 2) regional (inter-country) cooperation as a tool for fighting poverty in small & land-locked countries (central Asia, central America, central Africa)

Q: What was the cost of the event? What's the cost benefit ratio? We face the same question...

I was very disappointed (as other participants also are). This was an expensive conf & a lot of work for many. But it lacked passion & focus; it did not inspire, in part b/c all presentations were short. Over meals people said it was 'tired, 'superficial,' and 'like every other conference.' This is so sad as IFPRI could (should) do much better. It convened a very good group but alas did not use them fully, as listeners or as speakers. All technical & logistical issues were superb.

Conf. was well structured & conducted extremely well. Congrats are due to the sponsors & organizers

expand the good mechanism to extend education to the poor

please pay more attention to the role of micro-finance in PRSPs

distribution of wk/shop papers - AWFUL ; suggest distribution of conf. proceedings & papers on CD and/or tape

bring perspectives from poor people themselves to a conference such as this one

I would very much appreciate to get the ppt presentations before the presentation. Often it is difficult to read (all) the info from the screen. Having the paper also enables to take notes directly. Considering problems w/ interpretation, making the ppts available would be helpful

too many presentations per session ; too many parallel sessions ; too many topics; discussions too superficial ; more women presenters! Women were extremely under-represented!!!!

the conf. was too heavy on set-piece speeches, with insufficient opportunity for genuine discussion and debate

rights-based issues/ topics / discussions of the farmers must be included

during the panel discussion, group discussion (participants divided into groups) would have encouraged to get more views & info from the participants. Not mere restricting them with only one question.

Chosen countries aren't very representative (case studies); countries in the Pacific Islands (where poverty is still a major issue) being left out! Presentations from high-level authorities don't add much to my knowledge. All of them seem to praise what good jobs their country achieve in general. I would prefer to have more presentations from researchers and academics

translations could be improved and copies of slides should be made available before the presentations

I think there could have been formal arrangements for the doctoral students to interact with top researchers in their particular fields so that the students get some feedback on their work. Special time could have been allocated in the evenings for such activities.

for this kind of a w/shop which is taking action, much more participation of grassroots workers as speakers was need. There were only a few speakers from this section

pre-conditions for poverty & hunger reduction seem to be political consensus & stability with strong & honest

great work to the organizers

feedback from parallel sessions should be synthesis rather than summary of presentations. Rapporteurs should discuss policy implications

more interaction needed between presenters and participants

need to follow up

the conf does not address issues related to data base needed in identifying the poor

work on the politicians to act, both in the countries where the poor reside and donor countries

Venue of the parallel session is suggested to be just in one building so we can easily transfer from one room to the other to listen to various topics of interest

it is very good to see the convening of this conference taking place in China & w/ an audience of about 400 participants. Unfortunately it was not as globally represented as expected. How about suggesting that a much larger world conference of this nature be held in 2010 when 2/3 of time elapses toward possible attainment of MDG set by the UN in 2000

too much emphasis on micro-interventions when significant success seems to be associated with macro-econ success (China, India, Vietnam) & significant failure associated with macro-econ failure (many African countries) often associated with war. Success of macro-scale interventions (?) in relatively slow growing countries (Brazil)

engage in private sector, CSOs & farmers Org more directly than thru the public sector only when taking action

yes - this is a very important gathering and hope that what is discussed here is implemented!

we discussed lots of issues. We should have spent more time discussing successes. The participants would have been inspired more by discussing large scale successes on ground

far too superficial & broad; hardly any in-depth discussion of any issue

1)make it more participatory; 2) consider changing format such as WEF Davos; 3)speakers focus on what they have done in the last 12 months and share what worked, what does not - Those who do not have specific program execution over last 12 months should not be speakers\* \*insist speakers speak to WHAT THEY HAVE DONE, HOW, WHAT WORKS/DOES NOT, not just repeat demographic facts which most of us know

Conferences like this must be organized periodically to monitor the success of the various actions proposed for implementation

we missed hearing NGOs points of view; in relation to countries it would be important having South Africa considered

stress quality of services as a crucial mechanism for reducing poverty

periodic review by a small committee of members from IFPRI, FAO and a world leading science & society based NGO/Civil Societies. The idea is to extend necessary guidance and suggest mid-course corrections if necessary

we need to put renowned emphasis on population planning in countries where bulk of population live in rural areas

good exercise of mixing research w/ action but at a cost of not serving both groups well. Both groups seem to be dissatisfied

STOP TOO LONG

put conference material on the web

how to nurture and support poor people and help build capacity is a key issue and innovation shall be effective in poverty alleviation

Actions First

design more innovative exchange, i.e. open challenging forum

for poverty & extreme poverty there should be a similar & resonable standard to measure. And povertys hould not be limited to income. Debt, disease and disasters should also be considered.

link policy & implementation; emphasize science & technology in poverty alleviation

poverty is a lont-term project, but humanitarian help will succeed eventually!

1. reliability of data
2. projects considered regional special conditions and adaptability

put material on line for study. Will there be proceedings?

1) china should pay more attention on anti-poverty

have rapporteurs for every session not for a few

more room for interaction, but this is of course task of he participants themselves; heavy load of paper presentation only; The meaning/ definition of poverty (which goes far beyond the one dollar threshold), not only lack of food but also lack of rights, lack of access to resources, education, information etc. could have been more "exploited" for the sake of the conference, and thematically be the guide through the three days, but may be then it would have become too political in its overall scenario. Excellent, really excellent organisation by the chinese host, very good facilities, however it would have been also nice to have a session at a university or research station for example; I really could establish some very useful contacts, which will last beyond the conference and which are very enriching and stimulating, hence for me the conference really made a difference; many many thanks to IFPRI!!! Also the sharing of publications and preparations of reports etc. the work of the secretariat and speedy publication of papers etc. was very good. I also enjoyed the launching of the world bank report "Agriculture for Development" very much.

Should establish machanism for follow up and monitoring of the result of poverty reduction.

To suggest policy makers always to take into account the need to fight poverty on their development and security policies. Thsistematically

The sessions were too large. I would have liked much smaller breakout groups to allow for dialogue.

Help form and strengthen AFrican capacities to follow China's example

I did not find "The world's most deprived" paper particularly useful. Research is questionable -- given the quality of the data it is not possible to subdivide the under-\$1-a-day category into \$0.75, \$0.50 etc without huge errors and without opening yourself to criticism.

Coming from the business sector. I found the talks to be academic or technical. The symposuim should invite private sector participants: companies or social entrepreneurs and understand what they are also doing for the poor and hungry

The conference was well organized but these massive events are not cost effective. The Chinese leadership could get away too easily with rather empty propaganda Africa was underrepresented Plenary sessions should be media events Small working groups are more effective

15 My affiliation is best described as:

Academia/University (33/117) = 28%  
 Research Organization (17/117) = 15%  
 NGO/CBO (17/117) = 15%  
 Policy Advisor/Minist. Staff (9/117) = 8%  
 Reg./Sub-Reg. inst/network (9/117) = 8%  
 Business / Industry (9/117) = 8%  
 Bilateral/Multi/UN Org (7/117) = 6%  
 Media (5/117) = 4%  
 Other (5/117) = 4%  
 High-level policymaker (4/117) = 3%  
 Farmer/ farmer association (3/117) = 3%  
 Parliamentarian (4/117) = 4%

<b>16</b>	I work in	Asia (62/117) = 53% Sub-Saharan Africa (33/117) = 29% Europe, No America, Oceania (13/117) = 11% Latin Amer. & the Caribbean (7/117) = 6% Other (3/117) = 3%
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