

funded over the past 20 years. During the same time period, the agro-cartels claimed unprecedented, sweeping patent rights to food seeds and methods of bio-engineering them, including Cargill/Monsanto, Dow/Pioneer, Syngenta, and others. In fact, the latest Bush Administration budget proposal for FY2009 eliminates all U.S. funding for CGIAR from the budget line formerly in the State Department/Agency for International Development (AID). In April, hundreds of agro-scientists started an online protest petition to demand U.S. funding of CGIAR.

What has happened during the undercutting of CGIAR and nation-serving R&D, is that research tied to the private purse strings of Bill Gates has been furthered. In 2006, the Africa Green Revolution Association—AGRA, was created with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation. In January 2008, Bill Gates also announced a \$40 million grant to the IRRI. Since then,

the Gates Foundation announced funding for a new agency to fight the UG99 wheat rust menace.

AGRA is based in Accra, and headed by former UN Secretary General Khofi Annan. At the December 2007 Lisbon meeting of the EU and African nations, AGRA held a science session, de facto in the context of the cartel push for EU/Africa Economic Partnership Agreements.

It is very much hoped, of course, that some good will come of the Gates-funded research. But the issue is that privatized charity is no substitute for a world of nation-states collaborating on science and economic measures for the mutual benefit of peoples.

Today’s global food crisis is delivering a reality shock, that calls us to resume deliberate, humanity-serving policies, and ending the warmed-over British Empire game once and for all.

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Sarawak Can Become Malaysia’s Rice Field

Sarawak, one of the provinces on the northern coast of Borneo, which is separated from the Malaysian peninsula by the South China Sea (see map), has vast undeveloped agricultural potential. It is also the site of the Bakun Dam, which will be completed within the next four years, providing adequate energy supplies to the region for agro-industrial development.

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi,

after meeting with the chief minister of Sarawak, YAB Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, said: “If other countries don’t want to export to us, this will create problems for our people... We want to ensure food security, so... Sarawak can become the ‘rice field’ for Malaysia.” The chief minister noted that rice growers elsewhere had turned to cereals for biofuels production, and said big rice plantations were needed to meet the rice national-sufficiency goal. Transportation and irrigation infrastructure investment will be required to make this possible. A committee composed of high-level figures from both the public and the private sectors was established to oversee the implementation of the program.

Mohd Peter Davis, a scientist at Universiti Putra Malaysia and a representative of the LaRouche movement in

the country, has long warned that the intentional dependence on food imports in Malaysia could result in disaster as the impending world food crisis left the nation in the same conditions it faced during the Japanese occupation during World War II, cut off from imports. Davis praised the government’s initiative, and was encouraged that the government may also adopt his unique proposals for expanding animal production in tropical climates as part of the emergency food program (see *EIR*, April 25, 2008).

Malaysia

