

# THE PARLIAMENTARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

AN ASSOCIATE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

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## **PRESS RELEASE: 3 November 2005**

A meeting of the Committee was held on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2005 at 5.30pm in the Boothroyd Room, Portcullis House

### **“From the Green to the Gene Revolution – A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenge”**

The invited speaker was:-

**Dr Norman E Borlaug** The Nobel Peace Prize 1970  
President, Sasakawa Africa Association

Dr Borlaug – who is credited with saving more lives than any other person who ever lived – joined the Rockefeller Foundation’s pioneering technical assistance programme in Mexico in 1944 where, as a geneticist and plant pathologist, he directed the Cooperative Wheat Research and Production Program. Within twenty years he was spectacularly successful in finding a high yielding short-strawed, disease resistant wheat. He arranged as a practical humanitarian to put the new cereal strains into extensive production to feed the hungry of the world thus providing in his words “a temporary success in man’s war against hunger and deprivation”, a breathing space in which to deal with the “Population Monster” and the subsequent environmental and social ills that too often lead to conflict between men and nations. Vast acreages of the new wheat were planted with revolutionary yields harvested in Mexico, India and Pakistan – the Green Revolution, which led to the award of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970.

Since 1986, he has been the President of the Sasakawa Africa Association, and leader of the Sasakawa-Global 2000 agricultural programme in sub-Saharan Africa, along with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, which has worked with several million farmers in 15 countries of sub-Saharan Africa to increase food production.

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A full report of the meeting will be published in Science in Parliament – Spring Issue 2006