

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

**The Institute on Science for Global Policy (ISGP)
in partnership with North Dakota State University
will convene an ISGP conference on
Food Safety, Security, and Defense:
Food Security and Diet-Linked Public Health Challenges
in Fargo, North Dakota, U.S., September 20–23, 2015**

Food Safety, Security, and Defense (FSSD), identified by participating governments, international organizations, and the private sector as major policy priorities, has been the topic of an ongoing series of invitation-only conferences convened by the Institute on Science for Global Policy (ISGP). The fourth FSSD conference is being organized in partnership with North Dakota State University and will be convened September 20–23, 2015 in Fargo, North Dakota. This ISGP conference will focus on using food diversity to address global chronic disease challenges and how “Food Security and Diet Linked Public Health Challenges” are particularly affecting American Indian communities.

This conference is part of a series of FSSD conference on “Nutrition, Sustainable Agriculture, and Human Health.” Of particular importance is how nutritional value within the food supply impacts different segments of the population. These segments have distinct phenotypes, reflective of the variety of genetic backgrounds found throughout society. The recognition that the variability of phenotypes within a population causes individual groups to respond differently to the nutritional values in foods has become an important part of both scientific research and, more recently, public policy. All ISGP conferences are conducted in “not-for-attribution” environments (Chatham House Rule).

This ongoing series of ISGP conferences is devoted to linking scientifically credible understanding to the formulation and implementation of sound, effective domestic and international policies concerning the diverse aspects of the safety, security, and defense throughout our increasingly global food supply.

FSSD: Food Security and Diet Linked Public Health Challenges

This ISGP conference begins with caucus meetings, a reception, and dinner on Sunday, September 20. The initial two days of the conference (Monday and Tuesday) focus on discussions and critical debates of the seven concise (3-page) policy position papers prepared and presented by internationally recognized scientists invited by the ISGP. Through both their policy position papers and contributions to the debates, these scientific experts provide their views of the current realities, the scientific opportunities and challenges, and the pertinent policy issues associated with a specific aspect (e.g., Food Security and Diet-Linked Public Health Challenges) of the general topic (e.g., FSSD).

The unusual, if not unique, format for each ISGP conference emphasizes critical debates between the invited scientists and an international audience of subject-matter experts invited by the ISGP following consultations with the participating countries in North America, Europe, Australia, South America and Asia. ISGP programs and conferences are designed to reflect the international expertise and global perspectives of all participants and to clarify scientific and technical understanding needed by the nonspecialists who are often charged with policy decisions. Policy makers routinely lead the conference debates and caucuses. The ISGP format also provides an opportunity for the scientific community to experience the challenges of

formulating and implementing effective policies involving scientific and technological issues.

Small-group caucuses are held on Tuesday (Sept. 22) evening followed by a plenary caucus on Wednesday (Sept. 23) involving all participants. These caucuses are designed to identify areas of consensus and actionable next steps to be considered by governmental and societal leaders. The conference concludes after lunch on Wednesday. “Not-for-attribution” summaries of all debates are prepared by the ISGP staff and published with the policy position papers in publicly available books

To learn more about the **FSSD: Focus on Food and the Environment** conference and for more information about how invitations to the conference are being extended, contact Jennifer Boice at (520) 343-8181, or at (jboice@scienceforglobalpolicy.org) or visit www.scienceforglobalpolicy.org.