



HARVARD
T.H. CHAN

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Tang Lixia

Birth date: June 22nd, 1979

China Agricultural University

17 Qinghua Donglu, Haidian District

Beijing 100083, China

Dear Associate Professor Tang Lixia,

It is with pleasure that I cordially invite you to speak at Harvard's high-level conference on the Integration of Nutrition and Health, Agriculture, and the Environment in Africa. This University-wide event will be held in Boston, Massachusetts on Monday and Tuesday, November 6-7, 2017.

Your vast experience and expertise would greatly enhance this conference, which aims to generate attention and awareness, create opportunities for novel collaborations, and identify a path forward toward solving complex health and development challenges. Understanding the intersections of agriculture, nutrition, and public health is particularly important in Africa, where populations are growing and urbanizing rapidly, and high rates of undernutrition and infectious diseases are exacerbated by an increasing burden of overweight/obesity and noncommunicable diseases. Agricultural production systems are under pressure to keep pace with population shifts and dietary transition. In addition to preventing illness and removing some burden from health systems, a holistic approach to malnutrition can also help foster healthy, sustainable environments, with exponential benefits for planetary health.

There is increasing global attention and commitment to bridging this gap. The recently adopted United Nations Sustainable Development Goals have highlighted the interconnectedness of food security, agriculture, environmental sustainability, and nutrition, and secured high-level commitments from around the globe. There is no doubt that this is an increasingly important issue that requires multisectoral and diverse perspectives.

We would be honored to welcome you at Harvard University as a distinguished speaker on lessons from China in agricultural development for nutrition. We would also use the opportunity of your visit to arrange side meetings with Harvard colleagues. We are pleased to be able to cover costs for economy airfare and lodging for four nights associated with your travel to Boston from November 4-9, 2017. Please let us know how we can best help facilitate your visit. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Wafaie Fawzi

Cc: Professor Emmanuel Akyeampong
Professor Calestous Juma
Professor Robert Paarlberg
Professor Walter Willett