



Roland Bunch Class of 2017

Roland Bunch graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1961 and earned numerous awards including life membership in CSF, Bank of America Awards for Science and Mathematics, a letter of commendation for National Merit Scholarship Competition, the Mathematical Association of America Award, and a California State Scholarship to the University of Pacific. He also found time to be involved in the chess club, the choir, the creative writing club, senior stage play crew member, as well as tutor a blind student.

Community activities included playing the organ at several churches and marching in the Martin Luther King civil rights movement. Before moving to Oroville from Modesto, he voluntarily raised goats to be sent to South Korea by the Heifer Project's International Office in Modesto.

Roland earned his BA degree with high honors in mathematics, and his California Secondary Teaching Credential from the University of Pacific (UOP). He earned his MS degree in International Agricultural Development from California Polytechnic State University with a GPA of 3.9.

Roland has been a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Rio Platano Foundation in Honduras; an Honorary Board member of the Vecinos Peru Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in Peru; a member of the Advisory Committee of the Cornell International Institute of Food, Agriculture and Development (CIIFAD) at Cornell University; and a member of the Board of Directors of the Hesperian Foundation (the publishers of at least 10 books, by far the most important of which is *Where There is No Doctor*, which has sold over a million copies in more than 50 languages).

Roland served as: the director of the Chimaltenango Development Program in Guatemala (1969-1971); the founder and director of the San Martin Jilotepeque Integrated Development Program, which was rated the best of 41 highly selected development programs around the world by Development Alternatives International and which sustainably tripled the maize production of 3,000 families (1972-73); the Latin America Training Advisor for World Neighbors (1974-1980); the Area Representative for Central America and the Caribbean of World Neighbors (1981-1989); the Head of the Department of Agricultural School in Honduras (1995-96); a founder and coordinator of COSECHA, a Honduran NGO that has heavily influenced the agricultural development work of many NGO's in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua (1992-2003); a member of the United Nations Millennium Program Task Force on Hunger set up by Kofi Annan and run by Jeffrey Sachs (2002-2005); and the Overseas Director of Agricultural programs for World neighbors (2004-2005).

He has made speeches to the plenary sessions of over 100 international conferences in over 30 nations; has carried out over 100 paid consultancies in 46 nations by over 50 NGO's plus the national governments of Honduras, Nicaragua, Swaziland and Vietnam; has published some 15 chapters for various books, and dozens of magazine articles. His book *Two Ears of Corn, A Guide to People-Centered Agricultural Improvement*, first published in 1982, was published in ten languages and stands as one of the two or three best-sellers in the history of agricultural development. It served as a very early advocate of farmer-to-farmer extension (known in much of Latin America today as Campesino a Campesino approach) and of smallholder farmer experimentation (now known world-wide as Participatory Technology Development, or PTD). At present Roland is one of the two most widely experienced and well-known advocates (along with Ademir Calegari) of the green manure/cover crop movement that is active in over 40 nations around the world.

Roland has been nominated for the Global 500 Environmental Prize, the End Hunger Prize of the President of the United States, and the World Food Prize.

In a letter of support Dr. Paul Sweet writes, *“A year’s hitch-hiking trip to Bolivia during college changed Roland’s life from a direction in mathematics to one of helping people in the Third World. To this end, I remember seeing the small town of Guinope, Honduras, being re-populated by farmers returning to the renewed soil that his program had produced, much against the current belief of the “experts” at that time that such couldn’t be done. “He is a blessing to me and the world.”*

After living 5 years in Nairobi, Kenya, and Kathmandu, Nepal, Roland and his wife, Ellen, recently relocated to Portland, Oregon.