

## Robert L. Thompson

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Professor ROBERT L. THOMPSON holds the Gardner Endowed Chair in Agricultural Policy at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, where he carries on an active program of classroom- and extension-education in public policy. He serves on the USDA-USTR Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade and the International Food and Agricultural Trade Policy Council.

From mid-1998 until late 2002 Thompson was at the World Bank where he served as its Director of Rural Development, with administrative responsibility for the Bank's worldwide agriculture, forestry and rural development programs. He also served as the Bank's Senior Advisor for Agricultural Trade Policy.

From mid-1995 to mid-1998, Thompson served as President and CEO of Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development, a not-for profit institution which carries on projects in 40 countries worldwide to reduce poverty and hunger by increasing agricultural productivity and rural employment while protecting the quality of the environment.

From 1987 to 1993, Thompson was Dean of Agriculture at Purdue University, where he oversaw agricultural instruction, extension, research, international programs, and regulatory affairs for the State of Indiana. In addition, he was a professor of agricultural economics at Purdue University from 1974 to 1993, focusing on agricultural trade policy, U.S. agricultural policy, and world agricultural development.

Thompson was Assistant Secretary for Economics at the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 1985 to 1987 and Senior Staff Economist for Food and Agriculture on the President's Council of Economic Advisers from 1983 to 1985. In these capacities, he played an instrumental role in writing the 1985 farm bill and preparing for the Uruguay Round of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs & Trade) negotiations.

Active in all facets of agriculture, Thompson is a past president of the International Association of Agricultural Economists and a former board member of the National Cooperative Bank; PSI Resources, and its wholly owned subsidiary, PSI Energy; the Vigoro Corporation; Terra Industries, Inc., Rabobank's North American Agribusiness Advisory Board, and the International Agribusiness Management Association. He currently serves as an Advisory Director on the Land O'Lakes board of directors. He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

Thompson holds honorary doctorates from the Pennsylvania State University and Dalhousie University (Canada). He is a fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry and of the Ukrainian Academy of Agricultural Sciences. In 1982, Thompson was the first recipient of Purdue University's Agricultural Research Award. The U.S. Department of Agriculture gave him its Superior Service Award in 1989, and its Justin Smith Morrill award in 1995, for "demonstrated leadership and significant contributions to food and agricultural science." In 1999, the American College of Nutrition presented him with its Humanitarian of the Year award.

Thompson has extensive international experience and has completed long-term assignments in Denmark, Laos, and Brazil. He has lectured, consulted, or conducted research in more than 90 countries worldwide. He is author of over 120 research and popular publications. He has been frequently interviewed by the media on current agricultural policy issues, including the Washington Post, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, Time and Newsweek magazines, CNBC, the Today Show, and National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" and "The World."

Thompson is a Bachelor of Science graduate of Cornell University and received its outstanding alumni award in 1988. Thompson earned both his Master of Science and doctor of philosophy degrees from Purdue University. He was raised on a dairy farm near Ogdensburg, New York. He is married to the former Karen Hansen of the Danish island of Bornholm.

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