



THE CRAWFORD FUND

An Initiative of the Australian Academy of  
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# Crawford Fund

## 2009 Annual International Conference

# World Food Security

### Can Private Sector R&D Feed the Poor?

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE AND ABSTRACT FOR

## Ms Janice Armstrong



Janice Armstrong is the Vice-President of Corporate Affairs for Asia-Pacific and China for Monsanto, a leading global provider of technology-based solutions and agricultural products that improve farm productivity and food quality. She leads a team of public and government affairs professionals across the region that is focused on ensuring a broad understanding of biotechnology by all stakeholders. This technology enables both small-holder and large-scale farmers to produce more from their land while conserving more of our world's natural resources such as water and energy. Janice has been working in Asia Pacific, China and India since 2006. Before coming to Asia, Janice was Monsanto's Public Affairs Director for North and South America. A native of Canada, Janice has a farm background and has been involved in agriculture most of her career. She holds a Bachelor of Journalism degree with Honors from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada.

### Staple Crops, Smallholder Farmers and Multinationals

Doubling food production by 2050 under conditions of climate change and depleted natural resources requires increased investment and creative approaches. The Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project, a five-year public-private partnership begun in 2008 and led by the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), is an excellent example. Under WEMA, Monsanto, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), and national agricultural research systems in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique and South Africa are developing, testing, and disseminating drought-tolerant maize. Efforts involve both advanced, conventional breeding techniques and biotechnology tools. Transgenic drought tolerance from Monsanto and BASF is being added to elite, drought tolerant maize lines from CIMMYT and Monsanto so that the new varieties will withstand the increasing impacts of climate change in Africa. WEMA varieties have been licensed to AATF, for eventual use by local qualified seed producers and made available to them royalty-free. The project reflects both Monsanto and CIMMYT's goals of putting advanced technology within reach of smallholders in developing countries. In this pioneering effort, important challenges have arisen around project governance, contrasts in institutional culture, managing risk, intellectual property, and external communications. More difficulties loom in the areas of regulatory approval, contracting, delivery and stewardship. Addressing these issues demands determination, creativity, and good faith of all parties. WEMA is proving a valuable learning experience for participants and, hopefully, a model for multi-sectorial alliances that focus on crucial development aims.

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*Gemeine Nudenkirche.*