



THE CRAWFORD FUND

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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

## Cl Laxmipathi Gowda



CL Laxmipathi Gowda is currently Global Theme Leader of Crop Improvement at ICRISAT. He has PhD (in Genetics and Plant Breeding) from IARI, New Delhi, India. He is working at ICRISAT since 1975, and has 35 books, 25 book chapters, more than 60 journal articles and 90 conference papers to his credit. He is also a recipient of several national and international awards and recognitions. Dr Gowda is an internationally renowned Legumes Breeder associated in developing 65 chickpea varieties released in 10 countries that have made significant impacts. He established a viable Cereals and Legumes Asia Network (CLAN) for exchange of technology for enhancing agricultural production, and trained over 2500 scientists from 12 Asian countries. He is one of the main architects for public-private partnership with seed companies that is now a model in other CGIAR Centers.

### **Public-Private Sector Partnering on Crops for the Poorest of the Poor**

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is mandated to work on sorghum, pearl millet, chickpea, pigeonpea and groundnut which are staple food crops for the poor people in the dry-land tropics. These crops are grown on marginal lands, with poor soil fertility and erratic rainfall leading to low yields, often less than 1 ton/ha, although potential yields are up to 10 tons/ha. ICRISAT partners with both public and private sector (PS) institutions to increase productivity, by ensuring that seeds of high-yielding varieties and hybrids are available to poor farmers at affordable price and at the right time and place. In the year 2000, ICRISAT and PS seed companies initiated the Hybrid Parents Research Consortium as a novel public-private research and development (R&D) partnership for improving availability of seeds of high yielding cultivars. ICRISAT develops and provides early and advanced generation breeding materials to partners. Private sector partners select best parents, test, multiply and market high-yielding hybrids through their well-established market networks in the rural areas. ICRISAT has partnered with >50 PS seed companies in India, Indonesia, Egypt and Mexico through the consortium approach to deliver its research products (improved hybrids and varieties) to poor farmers through the private sector partnership. This approach exploits complementary expertise and synergies between public sector international agriculture research center (IARC) in conducting basic research to improve the germplasm, and the PS in development and marketing seed of improved cultivars, without compromising the IARC global research agenda of delivering international public goods (IPGs) for the benefit of poor farmers in developing countries of the world.

*189. Mysore's Akhanga L.*

*Gemeiner Sudenkirsche.*