



# MEDIA ALERT

14 October 2009

**WORLD FOOD SECURITY:  
CAN PRIVATE SECTOR R&D FEED THE POOR?**  
27 and 28 October, Parliament House Canberra

## **PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT FOR THE POOR - MORE THAN MOBILE PHONES?**

*Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*

*Alliance for A Green Revolution in Africa*

*Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture*

*Monsanto and Dupont*

*International and Australian public-good researchers*

Why is it that some technologies, such as the mobile phone, flourish in the developing world but desperately needed agricultural technologies don't find their way to the countries that need them?

Considerable controversy continues around questions such as intellectual property rights, multinational profits, the development of GMO's for the developing world and biopiracy, but the private sector can provide much-needed R&D to feed the poor.

Leading agriculture and development specialists will tackle this longstanding failure of the private sector at the Crawford Fund's 2009 international conference *World Food Security: Can Private Sector R&D Feed the Poor?* in Parliament House, Canberra over 27 and 28 October. Media welcome to attend.

Speakers include:

- The Hon Stephen Smith MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs (8.50am 27.10, Theatrette)
- Ms Josette Sheeran, Executive Director of the World Food Program (7pm 27.10 Mural Hall)
- The Hon Bob McMullan MP, Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance, presenting the Sir John Crawford Memorial Address (7.30pm 27.10 Mural Hall)
- Dr Marco Ferroni, Executive Director, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture (9.05am, 27.10 Theatrette)
- Dr Prabhu Pingali, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (8am 28.10, Mural Hall)
- Dr Namanga Ngongi, President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (3.35pm 27.10 Theatrette)
- Dr Bill Niebur, DuPont Vice President, Crop Genetics Research and Development (1.05pm, 27.10 Theatrette)
- Ms Janice Armstrong, Monsanto Company Asia-Pacific/China (1.30pm 27.10, Theatrette)
- Professor Philip Pardey, an internationally renowned Australian agricultural economist (9.30am 27.10 Theatrette)
- Leaders of a range of national and international public research organisations

Media kits will be available in the Theatrette Foyer media desk from 8.15am, 27 October or on request on an embargoed basis. Contact Cathy Reade on 0413 575 934 to prearrange interviews. Program, abstracts, bios and other materials link [here](#)

*The Crawford Fund wishes to thank its supporters for the event including:*

*AusAID; Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research; Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; AVRDC; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; CIMMYT; CSIRO Livestock Industries; Grains Research and Development Corporation; IFDC; Industrial Research Limited; ICRISAT; Monsanto; Pioneer Hi-Bred, A DuPont Business; Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation; Syngenta Crop Protection, and Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture*