



**WORLD FOOD SECURITY:
PRIVATE SECTOR R&D FEED THE POOR?
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
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**Public-Private Partnerships Key to Achieving Global Food Security,
Says DuPont Leader**

Effective Collaborations Have Clear Goals, Timeline, and Roles

Global food security, which is increasingly being recognized as a key to national security, will only be fully achieved through well-designed and executed public and private partnerships, William S. Niebur, vice president – DuPont Crop Genetics Research and Development, told attendees at the 2009 Crawford Fund International Conference “World Food Security: Can Private Sector R&D Feed the Poor?” in Parliament House Canberra on 27-28 October.

Speakers including senior Federal politicians, senior representatives from The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The UN World Food Program, A Green Revolution in Africa, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture and Monsanto, addressed the intersecting roles of the private, not for profit and public sectors in global food security and how to get the private sector better engaged for the benefit of the rural poor.

“Global food security challenges are becoming more complex and interconnected,” said Niebur. “The need to increase agricultural productivity amid the uncertainties of global climate change, political instabilities, shrinking availability of arable land and increasing world populations present challenges no single company, government or research institution can solve alone.”

Niebur challenged conference participants – both in public and private sectors – to find more effective ways to solve the most pressing food security issues.

“Strong partnerships between public institutions and private companies will be the preferred mechanism to effectively address the increasingly complex challenges we’ll face in the coming decades,” said Niebur.

“The most successful partnerships will create clear accountability. They will fully capture the strengths of each partner organization, have clear goals, inputs and timelines in place, and offer distinct benefit to all parties to ensure sustainability of the effort.”

He cited several effective partnerships, including the [African Biofortified Sorghum \(ABS\) Project Consortium](#) led by Africa Harvest, and [Scientific Know-How and Exchange Program](#) (SKEP) partnership with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), that are working to increase the nutrient value of food in the developing world and boost crop yields. Both partnerships rely on multiple public and private organizations around the world, with each bringing their unique resources, talent and expertise to bear in a well-orchestrated plan for success.

Niebur's remarks reflect DuPont's recently announced commitment to focus on meeting four emerging global trends, one of which is increasing food production.

DuPont has strategically focused on increasing food production, investing more than \$700 million annually in research and development with more than 200 germplasm patent applications filed in the first half of 2009. DuPont business Pioneer Hi-Bred is the world's leading developer and supplier of advanced plant genetics to farmers worldwide.

[DuPont](#) is a science-based products and services company. Founded in 1802, DuPont puts science to work by creating sustainable solutions essential to a better, safer, healthier life for people everywhere. Operating in more than 70 countries, DuPont offers a wide range of innovative products and services for markets including agriculture and food; building and construction; communications; and transportation.

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Other speakers at this year's Crawford Fund conference include:

- The Hon Stephen Smith MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs opening the event;
- The Hon Bob McMullan MP, Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance making the inaugural Sir John Crawford Memorial Address;
- Ms Josette Sheeran, Executive Director of the World Food Program;
- Dr Prabhu Pingali of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation;
- Dr Marco Ferroni, Executive Director, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture;
- Dr Namanga Ngongi , President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa;
- Ms Janice Armstrong from Monsanto Company
- Professor Philip Pardey, an internationally renowned Australian agricultural economist
- Leaders from public good international and Australian agricultural research centres

Further press [materials](#) and [background](#) on website or by contacting Cathy Reade, 0413575934

The Crawford Fund's mission is to increase Australia's engagement in international agricultural research, development and education for the benefit of developing countries and Australia.

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