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World Food Security

Can Private Sector R&D Feed the Poor?

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE AND ABSTRACT FOR

Dr William Niebur



As DuPont Vice President for Crop Genetics Research and Development at Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc, Dr Bill Niebur drives worldwide crop genetics research strategies to create new value for Pioneer seed and agricultural value chain customers through advanced plant genetics, and has been instrumental in integrating proprietary technologies into DuPont plant genetics product development. He holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from Iowa State University and earned his doctorate in plant breeding and cytogenetics from the University of Minnesota. He has served as the chair of CGIAR's Private Sector Committee since September 2006.

A Private Sector Perspective

The world food crisis, exacerbated by accelerating climate change and the global financial crisis, requires that agricultural scientists solve ever more complex problems. Public-private partnerships will play a more critical role in developing agricultural technologies for developing nations to improve farm productivity and alleviate global hunger. In order to make public-private partnerships work, we must move from the "sector mentality" and focus on combinatorial solutions resolving the most pressing issues. Critical observations from past and current efforts are helpful in designing new relationships and approaches towards driving innovation. Aggressively supporting the development of mutually-beneficial partnerships with a novel mindset will ensure that we fully exploit the tremendous potential that modern technologies promise.

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