The thing I like most about this year’s theme, “Cultivating Our Future,” is how it has focused my mind on the long-term impact of Monsanto Fund-supported projects.

As I think about the kitchen garden in India that is transforming the health of children and enabling them to attend school, I can’t help but wonder, who will these children grow up to be? And what contributions will they be making to their communities five years from now? Ten years from now?

I also think about the residents of rural villages in China and Indonesia that, for the first time, have access to fresh, clean water. While the health benefits are immediate and profound, I can also envision potential economic rewards, such as greater productivity for farmers and even tourism. What might their prospects be a generation from now?

As president of the Monsanto Fund, I’m honored to lead a global philanthropic program that is “Cultivating Our Future” by supporting organizations whose solutions are making our world a better place—both today and for generations to come. As you read these stories, I hope that you will be as excited as I am to see what emerges from the seeds we planted in 2012-2013.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Patterson
President, Monsanto Fund
One of the most rewarding aspects of the Monsanto Fund is seeing the changes that evolve after our projects are completed. In a remote community, a clean water project has an immediate impact—better health for community members. But the long-term benefits have the potential to be even more profound—more robust crops and livestock, an improved economy and better educational opportunities. It’s what we mean by Cultivating Our Future.

As the philanthropic arm of the Monsanto Company, our goal is to cultivate a better future for farming communities and the communities where our employees live and work around the world. The needs are as unique as the communities themselves, which is why there is no single, universal solution. Instead, we partner with local organizations and the citizens of these communities to define their most critical needs. We then apply Monsanto Fund’s best learning and resources to help them create and execute innovative solutions.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

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**MONSANTO FUND TOTAL GIVING:**

$41,000,000

- **4,514 GRANTS GIVEN**
- **UNITED WAY GRANTS:** $4 MILLION
- **MATCHING GIFTS:** $2.7 MILLION
- **GROW RURAL COMMUNITIES:** $9 MILLION
- **GROW RURAL EDUCATION:** $4.7 MILLION
- **INTERNATIONAL GRANTS:** $9.6 MILLION
The Monsanto Fund bridges the gap between a community’s needs and its resources. The remedy is almost always a combination of physical improvements and education. But as you will see in these unique and varied examples from 2013, we are using what the Monsanto Fund has learned in the past to make a positive difference in the future.
Two Chinese villages gain access to plentiful, clean water, transforming their economy.
As of November 2013, 3,000 more villagers in China now have easy access to clean and sufficient drinking water, improved irrigation systems and drinking water for livestock.

It’s all thanks to the The Green Village project.

Started several years ago by the Monsanto Fund, this long-term effort has been making improvements to communities in Hebei, Jilin and Guangxi provinces by establishing biogas-generating pits, improving agricultural machinery, providing extensive technology training for farmers and building water towers in farming communities.

This project, the fourth in a series, is now providing access to clean water for two villages in Henan Province. The $200,000 project helped residents of Guangwu County, Zhengzhou.
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO HELP IMPROVE THE FARMING COMMUNITY AND BETTER THE DAILY LIVES OF ITS RESIDENTS. WE BELIEVE THAT WE SUCCEED WHEN FARMERS SUCCEED.

- Thierry Boyer, China Regional Lead for Monsanto Company
Although the existing water supply system in the villages had been built as recently as the early 1980s, it fell short in terms of water pressure and supply capacity because of tower leaks and decreasing water levels. The Monsanto China Green Village project provided three deep wells, five sets of in-depth bumps, three water towers, a removable water tower, a towerless water supply and upgrades to the underground water pipe network.

The safety of drinking water in farming communities is a top priority, according to Dong Rui, Deputy Director of Zhengzhou Municipal Working Commission for Agriculture and Rural Areas. “We really appreciate support from Monsanto Fund, which has a strong sense of social responsibility. This project has helped the farmers solve the problem of drinking water in the short term, while in the long run it will promote the local economy.”

In addition to access to clean water, the project also provided 15 computers and 50 desks to Guangwu First Elementary School, as well as exercise equipment to Nidian Village.
REFRESHING CHANGE

Indonesian villagers learn why their beloved river is a source of illness and gain access to clean, safe water.
When you grow up in a culture that teaches you to look to the river as a source of everything you need, it can be difficult to recognize it as a source of danger.

Altering that perception was one of the challenges the Monsanto Fund addressed when it teamed up with Habitat for Humanity and Bina Swadaya Konsultan to improve water quality in Indonesian villages.

The villages of Tajinan in Malang and Gunung Mas in Lampung had traditionally relied on rainwater and nearby river sources for drinking water. However, the river also served as a place to do laundry, wash dishes, clean cattle, and dispose of human waste. As a result, 30 to 40 villagers per week visited local doctors complaining of diarrhea, skin lesions and other diseases caused by unclean water.

“There is not a single, simple solution for every community,” says Herry Kristanto, Corporate Affairs Lead for Monsanto Company in Indonesia. “Our approach is to let the communities and their partners define the critical needs of their communities and the appropriate solutions. We believe this promotes ownership and long-term sustainability.”
The Monsanto Fund and partners worked with the communities to identify specific problem areas, educate villagers on water sanitation and develop solutions. Monsanto Fund provided water tanks, water-pumping systems, piping and installation, and communal bath areas to promote access to clean water.

“We would like to express our gratitude because the development of the sanitation infrastructure contributes significantly to our daily lives,” said Sutyarto S., the head of village of Gunung Mas. “Now it is our job to preserve and maintain them so that we can continue to use them.”

ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER HAS ALREADY BENEFITTED MORE THAN 6,500 RESIDENTS IN RURAL INDONESIA.
Having healthier, more productive farmers is crucial to providing the region with adequate and safe food supplies.
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A kitchen garden providing much-needed nutrition for schoolchildren leads to newfound income for India’s local farmers.
Stunted growth. Anemia due to iron deficiency. Eye infections, swollen and bleeding gums, bowed legs and skin infections due to a lack of vitamins A, D, B-complex and C.

Such nutritional deficiencies are commonplace in Jaipur, India. But in 2010, the Akshaya Patra Foundation, using a grant from the Monsanto Fund, created a kitchen garden to help ensure that local schoolchildren would receive the best nutrition available. The hot, cooked school meals they prepare are abundant with freshly grown vegetables. For some children it is their only meal of the day.

The kitchen garden infrastructure, situated on 15 acres of fertile land, is fitted with solar dehydrating plants designed to provide children with a wide variety of nutritious vegetables during the off-season.
The partnership between the Monsanto Fund and Akshaya Patra provides food for 150,000 children a day through the centralized kitchen.
Since 2010, the Akshaya Patra kitchen garden initiative has positively affected nearly 150,000 children, educating them about nutrition, planting vegetables, food handling and cooking methods. Much of this knowledge has transferred to the home, linking schools to the community, including area farmers.

So far, around 400 farmers from neighboring villages are directly involved in the project. Many of these farmers look forward to the day when they can afford to build their own greenhouses. In the meantime, Akshaya Patra allows them to grow seedlings in its greenhouse, resulting in better yields for the farmers. And because all of their produce is eventually procured at market price by Akshaya Patra, participating farmers have increased their incomes an average of 15 percent.
GAINING GROUND

Black South African farmers robbed of their land through Apartheid learn the farming skills of their forefathers.
From 1948 to 1994 the South African government-sanctioned segregation system known as Apartheid not only stripped black farmers of their land, it robbed them of a cultural legacy of farming skills, knowledge, experiences and resources that otherwise would have been passed down from generation to generation.

As a result, when the rights to land ownership were restored in the late 1990s, black emerging farmers found themselves stepping into a skills vacuum. Without essential farming know-how and business acumen, they were doomed to fail – and 90 percent did.

But in 2000, Buhle Farmers’ Academy, supported by the Monsanto Fund, began studying the obstacles and solving the problems faced by emerging farmers in South Africa. They instituted a farmer training program that continues to flourish today.
BUHLE FARMING ACADEMY RUNS ITS EXTENSIVE TRAINING AND COMMERCIAL FARMING OPERATIONS ON LAND DONATED BY THE MONSANTO FUND.
Buhle Academy has strict entrance criteria. Trainees must have land or access to land, be competent in English, and demonstrate the potential to understand the business practices necessary to run a successful commercial farming enterprise.

Trainees live on the Buhle farm for a full production cycle, which for field crops is nine months. A major component of the courses covers the mindset, diligence and business discipline required to develop systems and practices that result in profit.

Upon graduation, Buhle maintains contact with alumni through telephone calls and onsite visits. This allows them to mentor and coach graduates individually as they overcome the difficulties encountered when setting up and developing commercial farming enterprises.

THE PROGRAM IS NOT ONLY SHAPING COMMUNITIES BUT THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR AS A WHOLE.
NO PLACE LIKE HOME

With more opportunities being created in rural Latin America, fewer young people must flee to cities in search of work.
In many Latin American countries 90 percent of the population is urban, and young people in rural areas can face almost insurmountable odds. In Argentina, for example, there are 11,700 rural primary schools but only 4,800 secondary schools. With little opportunity at home, many rural young people feel compelled to move to the cities. Once there, however, their lack of education and vocational training leaves them unqualified for good-paying jobs, ultimately contributing to the growing poverty rate in urban areas.

The Monsanto Fund is helping to stem this cycle of poverty by funding Seedbed of the Future, which in turn supports projects that help young people find viable work in their own rural communities.

Eighty percent of Seedbed of the Future projects relate to training in areas such as food processing, farming entrepreneurship and food health. The other 20 percent are related to education in crop production and animal breeding, environmental care and training for teachers.
The Monsanto Fund supports Seedbed of the Future in Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Chile, focusing on young people between 12 and 25 years old who are living below the poverty line.
One particularly successful project involved the José María Paz de Idiazábal Institute. “Soybean: An Innovative Food Product” developed into a small company that produces vegetarian breaded cutlets, the first industry within the small, 1,500-resident community of Idiazábal.

Marisell Abbonizio, project coordinator for “Soja: An Innovative Food Product” explains how the Monsanto Fund grant and this experience have changed their lives: “We mark a time before “Seedbed of the Future” and after. Our project has become the first microenterprise goods and services and the first micro industry in this area.”

With the purchase of a new flow-pack machine, these entrepreneurs are now able speed up cutlet production, meet growing demand and offer improved packaging. Already around 150 students between 12 and 17 years old have directly benefited from the program.
CHAOS TO CUPCAKES

Rescued from life on the streets, Brazilian youths receive shelter, education and training for careers in baking and food service.
In the city of Campinas in Sao Paulo, Brazil, many children and teenagers live in at-risk conditions. But for the past 51 years, Monsanto Fund partner Hope Unlimited has been coming to their rescue.

Hope Unlimited offers these young people more than shelter and education. It provides an opportunity to learn vocational skills that can transform their young lives, enabling them to break the cycle of poverty and violence that once encompassed them.

Hope Unlimited’s group homes host approximately 200 boys and girls ages eight to 18. A team of psychologists, social workers, teachers and parents work together to give these young people the education, love, understanding, attention and skills necessary to assure happy and productive futures.
BEING A PARTNER IN A PROFESSIONAL PROJECT LIKE THE ONES DEVELOPED WITH MONSANTO FUND IS TO WATCH A HUMAN BEING TRANSFORMED.

- Geraldo Nunes, Superintendent, Hope Unlimited
Since 2002, the Monsanto Fund has played a role by supporting vocational courses in baking and food preparation. This includes comprehensive training in the planning, organization and preparation of dough, cakes and other confections, as well as certifying students to work with bakeries and confectionaries. A course in sanitation and food preparation teaches proper procedures for storage and food preparation to ensure that sanitary and hygienic conditions are met.

Starting in 2000, the Monsanto Fund began investing in the Agro Environment Project, the purpose of which is to educate the students in planting, seedlings, irrigation, hydroponics, fertilizers, pest controls and herbicides.

In this program, students have the opportunity to learn horticulture with vegetables and greens grown according to various agricultural techniques.

Best of all, crops harvested from the Agro Environment Project, and the money raised from them, are used to help feed the children in Hope Unlimited’s group homes.
Robotics competition allows young women in the St. Louis region to see themselves in a new light—as scientists.
In the recent past, few girls imagined themselves pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math. Consequently, good-paying careers in STEM fields have traditionally been dominated by men.

But thanks to a pair of $20,000 grants from the Monsanto Fund, Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri (GSEM) and Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois (GSSI) are enabling more and more St. Louis-area girls to envision themselves in STEM careers. How? Through robotics competition.

In 2013, the Girl Scouts used the money to field all-girl FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology®) robotics teams and compete in the FIRST LEGO® League’s International Open. The grants helped pay for FIRST robotics starter kits, transportation to faraway competitions, entry fees, training for adult volunteers and much more.
After participating on a robotics team, the girls were better able to envision themselves in STEM careers.
“Engaging girls in STEM in fun, creative ways helps keep their interest in these valuable career fields, as well as develop their confidence, teamwork and problem solving abilities,” says Mary Buchanan, GSSI Robotics Manager.

“An amazing 81 percent of the girls who participated in our program now view STEM careers for themselves more favorably,” says Ashlie Zimmerman, GSEM Grants and Sponsorships Manager. “Fully 85 percent say they’re now confident in their ability to solve real world problems.”

Competitive robotics is a priceless opportunity to gain exposure to girls from around the world and to learn to present in front of a team of adult judges. Says Emily Stanley, GSSI STEM Program Manager, “Whether or not a girl ultimately pursues a STEM career, competitive robotics broaden her horizons and has the power to transform her thinking from ‘if I go to college’ to ‘when I go to college.’”
PAYING IT FORWARD

Farmers from drought-stricken counties win an opportunity to designate a charity to which Monsanto Fund will donate $5,000.
Rural communities are the heart of America, home to the people who work hard to feed, fuel and clothe our country and the world. The Monsanto Fund believes in rural America and is eager to help grow farming communities.

Since 2010, the Monsanto Fund’s America’s Farmers Grow Communities program has been investing in schools, fire departments and youth organizations such as FFA chapters across the country. This program gives farmers the opportunity to designate a charity to which Monsanto Fund will donate $2,500.

In 2013, in an effort to expand support to farm families in natural disaster areas, winning farmers from counties affected by that year’s record drought could double their donations by designating two worthy organizations, increasing their total donation to $5,000.
America’s Farmers Grow Communities recently added 18 new eligible counties. That’s a total of 1,289 counties across 39 states.
Illinois farmer Patsy Latch selected Effingham County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom, which is using its $2,500 to construct a wood barn filled with agriculture-themed books and toys and other resources to be loaned to area schools.

Latch’s second donation went to Effingham County 4-H for new manuals and supplies for 4-H tracker school, equipment and supplies for 4-H cooking schools and other 4-H leadership training activities for junior high and high school students.

“I selected Ag in the Classroom because the money came from the Monsanto Fund and I wanted to give it back to an ag entity,” Latch says. “Agriculture education is important so that children know where their food and clothing comes from. I chose 4-H because my husband and I were members and leaders. I realize the value that 4-H offers, and I want other children to have the same opportunity that we had when we were young.”