



NEWSLETTER OF THE DANFORTH CENTER
LEGACY SOCIETY

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WORKING TO FEED THE WORLD

The Challenge

Enjoying the comfort of a middle class lifestyle, it is important to remember that people both at home and around the world do not have enough to eat. The U.N. Report on Food Insecurity states that 1 in 8 people worldwide are undernourished. That most simple of human needs—food—is in short supply, and the challenge is increasing.

Population growth, longer life spans, and rising living standards around the world all contribute to the use of Earth’s precious resources faster than they can be replenished. The U.N. estimates that by the year 2050, we will need to increase agricultural output by 70%, but there just

isn’t enough arable land and fresh water. Factor in the unpredictability of climate change, and the challenge is daunting.

Hearing the Call

Danforth Center scientists are helping to unlock drought- and pest-resistance and other improvements in important food crops. At the **Institute for International Crop Improvement (IICI)**, researchers are closing in on a new disease-resistant variety of cassava and focusing on improving varieties of sorghum, millet, and other grains. These plants are vital to the health and success of people in sub-Saharan Africa. By applying leading-edge CRISPR-Cas gene-editing technology to these orphan crops, Danforth Center scientists

▲ African woman selling cassava roots at market.

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“We all care about improving the state of *our environment for our children* and about having an *abundant and safe food supply*.

Plant science research plays a fundamental role in creating the solutions.”

DONALD MACKENZIE,
*Executive Director
of the IICI*

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ANNUAL GIVING APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

On Tuesday, May 15, 2018, Dr. James Carrington, president of the Danforth Center, and Dr. William H. Danforth, chairman emeritus, welcomed nearly 50 supporters to the first-ever Annual Giving Appreciation Luncheon. Attendees have supported the Danforth Center through annual giving for ten years or more.

Plan your gift to the Danforth Center and become a member of the Legacy Society. Call Joyce Pluhar, 314.587.1071.



DONALD DANFORTH
PLANT SCIENCE CENTER

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