DR. HENRY BEACHELL is recognized as the most important person involved in the International Rice Research Institute’s (IRRI) development of highly productive, short-statured, and disease-resistant rice varieties. Dr. Beachell developed rice varieties that led to self-sufficiency in rice production in highly populated Asian countries. Dr. Beachell received the Japan Prize, the World Food Prize, and a number of honorary doctorates.

DR. NORMAN BORLAUG developed disease-resistant, short-statured, and day-length neutral wheat cultivars in Mexico that were adapted to wheat growing areas around the world. The famines predicted by many in the 1960s did not occur, and highly populated countries like Pakistan, India and China became self-sufficient in wheat production soon after adopting his Mexican varieties. Dr. Borlaug is credited with saving over a billion lives as a result of improved wheat production. He has received the Nobel Peace Prize, the Congressional Gold Medal, and the Medal of Freedom.

The world’s population is estimated to grow from 6.8 billion today to 9.4 billion by 2050. Leading experts predict that we will need to produce more food over the next 50 years than has been produced in the past 10,000 years combined. Compounding this challenge are the effects of climate change and limited natural resources.

Rice and wheat are two staple crops critical to the food security of billions of people around the world. Together, they feed more than half the world’s population. However, yield improvements in rice and wheat lag behind other crops. Reasons for this include lack of adequate investment to improve varieties and yield, diminishing land and water resources, and environmental stresses.

To overcome these challenges and meet growing demand, it’s important to ensure that future plant breeders are educated in advanced technologies and have an appreciation for how public sector research can help meet the needs of both developed and developing countries.
Recognizing the importance of rice and wheat in global food security, Monsanto Company pledged $10 million to improving yields in rice and wheat as part of its commitment to sustainable yield. Monsanto’s Beachell-Borlaug International Scholars Program is the result of that pledge.

Monsanto established this program in 2009 in honor of two of the world’s most preeminent rice and wheat breeders: Drs. Henry Beachell and Norman Borlaug. Their lifelong work laid the foundation for the tremendous increases in rice and wheat production that continue to help feed the world today.

The objective of this prestigious fellowship program is to develop highly educated rice and wheat plant breeders who can serve as future agricultural leaders.

MONSANTO’S BEACHELL-BORLAUG INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM:

• Provides a full package of support, including a generous student stipend, tuition, applicable fees, health insurance, research fees, travel, as well as funds for the collaborating institution and advising professor;
• Supports projects that allow the student to develop advanced breeding techniques as well as experience conducting at least one season of field work in a developing country; and
• Is open to students worldwide who are seeking a Ph.D. in rice or wheat plant breeding.

An internationally recognized panel of judges will review all proposals and choose candidates to receive the fellowships.

This program is administered by Texas AgriLife Research, an agency of the Texas A&M University System.

Opportunity for future agricultural leaders

“We must develop ways to increase crop production on the same land area if we want to preserve land for other uses such as for parks, wildlife, forestry and grazing lands into the future. That is what Monsanto’s Beachell-Borlaug International Scholars Program is committed to do for rice and wheat.”

Dr. Edward Runge, Program Director and Chair of the Panel of Judges

“World peace will not—and cannot—be built on empty stomachs.”

Dr. Norman Borlaug

To learn more about how to apply, please visit www.monsanto.com/mbbischolars