

Monsanto's Robert Fraley: How gene editing and data science can help meet global food needs sustainably

[Editor's Note: Robert Fraley is Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer at Monsanto.]

I was humbled to be the first representative of private industry invited to share my thoughts on how to meet “the greatest challenge mankind has ever faced”.... How will we feed a population of [nearly 10 billion people by 2050](#), while facing increasing land and water constraints and the uncertain effects of climate change – which can include shifts in rainfall patterns and planting zones, and increases in insect and disease pressure?

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By using new tools and technologies that help farmers grow more on each acre – like biotechnology, gene editing, and data science – we can meet production goals *and* convert more land to grassland and forests.

Screen Shot at AM e
Robert Fraley

Every one of us has the power to help move the needle on communications – even more so if you fall into one of the “key influencer” categories – so I urge you to use your voice to drive constructive online dialogue around ag and food. Get online and engage in channels where you will be heard. Remember – the conversation about ag and food production is going to happen *with or without us*. As a collective group, we really only have one choice to make: to participate or to let those who oppose science do all the talking.

If you'd like to learn more, you can read the [full version of the lecture](#). The video is available to watch on the [AAAS website](#).

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [Better Communication is Essential to the Future of Agriculture...and the Planet](#)