

**Dr. Rob Horsch**  
**Retired Former Deputy Director**  
**Agricultural Research and Development**  
**Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**

**Biographical Information**

Dr. Rob Horsch is the retired former Deputy Director of the Agricultural Research and Development team at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In this capacity, he managed a strategy and portfolio of grants aimed at improving agricultural productivity, reducing farmer risk, and increasing nutrition of poor farmers and consumers in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Prior to joining the Gates Foundation in 2006, Horsch was the leader of International Development Partnerships at Monsanto Company and was involved in a number of public-private partnerships for agricultural development.

Horsch is a plant biologist and has served on the editorial boards of several leading journals in the plant sciences and as an advisor to the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy. He was awarded the 1998 National Medal of Technology by President Clinton for contributions to the development of agricultural biotechnology. He received his Ph.D. in Genetics at the University of California, Riverside, in 1979, and then conducted postdoctoral work in plant physiology at the University of Saskatchewan.