



Innovation Keynote: Dr. Prem Warrior, Senior Program Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



Prem Warrior joined the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in April 2008 as a Senior Program Officer in the Agricultural Development group (Science & Technology team). He is currently responsible for developing a portfolio of grants in the crop management area including biological nitrogen fixation, integrated pest management, evaluation of crop protection products including seed treatment products, as well as evaluating options for private sector engagement.

Prior to joining the foundation, Dr. Warrior was in an executive leadership role managing technology and directing global programs in agricultural research, formulations, and technology assessments at Valent BioSciences Corporation, USA (an independent subsidiary of Sumitomo Chemical Corporation, Japan). VBC was divested from the agricultural group of Abbott Laboratories, a global leader in Pharmaceutical and Diagnostic products. Prem has hands-on experience in the discovery, development and commercialization of crop protection products including Bt-based insecticides, nematicides, fungicides, herbicides and plant growth regulators. In his corporate roles, he has also managed the corporate IP portfolio, developed processes for scientific/business assessment of technologies in agriculture, evaluated over 100 technology leads, developed partnerships with private and public sector enterprises as well as completed licensing, acquisition and business development. He has filed 40+ patents and has published more than 50 scientific papers, book chapters in the plant sciences/public health fields. Dr. Warrior has a Ph. D. in Plant pathology and an MBA in general business.