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## **NAMA Honors The Climate Corporation's Mike Stern with 2017 Agribusiness Leader of the Year Award**

The National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) has named Mike Stern, Chief Executive Officer of The Climate Corporation, a subsidiary of Monsanto Company, as the 2017 Agribusiness Leader of the Year.

This award, which is NAMA's highest honor, recognizes outstanding leadership in private, public or academic service and is conferred each year to a senior agribusiness executive who not only exemplifies excellence in agribusiness, but has also made significant contributions to the industry. Now in its 17th year, the award will be presented at the 2017 Agri-Marketing Conference, April 26-28, 2017, in Dallas, Texas.

Mike Stern exemplifies the spirit of the award through his understanding of the challenges farmers face and his passion for solving agriculture's most pressing issue: the need to feed a growing population while minimizing the impact on the environment. Stern and his team are on the forefront of solving this problem through digital agriculture, which holds the potential to unlock the next giant leap in farming productivity and efficiency. Through the combination of advanced data science, sensors and seamless connectivity of farm data, Climate is helping farmers gain a deeper understanding of their fields with data-driven, real-time insights delivered through digital tools available right at their fingertips.

Climate's transformative digital tools are already making a significant difference for farmers across the U.S. and other areas around the globe, helping improve their efficiency in managing seeding and planting, fertility and crop health, and ultimately, supporting all of the key decisions they make each year to optimize yield. Since joining Climate in 2014, Stern has guided the company's growth from serving 35 million crop acres to more than 100 million acres in 2016, geographic expansion from the U.S. into Canada and Brazil, and the development of the industry's most robust [digital agriculture research and development pipeline](#). More importantly, Stern has positioned Climate as a catalyst for the next wave of agricultural innovation.

At Climate, Stern recognized the need to instill a strong, mission-focused element to the company's culture, and emphasized the importance of greater connections between Climate employees with

technology start-up backgrounds and the farmers they ultimately serve. He championed hands-on farming education for all Climate employees to bridge this gap, helping to ensure that data science and application development is always focused on farmers' needs - and their mission to feed the world.

Throughout the course of his career, Stern has always been a strong advocate for farmers. Most notably, he was instrumental in the launch of the America's Farmers program, an initiative sponsored by the Monsanto Fund that supports rural communities by offering grants for local schools and nonprofit organizations as well as scholarships for the agriculture leaders of tomorrow. America's Farmers has contributed more than \$36 million to farm communities across the country since 2010.

Stern also has served as an active industry voice on the development of digital agriculture, joining other industry leaders to provide testimony to the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture on the importance of ensuring farmer privacy and speaking at industry gatherings about the potential for digital ag to help advance the capabilities of farmers by improving their efficiency and sustainability.

### **About NAMA**

NAMA is the nation's largest association for professionals in marketing and agribusiness. NAMA has been encouraging and recognizing excellence in the industry for 60 years through initiatives such as Agribusiness Leader of the Year and the NAMA Marketer of the Year. For more information, please visit [nama.org](http://nama.org) or contact Jenny Pickett at (913) 491-6500 ([jennyp@nama.org](mailto:jennyp@nama.org)).

### **About The Climate Corporation**

The Climate Corporation, a subsidiary of Monsanto Company, aims to help all the world's farmers sustainably increase their productivity through the use of digital tools. The integrated Climate FieldView™ digital agriculture platform provides farmers with a comprehensive, connected suite of digital tools. Bringing together seamless field data collection, advanced agronomic modeling and local weather monitoring into simple mobile and web software solutions, the Climate FieldView platform gives farmers a deeper understanding of their fields so they can make more informed operating decisions to optimize yields, maximize efficiency and reduce risk. For more information, please visit <https://climate.com/> or follow the company on [Twitter@climatecorp](https://twitter.com/climatecorp).

### **About Monsanto Company**

Monsanto is committed to bringing a broad range of solutions to help nourish our growing world. We produce seeds for fruits, vegetables and key crops – such as corn, soybeans, and cotton – that help farmers have better harvests while using water and other important resources more efficiently. We work to find sustainable solutions for soil health, help farmers use data to improve farming practices and conserve natural resources, and provide crop protection products to minimize damage from pests and disease. Through programs and partnerships, we collaborate with farmers, researchers, nonprofit organizations, universities and others to help tackle some of the world's biggest challenges. To learn more about Monsanto, our commitments and our more than 20,000 dedicated employees, please visit: [discover.monsanto.com](http://discover.monsanto.com) and [monsanto.com](http://monsanto.com). Follow our business on Twitter® at [twitter.com/MonsantoCo](https://twitter.com/MonsantoCo), on the company blog, Beyond the Rows® at [monsantoblog.com](http://monsantoblog.com) or subscribe to our [News Release RSS Feed](#).

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