



# Dear Fellow Activists,

As we settle into a new year with fresh opportunities ahead of us, I'd like to put forward a new way of thinking about the work we do at Heifer International. I've stressed before the importance of the word "end" in our mission: We work to end hunger, poverty and environmental degradation in the communities we serve.

When Dan West started what would later become Heifer International, giving poor farmers the means to feed their families was a noble, attainable goal. Globalization has made us all neighbors, and now we are able to more fully understand the big-picture struggles of the world's small-scale farmers. Barriers to women's rights, land grabs, terrible roads and lack of electricity all contribute to growing inequality worldwide. But we also see more clearly the opportunities available to them to move beyond subsistence farming, as well as how we can help open up these opportunities.

We all want positive change for ourselves, for our global neighbors and for the world in which we live. Heifer International wants to ensure that small-scale farmers are not only able to feed their families and earn enough money for their efforts, but that they are fully, and for good, out of the trenches of poverty.

How do we do this?

We are looking at what a livable income is in the countries where we work. We are examining our programs to



PHOTO BY LACEY WEST

President and CEO Pierre Ferrari visits a cardamom grove in Guatemala with Country Director Gustavo Hernandez.

determine how to close the income gap between what our farmers earn without our intervention, and what they need to earn for a dignified quality of life. And we are tapping into the entrepreneurial spirit of these families so they can take it the extra mile. This entrepreneurial spirit is already at work in Uganda, where families are saving themselves time and energy by adopting biogas technology. You can read in this issue about Edith Kalale, who uses her biogas stove to make pancakes that she sells to children walking to school. We are learning from cutting-edge experts, like Allan Savory, how to bolster our efforts to improve the lands our farmers inhabit.

And we are doing it with support from you, our donors, local and corporate sponsors, and Read to Feed participants.

We don't just live in a global economy; we are a global community. Giving millions of small-scale farmers the tools and support they need to end their own hunger and poverty for good makes this world a better place.

Yours for a great 2015,

*Pierre A. Ferrari*