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THE CRAWFORD FUND

For a Food Secure World

ETHICS, EFFICIENCY AND FOOD SECURITY

FEEDING THE 9 BILLION, WELL

The Crawford Fund
2014 Annual Parliamentary Conference

Parliament House
Canberra ACT, Australia
26–28 August 2014



Editor: A. Milligan



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The Crawford Fund

The Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering established the Crawford Fund in June 1987. Named in honour of the late Sir John Crawford, the Fund commemorates his outstanding services to international agricultural research. The Crawford Fund is a non-profit, non-government organisation, dedicated to raising awareness of the benefits to developing countries and to Australia of international agricultural research. The Fund depends on grants and donations from governments, private companies, corporations, charitable trusts and individual Australians. It also welcomes partnerships with agencies and organisations in Australia and overseas.

The Fund promotes and supports international R&D activities in which Australian research organisations and companies are active participants. It supports the work of the Australian Government's aid program, particularly with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), the CGIAR Consortium and other international research centres.

The annual Parliamentary conference is a key part of the Fund's public awareness campaign, which increases understanding of the importance and potential of international agricultural research, its achievements and needs.

The Fund also runs training programs that fill a niche by offering practical, highly focused non-degree instruction to women and men engaged in agricultural research and management in developing countries.

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Foreword

The Crawford Fund's 2014 Parliamentary Conference again brings together a group of outstanding international and Australian practitioners of the art of policy making and the science of agricultural research and development. By doing so, the Crawford Fund promotes policies that are evidence-based and, we hope, help ensure that public and political support for investment in international agricultural research will be sustained.

In spite of ever tightening fiscal circumstances, that message has got through to successive governments in Australia and abroad. As a former Cabinet Minister, I know that policy making is indeed an art, especially when you are faced with a clutter and diversity of views, not all of them based on science. With the best advice available from a highly professional public service, a first rate scientific community and with quality independent counsel from others, it is possible to cut through to formulate sensible policy reforms that will eventually attract bipartisan and broad community support.

This year we added two criteria to our selection of topics: ethics and efficiency. The conference had a better than usual gender balance, in addition to an international leading light to address the issue of women in agriculture. We also successfully encouraged more young people to join in, through our own scholarships, through the newly formed Researchers in International Agricultural Development, and through personal approaches to a range of universities. A Young Agricultural Scientists Forum followed the conference.

The quintessential message that we hope has emerged from the conference is the need to increase global food production in ways that are ethical and efficient; that are profitable for farmers and consumers, and that protect the environment. Research and training are essential to the delivery of these outcomes and we need more young people, and especially women, engaged in the effort in rewarding ways.

It is important to stress that in investing in agricultural research and training for development we are not necessarily even in a competitive world confronting a zero-sum game. Australia can both do well and do good, a thesis which we have backed up with our report 'Doing well by doing good: International agricultural research – how it benefits Australia as well as the developing countries'¹ and a series of forums and media outreach on this topic around the country.

As well as encouraging support for international agricultural research, the Crawford Fund has another role: the conduct of Master Classes in key topics such as agribusiness, communication and biosecurity to name a few, and delivery, by our State and Territory Programs, of specialist individual and group training activities. Our training efforts have reached over 10,000 scientists in the

¹ Available at <<http://www.crawfordfund.org/focus/doing-well-by-doing-good>>.

Foreword

developing world. These programs are delivered at very low cost by Australian institutions and coordinated by our largely voluntary workforce and committees, and they yield very high returns.

Finally I wish to thank the record number of sponsors who generously supported this conference. The simple listing of their names on page iv seems an inadequate expression of our gratitude, but their support reflects the passion that we all have for international agricultural research and training.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Kerin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

The Hon John Kerin AM
Chairman, The Crawford Fund