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THE CRAWFORD FUND
For a Food Secure World

THE BUSINESS OF FOOD SECURITY:

Profitability, sustainability and risk

The Crawford Fund
2015 Annual Parliamentary Conference
Parliament House, Canberra

10-12 August 2015

Editor: Janet Lawrence





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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 annual conference on food security now holds a key place in the development and food security calendar. The conference in 2015 focused on the importance of collaboration and partnership between the public and private sectors to achieve sustainable intensification and improved food security. The reason for the focus on the private sector this year was the belief that meeting future food demand within the limits of the earth's natural resources is a pressing challenge with critically important roles for both the public and private sectors. Innovation underpinned by targeted research investment is critical to achieve sustainable intensification of agricultural production.

In the words of our Chairman John Kerin: 'We see that new visions are needed for both the public and private sectors to maintain sustainability while ensuring profitability for those relying on and contributing to food security. We want this year's conference to help shape these longer term visions.'

The conference connected with business to explore new directions in research and sustainable sourcing already being taken by the private sector and to assess the implications of this for public policy and a new generation of public private partnerships. The program included the Sir John Crawford Memorial Address, presented by Dr Cary Fowler, crop diversity advocate who has overseen the development of the Svalbard Global 'doomsday' Seed Vault.

This was followed by a full-day Parliamentary Conference on 11 August, featuring key speakers Her Excellency Gerda Verburg, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN Organizations for Food and Agriculture, Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and Chair of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Food and Nutrition Security, Mr Anthony Pratt, Chairman and CEO of Pratt Industries and Global Chairman of Visy Industries, and Mr Chris Brett, Senior Vice President, Head of Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability, Olam International. We finished with a Parliamentary Breakfast on 12 August.

Forty-five young agricultural scientists attend our event this year, made possible through our Conference Scholarships. This has become a star feature of our conferences, and we look forward to ongoing support for these vital young people, the future of agricultural research, to attend future conferences.

Hon. Margaret Reid AO

Acting Chair

The Crawford Fund