



THE CRAWFORD FUND

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**AN OPEN INVITATION TO THE CRAWFORD FUND'S
2009 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
"WORLD FOOD SECURITY: Can Private Sector R&D Feed the Poor?"**

I am pleased to invite you to another of the Crawford Fund's innovative and provocative annual international conferences on vital aspects of global development. Our 2009 event, titled "*World Food Security: Can Private Sector R&D Feed the Poor?*" will be held in Parliament House over 27 and 28 October 2009. The conference brochure is attached.

Last year's world food price crisis activated much-needed international and Australian attention, action and funding to improve world food security. Fundamental to these efforts is the application of agricultural research and development. But what is the private sector's role in this vital task?

We have brought together the best thinkers on the intersecting roles of the private, the not for profit and the public sectors in global food security to inform corporate and public decision-making. Now is the time to encourage the private sector - from large multi-nationals, to smaller companies and individual farmers - to make a significant difference to food production in developing countries, in partnership with governments and the not for profit sector.

Based on feedback from previous years, the Crawford Fund annual conference this year will involve the traditional Parliamentary one-day conference, a conference dinner and a Parliamentary breakfast, each featuring different speakers and providing further opportunities for gaining new perspectives, feedback and networking. You are able to register for all or any combination of these conference events.

The year 2009 is the 25th anniversary of the death of Sir John Crawford and we will mark this with a Memorial Address prior to our conference dinner. The Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance, The Hon Bob McMullan MP has kindly agreed to present the address.

In addition, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, The Hon Stephen Smith MP, has been invited to open the conference, and other keynote speakers include:

- Dr Marco Ferroni, an expert in international agriculture and sustainability issues who is the Executive Director of the non-profit Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture.
- Professor Philip Pardey, an Australian internationally renowned agricultural economist.
- Dr Prabhu Pingali of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- Dr Namanga Ngongi who is President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa.

By all means, please pass this notice on to your staff members and colleagues.

I hope to welcome you to our conference and I'm confident that lively debate will highlight the options and issues involved and the important role of international agricultural research.

Yours faithfully,

The Hon Neil Andrew AO
Chairman, The Crawford Fund

The Crawford Fund wishes to thank its supporters for the event including: AusAID Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research; Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; AVRDC; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; CIMMYT; CSIRO Livestock Industries; Grains Research and Development Corporation; IFDC; Industrial Research Limited; ICRISAT; Monsanto; Pioneer Hi-Bred, A DuPont Business; Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation; Syngenta Crop Protection, and Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture