



THE CRAWFORD FUND

An Initiative of the Australian Academy of  
Technological Sciences and Engineering

# Crawford Fund

## 2009 Annual International Conference

# World Food Security

### Can Private Sector R&D Feed the Poor?

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE AND ABSTRACT FOR

## Dr Peter Horne



Peter Horne is Research Program Manager (Livestock Production Systems) at the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). He has spent more than 20 years in Asia involved in research-for-development, with a particular focus on forages and livestock systems. From 2006-2008, he coordinated an adaptive research program in eastern Indonesia for ACIAR as part of the ongoing Smallholder Agribusiness Development Initiative. He has a strong interest in exploring practical approaches to linking smallholder farmers with markets.

### Linking Asia's Farmers to the Global Economy

The world's population is estimated to peak at around 9 billion in 2050, with almost half of the increase from 2009 (3 billion) occurring in Asia. This will require a doubling of food production on a declining land area and natural resource base and in the context of increasing climate variability. At the same time, however, increasing urbanisation and the globalisation of food production are creating new opportunities for smallholder farmers in Asia to make a transition from subsistence agriculture to more-specialised production systems linked to commercialised food production systems. Driving this transition will require increased investment in more-efficient and robust agricultural production technologies and a greater focus on enabling supply chain opportunities for smallholder farmers. In most countries, government extension services have been unable to engage effectively with commercial supply chains. Increasingly, the private sector is investing in agricultural research and development with large potential benefits for smallholder producers. Using examples from the region, this paper highlights key issues that enable smallholders to capitalise on growing opportunities for supplying to specialised markets.

*1859. Physalis Alkekengi L.*

Gemeine Nudenkirsche.