



**MEDIA ALERT**  
**28 August 2008**  
**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**AGRICULTURE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE**

**FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES 'UNDERAPPRECIATED'**

Over the last two years, the global public has become increasingly aware of the threat of climate change in general, and the role of deforestation in exacerbating that threat in particular. Nevertheless, the linkages between forests and climate change - and the magnitude of the challenges to addressing them - remain underappreciated.

Ms Frances Seymour, Director General of the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) will be addressing the key forest and climate issues of our time at the Crawford Fund annual conference "Agriculture in a Changing Climate" at Parliament House, Canberra on 3 September. Her address is titled "Forests and Climate Change: Cause, Casualty, and the Opportunity to Capture Co-Benefits". Information on the conference is at <http://www.crawfordfund.org/events/conference08.htm>

Ms Seymour has been involved in key international fora on forests and climate change including COP13, Asia Forestry Week and the upcoming Forest Day 2 - UNFCCC COP 14 Parallel Event.

The topics she will be addressing at her Canberra address include:

- Deforestation, forest degradation and climate change mitigation
- Why forests matter for biodiversity, for people and for livelihoods
- The impact of climate change on forests
- Climate change adaptation strategies and recommendations
- Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD)

Ms Seymour will be in Australia and available for interviews from Mon, 1 to Fri, 5 Sept.

**CIFOR** is an international research and global knowledge institution committed to conserving forests and improving the livelihoods of people in the tropics. CIFOR's high impact research helps local communities and small farmers gain their rightful share of forest resources, while increasing the production and value of forest products.

Further information and interviews contact Cathy Reade on 0413 575 934. A range of press releases will be issued for the event and it is possible to prearrange interviews. Keynote speakers include Ms Katherine Sierra, Vice President for Sustainable Development, World Bank; and Prof Ross Garnaut, author of the Garnaut Climate Change Review.

*The Crawford Fund wishes to thank the sponsors for this event, including:*

AusAID – the Australian Agency for International Development; Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research; Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; Australian Government Department of Climate Change; CAB International; Centre for International Forestry Research; International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT); Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research; CSIRO Climate Adaptation National Research Flagship; Grains Research and Development Corporation; Industrial Research Limited; Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation; South Australian Research and Development Institute; The World Bank.