



CONFERENCE 2007

MEDIA ALERT

BIOFUELS, ENERGY AND AGRICULTURE: Powering Towards or Away From Food Security?

2 August 2007

BIOFUELS – WHEN FOOD MAKES FUEL DEVELOPMENT, ENERGY, INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES

15 August 2007

The Theatre, Parliament House

Biofuels may provide a new form of energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and also offer another source of income for farmers worldwide. But there is growing concern about them soaking up grain production and raising food prices, inflation and even housing interest rates? And just how far away are new generation sustainable biofuels?

Biofuels, Energy and Agriculture: Powering Towards or Away From Food Security? will highlight the range of issues for developing countries and for Australia due to the growing interest in biofuels.

The conference will be opened by **The Hon. Alexander Downer**, Minister for Foreign Affairs and addressed by eminent international and national speakers including:

- **Lord Ron Oxburgh**, House of Lords, UK, Chairman of D1 Oils, President of the Carbon Capture and Storage Association and former Chairman of Shell, who will identify issues for the private sector and for the long-term viability of the biofuels liquid industry;
- **Dr Joachim Von Braun**, Director General of the Washington-based think-tank, the International Food Policy Research Institute who will provide new figures of the effects of biofuels on food prices and availability, and on energy and environmental sustainability when food makes fuel;
- **Dr Stephen Schuck**, Manager of Bioenergy Australia and Executive Member on IEA – Biofuels, will discuss current and future generation biofuels technologies;
- **Mr Mike Taylor**, Secretary of Department of Transport and Regional Services will consider global policy interventions on biofuels and their implications;
- Distinguished speakers from **Brazil, India and Australia** will explain what impact biofuels are having in their countries;
- **Mr Peter Core**, Director of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, will look at the way ahead with agricultural research.

Further info at <http://www.crawfordfund.org/events/conference07.htm> or 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 with speakers.

The ATSE 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 Transport and Regional Services; Bioenergy Australia; Energy Transformed Flagship; Grains Research and Development Corporation; International Food Policy Research Institute; Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation