



MEDIA ALERT

25 August 2008

CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD SECURITY

The rising threat of climate change presents an array of serious challenges that threaten food security. **“Agriculture in a Changing Climate”**, an international conference on 3 September in Parliament House, Canberra will be opened by The Hon Tony Burke, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and will bring together key international and national specialists to address issues for the world, for our region and for Australia related to climate change and food security including:

Keynote Speakers:

- Ms Katherine Sierra, Vice President for Sustainable Development at the World Bank. Ms Sierra has overall responsibility for strategies and work in agriculture and rural development, energy, the environment, NRM, social development, transport, urban policies and water.
- Professor Ross Garnaut, author of the Garnaut climate change review and chair of the International Food Policy Research Institute.

International Speakers:

- Dr Cary Fowler, Executive Director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, the organization responsible for the ongoing activities of the arctic ‘doomsday’ seed vault. Dr Fowler will be speaking on *“Conserving Crop Diversity: Navigating Politics and Climate Change to Create a Global System”*
- Ms Frances Seymour, Director General of the Center for International Forestry Research who will speak on *“Forests and Climate Change: Cause, Casualty and the Opportunity to Capture Co-Benefits”*
- Dr Trevor Nicholls, Chief Executive of CAB International who will focus on *“Innovative Solutions to New Invaders: Agricultural Pests, Diseases and Weeds”*
- Dr Segenet Kelemu, Research Director, Biosciences Eastern and Central Africa addressing *“Helping Smallholder Farmers Deal with Climate Change”*
- Dr Shaun Coffey, CEO Industrial Research Ltd, NZ, who will address issues for livestock production.

Australian Speakers include:

- Dr Mark Howden, Theme Leader CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship, addressing issues relation to crop distribution and yields
- Professor Rob Lewis, Executive Director, SA R&D Institute who will address impacts on fisheries and aquaculture
- Mr Peter Core, CEO of Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research who will address national and international agricultural research issues
- Dr Denis Blight, Executive Director, Crawford Fund on conclusions and the way ahead.

Further info at www.crawfordfund.org 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 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.