



# MEDIA ALERT

26 August 2008

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD SECURITY ISSUES

Katherine Sierra, VP World Bank and Ross Garnaut, Garnaut Climate Change Review  
The Theatrette, Parliament House, Canberra  
3 September 2008

The rising threat of climate change presents an array of serious challenges that threaten food security. Highlights of The Crawford Fund's international development conference "Agriculture in a Changing Climate", on 3 September in the Theatrette, Parliament House, Canberra, include:

9.00 Opening by **The Hon Tony Burke**, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

9.25 Opening Keynote Address by **Ms Katherine Sierra, Vice President for Sustainable Development, World Bank**. Ms Sierra has overall responsibility for Bank strategies and work in agriculture, rural development, energy, the environment, NRM, social development, transport, urban policies and water.

10.00 **Press Conference with international speakers** including:

- Ms Katherine Sierra, Vice President for Sustainable Development at the World Bank and Chair of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.
- Dr Cary Fowler, Executive Director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, the scientist and organization behind the arctic 'doomsday' seed vault.
- Ms Frances Seymour, Director General of the Center for International Forestry Research who has been involved in key international fora on forests and climate change issues.
- Dr Trevor Nicholls, Chief Executive of CAB International who will address pests and disease issues and climate change.
- Dr Segenet Kelemu, Research Director, Biosciences Eastern and Central Africa will be available to discuss climate change issues for smallholder farmers.
- Dr Shaun Coffey, CEO Industrial Research Ltd, NZ, will present the climate change issues related to livestock production.

3.00 **Professor Ross Garnaut**, author of Garnaut Climate Change Review and Chair of the International Food Policy Research Institute speaking on "Climate Change and the Agricultural Mutation"

Media kits will be available at the media desk from 8.15am in the Theatrette Foyer. Further info at <http://www.crawfordfund.org/events/conference08media.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 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.