



THE CRAWFORD FUND

*An Initiative of the Australian Academy of
Technological Sciences and Engineering*

The Year in Brief

JULY 2008 - JUNE 2009



The Crawford Fund Year in Brief 2008/09

Overview

The priority of international agricultural research was underlined in a year of crises and change. The real value of the Crawford Fund, and of its role in supporting international agricultural research and training for a food secure world, were underlined by the events of 2008/9 and the Fund's response.

The world food price crisis, which began in the early months of 2008, added millions to the number of poor and hungry in the world. The crisis led the Fund to establish a Task Force on world food security - the Australian Government accepted virtually all of the Task Force's recommendations (see page 3 & 4).

And the 2008 Parliamentary Conference – Agriculture in a Changing Climate: the New International Research Frontier – confirmed the Fund's uncanny ability to construct a seminar agenda with world's best speakers that caught the attention of policy makers for its constructive and timely nature. This reinforced the Fund's ongoing public awareness campaign (see page 5).

Throughout the year, the Fund continued its niche training activities, some with spectacularly beneficial outcomes, and conducted a Master Class on impact assessment that gave participants the tools to assess returns on investment in international agricultural research (see page 6).

All of this was delivered on time and within budget and as the Fund moved its headquarters from Melbourne to Canberra and new staff and coordinators took up appointments (see page 7 & 8).



Photos in this Year in Brief have been provided by journalists who visited developing countries in the year under review with the support of The Crawford Fund.

Many thanks to:

Sarina Locke, ABC Radio, for the photo taken in Java on page 1

Sue Neales, News Ltd, for the photos taken in Peru on page 2

Paul Myers, Straight Arrow Communications, for the photos taken in Mexico on page 3

Sarina Locke, ABC Radio, for the photos taken in West Timor on page 5

Pip Courtney, ABC TV, for the photos taken in Peru on pages 7

Crawford Fund Task Force on the Food Crisis

The Crawford Fund moved quickly to establish a high level Task Force on the food crisis

The food price crisis of March/April 2008 highlighted the fragility of world food production. A perfect storm of events, including droughts in food bowls such as Australia, a peak in oil prices (and hence in fertiliser, pesticide and transport costs), the diversion of food grains to bio-fuel production in North America and Europe, speculation and some ill advised policy responses, on top of a switchover in the food demand and supply curves that occurred at the turn of the century led to the peak in food prices. Whilst that peak passed during the year, the underlying demand/supply switch – and the world's need to double food production by 2050 – remain or should remain at the centre of national policy, in Australia and globally, as other crises come and go.

The Crawford Fund moved quickly to establish a high level Task Force on the world food crisis. That it was able to do so within days of a decision to set up the group is testament to its

standing amongst the interested community. Mr James Ingram, a former Executive Director of the World Food Program and head of the Australian aid program, agreed to lead the Task Force thus lending it his prestige and intellectual weight. Others joined the group without hesitation. Importantly, government agencies took the establishment of the Task Force seriously: the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon. Tony Bourke, called for an early meeting with Mr Ingram and the Fund's Executive Director; an Interdepartmental committee established to formulate a whole of government response to the crisis sought the counsel of the Task Force and provided feedback on preliminary findings, welcoming its 'constructive' approach; and after extensive review of its findings the government accepted virtually all of the recommendations in its report, A Food Secure World: how Australia can help, an acceptance reflected in a substantial boost in the 2009 budget to funding for international agricultural research.



Report of the Crawford Fund Task Force and the Government Response

The core recommendations of the Crawford Fund Task Force were directed at the supply side challenge. It said that bold action by governments is needed to ensure world food security through increased funding for agriculture and rural development; improved public policy; investment in rural services; investment in the discovery and delivery of new technologies and improved farming practices; a positive policy framework in Australia for food and related knowledge exports; better emergency and post emergency responses; and direction of more of Australia's aid and private philanthropy to the world's poorest people, including those in Africa.

It is clear from the response from the Australian Government, that agencies including AusAID, DFAT, DAFF, ACIAR and CSIRO considered the report in detail. First and foremost, the Government has accepted that Australia needs to enhance its focus on, and investment in, sustainable food security and supports in full or in part 27 of the 31 recommendations made by the Task Force.

The refocusing of aid on agriculture and rural development is in itself a significant achievement. The proportion of aid dedicated to agriculture has steadily declined over the past two decades. This decline was clearly a significant error. So, even if the aid program is unable to grow as quickly as projected towards achieving 0.5% of GDP by 2015, priorities within the program should be adjusted as quickly as possible to give greater prominence to world food security. The Task force recommended increased support for ACIAR; incentives to encourage ACIAR to respond more quickly with larger programs; and an expansion of ACIAR's mandate to embrace the environment, water and climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Task Force also recommended support for new Australian funded programs to establish long term strategic partnerships between Australian centres of excellence and international agricultural research centres. Programs could address issues in priority geographic areas and/or agro-ecological zones (such as the semi arid tropics) of mutual interest to Australia and the developing world.

The Government accepted this recommendation noting that Australia has the expertise, comparative advantage and access to world class research

institutions to nurture strategic partnerships. ACIAR would have a valuable role in brokering networks between IARCs, Australian institutions including CSIRO, government research organisations, state departments universities, NGOs and community based organisations, think tanks, private sector and cooperative research centres.

The Task Force encouraged ACIAR to become more international in that it should actively canvass for funding from sources outside of Australia.

The Government accepted this recommendation.

Just as our capacity to contribute to world food security will grow as our economy recovers, Australia's capacity to increase our productivity, adapt to climate change and to contribute more through aid and trade will grow if Australia strengthens its own knowledge base – especially in semi arid and tropical agriculture and in human and animal nutrition in the tropics and strengthens its strategic research capacities and human capital in agricultural sciences and climate change, including enhancing the mobility of our scientists internationally. The importance of knowledge in semi-arid and tropical agriculture led the Task Force to recommend that an international dimension should be added to the proposed Australian Tropical Innovation Precinct, focused on Townsville.

The Government has accepted this recommendation, noting that support for such work is currently the subject of consideration as part of its enhanced food security initiative, and that in this context consideration is being given to addressing Australia's goal to strengthen its engagement with Africa. As the Government says, Australia's standing in tropical agriculture, livestock and forestry research forms a sound basis for extended activities.

The Task Force said that young Australians should be encouraged to consider a career in agriculture and in agricultural research; mid-career scientists should be offered attachments to international agricultural research centres as a way of growing our human capital for food security; and that Australian universities should seek increased overseas student enrolments in areas related to food, agriculture and climate change.

These suggestions have been accepted by Government.

Public Awareness in 2008/09

The world food crisis lent urgency to the Fund's public awareness activities

The world food crisis lent urgency to the Fund's public awareness activities. The Report of the Task Force gave them a clear focus throughout the year. The establishment of the Task Force in June 2008 attracted quality national coverage, as did the announcement in November 2008 of its findings at a National Press Club address by Dr Jim Ingram, and in April 2009 of the Government's response to the Task Force at a Rural Press Club address by Dr Denis Blight – each maintaining the media spotlight on the food crisis and reinforcing the reputation and profile of the Crawford Fund.

The annual Parliamentary Conference hit the spot once again by focusing on food security and climate change

The Fund was successful in both identifying a key topic for its 2008 Parliamentary Conference and in assembling a team of top international policy makers and scientists to address the issues. The 2008 Conference, entitled *Agriculture in a Changing Climate: the new international research frontier*, was addressed by Ms Katherine Sierra, Vice President of the World Bank and by Professor Ross Garnaut who was finalising his report on climate change for the Australian Government, as well as several chief executives of international agricultural research centres and scientists from Australia, New Zealand and Africa. Venues were filled to capacity for the conference and associated activities including a TV documentary launch and a national seminar on the food crisis, and many speakers were involved in stakeholder and Ministerial meetings and briefings. National TV, print and radio coverage was achieved on a range of issues related to climate change, agriculture and development.

Other Public Awareness Activities continued apace

Visits to Australia by senior international spokespersons on different aspects of agricultural research and development, including Bob Zeigler from International Rice Research Institute, Colin Chartres from International Water Management Institute, Dyno Keatinge from the World Vegetable Centre, Cary Fowler from the Global Crop Diversity Trust, and Iain Wright

from International Livestock Research Institute, also provided opportunities for meetings with key decision-makers and partners, and quality positive national media coverage.

"Seeing is Believing" visits for journalists to developing countries were organised to Peru, Mexico, Java and West Timor with partners' support and continued to produce positive national coverage in print, radio and TV outlets on agricultural research with impact. A new feature of the visits is the international webfeatures produced.

National radio features were facilitated to highlight the benefit of work by Australians living and working in developing countries on agricultural R&D projects. Future series are in the pipeline around Australian researchers who are regular travellers to developing countries working on Australian projects or engaged in Crawford Fund training.

This year saw both **TV and radio documentaries** about agricultural R&D go to air in Australia and internationally with Crawford Fund involvement:

- The multi-award winning 1 hour ABC TV documentary, "Seed Hunter" is estimated to be seen by over 80 million people worldwide. In addition to its screening in October 2009, it received significant national media coverage, managed by the Crawford Fund. It has since been shown on National Geographic Channels worldwide, and on the Smithsonian Channel USA, and in France, Germany, Ireland, Sweden, Canada, Malaysia, Greece, Portugal, Finland and Russia.
- A radio documentary by ABC journalist Sarina Locke aired throughout Australia and the Asia-Pacific region highlighting how agricultural aid projects over ACIAR's 25 years in Indonesia are helping farmers to improve food production.

Other key stories throughout the year receiving media attention were related to the International Year of the Potato, the release of a paediatric cure for malaria, concerns with the spread of the UG99 wheat virus, the need for Australian support for a compendium of invasive species, the training activities of the Crawford Fund, and ACIAR supported research in the region.



Crawford Fund Training in 2008/09

A Fund master class on impact assessment underpinned the case for increased investment

The Master Class was on a topic – impact assessment of international agricultural research – that is central to the Fund’s mandate, and it provided 26 participants from 10 countries with the skills and tools to undertake robust impact assessments of agricultural research projects around the world, and thereby to provide back-up to policy decisions on such investments. The Master Class involved theoretical sessions on impact models and evaluation, impact pathway analysis, and estimating spill-over effects. Group exercises on tools in good practice to undertake impact assessment helped build collaborative bonds and networks that participants could utilise in their day-to-day work after returning to their home institutions.

And niche training activities ensured that developing countries got the most of ACIAR and other research projects

Fund State and Territory Committees supported a total of 11 training courses which were held in 9 countries (including Australia) reaching 257 participants. Of these participants, 203 were involved in ACIAR-related programs. The topics were diverse; for example: sugar cane diseases, ornamental horticulture in the Pacific, research capacity building in higher education in natural resources management, large ruminant health, cocowood drying, and participatory land-care. These courses involved collaboration with a wide range of Australian and developing country institutions, as well as international agricultural research centres such as IRRI. The broad base of collaboration and involvement in these training courses, and the diverse topics show how effective the Fund can be in adding value to ACIAR and other international agricultural research programs through complementary capacity building that enhancing spill-over effects.

Individual training awards were made to 19 trainees from 14 countries, 10 of which are in the Asia-Pacific region whereas two were from Latin America, and one from the Middle East and one from North Africa. Most were supported to visit Universities, CSIRO and State Departments of Agriculture in Australia. Some examples of the topics include germplasm collection, soil carbon sequestration, food composition, climate forecasting, and arsenic analysis of water.

The improvement of forages for increasing livestock productivity in Cambodia was the topic for Mr. Pin Vannaro, from Maharishi Vedic University in Prey Veng, Cambodia, who was Crawford Fund Fellow for 2008. Mr. Vannaro visited a number of research and production centres in Australia before giving the Crawford Fund Fellow’s address in Brisbane. In every case, awardees were strongly supported by cooperating Australian institutions to whom the Fund owes a debt of thanks.

No. of trainees 2008-2009 - total 24

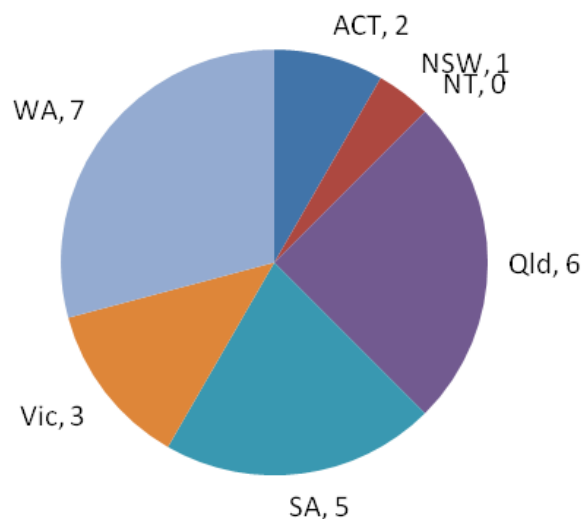


Figure 1 shows the distribution of training courses by State and Territory.

The Fund’s State and Territory Committees are pivotal in the delivery of its mission and in particular of its specialist training activities. The Chairs of the State and Territory Committees are ex officio members of the Fund’s Board, which is responsible to the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering for the conduct and control of the affairs of the Fund. The Committees sit at the centre of the Fund’s Australia-wide network. Terry Enright (Chair WA), Tony Gregson (Chair, Victoria) and Tony Fischer (Coordinator, ACT) were members of the Fund’s Task Force on World Food Security established by the Fund during the year and played prominent roles in its deliberations. Similarly, John Anderson, who joined the Fund’s Board during the year, was a member of the Task Force and as a former deputy Prime Minister of Australia brought a high level perspective to the work of both the Fund and its Task Force.

In 2008/9 the Fund also welcomed Professor Helen Garnett as the new Chair of its Northern Territory Committee and Mr Terry Enright enjoyed his first full year as Chair of the Western Australian Committee. Kep Coughlan was welcomed as Coordinator of the Queensland Program.

Governance and Administration Changes

Whilst all this was happening important governance and administration changes were implemented

All of this was delivered on time and within budget and as the Fund moved its headquarters from Melbourne to Canberra and new staff and coordinators took up appointments.

The Crawford Fund is an initiative of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering. During the year and following changes in the Academy's constitution, the Fund took steps to establish itself as a not for profit company with the Academy as its sole member. A draft constitution for the Fund has been agreed with objectives largely unchanged from its founding charter. The Fund is now known as the Crawford Fund with a subsidiary title: an Initiative of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering rather

than the ATSE Crawford Fund. It remains for the Fund to be incorporated with ASIC, allocated an Australian Business Number under Tax Concession Charity status; and granted income tax exemption. Importantly, the formal establishment of the company and transfer of assets from the Academy to the Fund must await the granting of deductible gift recipient status.

New appointments during the year and the move to Canberra enabled improvements and efficiencies in the Fund's management and administration. Improvements have been made in Awardee, training course and master class databases and in the organisation's financial reporting. We have redesigned Crawford Fund livery including its website, business cards stationary and other printed and digital material.



Statement of Financial Performance

This brief statement describes the income and expenditure of the Crawford Fund during the 2008/2009 and 2007/2008 financial years. The Crawford Fund is an initiative of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, and the Academy's detailed financial statements (incorporating those of the Crawford Fund) are published each year in its Annual Report. The Crawford Fund's accounts are audited each year during the annual audit of the Academy's accounts.

NOTES	INCOME	2008-09(\$)	2007-08(\$)
	Australian Government grant via ACIAR	735,000	700,000
1	Australian Government Departments & agencies	55,765	139,148
2	State Governments	175,768	202,273
3	Individual donations	22,800	35,325
4	Private sector	0	20,000
5	Philanthropic organisations	16,873	36,840
6	International sources	6,389	13,656
7	Interest	42,247	45,312
	TOTAL	1,054,842	1,192,554
	EXPENDITURE		
	Salaries, salary sacrifice and on-costs	183,299	192,001
	Honorariums and consultancies	188,201	190,000
	Travel	48,382	50,102
	Meetings	2,400	1,933
8	Office expenses	39,043	53,477
	Insurance	1,992	1,995
9	Special projects	34,340	19,481
	Audit fees	2,500	1,230
	Bank fees	99	70
10	Crawford Fund Review	10,000	0
11	Relocation Canberra	25,736	0
12	Restructuring expense	15,480	0
13	Redundancy	38,863	0
14	Task Force	41,031	0
15	Training activities	376,577	528,375
16	Public awareness	80,921	118,836
	Sundries & incidentals	8,809	8,846
	TOTAL	1,097,673	1,166,346
17	Surplus/deficit	-42,831	26,208

1. Contributions from Australian Government Departments and agencies varies from year to year. The lower income in 2008/2009 was due to the fact that during the year ACIAR provided in kind rather than cash sponsorship for Masterclasses
2. Contributions from State Governments also varies from year to year. The decrease in 2008/09 was due to decreases in the contributions from the Queensland Government.
3. The fall in individual donations was mainly due to lower donations from within NSW
4. The expected income from the private sector has not yet been paid and will appear in the 2009 -10 accounts
5. The decrease in 2008/09 occurred due to the fact no income in the year from UNICEF following the conclusion of earlier grants
6. Funding from International sources varies from year to year
7. Interest varies from year to year depending on the money-market for investment.
8. Office expenses are lower due to careful control of expenditure
9. Special Projects -Support for a training workshop associated with the International Conference of Agricultural Economists and a report about the emerging global food crisis
10. Crawford Fund Review commissioned - report due in October 2009
11. Crawford Fund has relocated from Melbourne to Canberra ACT
12. and 13. Expenses incurred in restructuring of Crawford Fund
14. Crawford Fund Task Force on World Food Crisis
15. Training activities vary from year to year. The reduced expenditure is due to some training activities being delayed until 2009-10
16. Expenditure on public awareness varies from year to year depending on the projects undertaken and funds available
17. The deficit is somewhat lower than the budgeted deficit for 2008/2009.
Net assets are \$364,915 (total Assets \$442,521 less total liabilities \$77,606)