



**Crawford
Fund** FOR A FOOD
SECURE WORLD

The Crawford Fund in VICTORIA

About the Crawford Fund

The Crawford Fund is an Australian not-for-profit organisation that has been working since 1987 to support and help improve agriculture in developing countries.

In contrast to other groups working on agricultural technologies, our role is to arrange specialist training activities using Australian experts, and to raise awareness of how Australian agricultural research in developing countries benefits not only the host country but also Australia.

The Fund is named after Sir John Crawford, an eminent Australian who was pivotal in Australia's post-war growth.

The Fund embraces his belief that using agricultural research to alleviate hunger and rural poverty in developing countries can also give them the keys to economic progress, regional stability and sustainability.

This is the win-win proposition in the expression 'doing well by doing good'.

The Crawford Fund operates nationally through its State and Territory Committees, which are serviced by a small central office.

Committee members are volunteers who have strong experience in farming, agricultural research, policy and academia.

The committees select and support the training proposals of relevance for their jurisdiction.

Overall our activities receive around \$1.6M/year in funding, from Federal, State and Territory governments as well as the private sector and individual donors.

The Crawford Fund directs almost all of its funding to on-ground activities and operating costs are kept to a minimum.

We invite you to partner with us

We invite your organisation to share in the benefits that flow from the way the Crawford Fund 'does well by doing good' in developing agricultural productivity.

By partnering with the Fund you can help us build capacity to secure food production in developing countries and the world.

Initiatives that make food production more efficient and that share knowledge, technologies and ideas can improve trade by assisting farmers in developing countries and open new opportunities.

We always welcome new partners and sponsors. You can work with us as funders, trainers or participants. The wider the network of skills the Fund provides from Victoria, the greater the pool of knowledge and ideas we can share.

As sponsors, partners and donors to the Fund's programs you gain, both directly and indirectly, by association and through new contacts and work. Donors also benefit through our 'deductible gift recipient' status as a registered charity.



The usual full house at The Crawford Fund Conference.

The Crawford Fund in Victoria

In A Nutshell

The Victorian Program was established in 1995. Collaborative projects within the dairy industry, rabies research, and forestry, genebanks and landcare involving Victorian institutions and researchers, deliver benefits to Victoria.

The Victorian Committee Chair is Dr Tony Gregson AM, FTSE, past chair of Bioversity International (Rome) and prominent Victorian grains farmer, and the Coordinator is Mr Bill Lewis FAIA.

The following provides an overview of the activities that industry or NGO partners could be involved in to build agricultural research linkages between Victoria and the developing world.

The Annual Conference

The Crawford Fund puts considerable emphasis on supporting young scientists interested in pursuing a career in international agricultural development. For instance, by providing scholarships to attend the annual Crawford Fund conference.

While we have public events, seminars and panel presentations around Australia, the Crawford Fund's highest profile activity is its annual conference which has been held for over 30 years in Parliament House, Canberra.

As Australia's key food security event, it involves esteemed international and Australian speakers to focus national attention on issues associated with world food security. Our conference audience brings views from science, agriculture, politics, business and civil society to help focus our attention on the way forward.

NextGen Focus

For over a decade, the Crawford Fund has been supporting the next generation of Australians with an interest in food and nutrition security and agricultural science and development to attend our annual conference and special scholar activities via our Conference Scholar Program.

The Conference Scholar Program is a unique learning, networking and mentoring opportunity for young students and scientists with a genuine interest in international agricultural R&D.

The tremendous support for these highly regarded scholarships continues to grow with fantastic feedback received year after year.

We now have a scholar alumni of over 400 passionate and committed young Australians.

We also support student **travel awards**, providing university students with an opportunity to add an international component to their post-graduate studies through travel to a developing countries that is central to their research.

Our partnership with **Researchers in Agriculture for International Development (RAID)**, which is now hosted by the Fund, adds more depth to the interactions with early career scientists.

RAID aims to be an active network of motivated young researchers who enhance each other's careers by sharing knowledge and opportunities.

There is tremendous synergy for our NextGen cohort between the Fund's scholars, travel awardees and volunteers and RAID.



Victoria's 2022 Crawford Fund Scholars with committee members.

Training of Agricultural Scientists

The Crawford Fund's training program has touched over 15,000 developing country agricultural scientists, extension staff and farmers in a diverse range of topics over 98 countries.

We use our significant Australian and international networks to develop intensive training in partnership with other Australian and international research, government, industry and academic agencies.

Our flagship training initiative is for mid- or senior level agricultural specialists under a 'Master Class' training program. To date, around 60 **Master Classes** have been held for over 1500 people in 70 countries across the Asia-Pacific and Africa, and in Australia.

Classes can consist of lectures, discussion sessions, video presentations, laboratory work and field visits. Skills covered include those relevant to the following areas: market access, biosecurity and food policy; sustaining agriculture's natural resource base; global change and risk assessment; science communication, information technology, and intellectual property.

For example, the Victorian Committee supported a Master Class, which provided training in soil borne pathogens in wheat in a program run in Turkey in association with CIMMYT training researchers from Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq. This was also a tremendous learning opportunity for the Australians involved.

A second approach is our short-term training of early career agricultural scientists. In this program, Australian specialists and institutions are involved in training individuals or small groups either in Australia or overseas.



Dr Sally Norton with staff from the Myanmar National Genebank in Victoria for genebank training.

Here's just a few examples of training the Crawford Fund Victoria Committee has supported:

1. Genebank Training

Training led by Dr Sally Norton, Leader of the Australian Grains Genebank at Agriculture Victoria, has included:

- capacity building activities in Victoria and Queensland for staff from the Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT), the main regional genebank of the Pacific based in Fiji.
- theory and hands-on activities for staff from the Myanmar National Genebank who visited the Australian Grains Genebank to improve their genebank management skills.
- training involving researchers from Indonesia and Papua New Guinea in developing ex-situ genebanks for seed conservation.

2. Halting Rabies

Partnering with the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness, the Crawford Fund has provided financial assistance to train laboratory staff in Nepal and Bhutan in the diagnosis of rabies and in the development and production of a vaccine.



Participants at the Master Class on soil borne pathogens of wheat in Turkey.

This has significantly reduced rabies infection and the dependence on expensive imported vaccine.

Rabies control work also continues in Indonesia with the aim of eradicating the disease from a number of islands close to Australia, thus reducing the risk to Australia's people and livestock.

3. Cocoa for Cash

Cocoa cultivation training in Vietnam for university staff, agriculture advisors and growers has also been supported by our Victorian Committee.



Researchers in Bhutan working with the Rabies diagnostic tests.

Cocoa production provides a valuable cash crop for local farmers and also helps to secure a source of raw material for Australia's chocolate manufacture and a market for Victorian dairy production.

The Crawford Fund Board

The Chair of the Board of Directors is The Hon John Anderson AC, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the National Party. Other Chairs have included The Hons John Kerin AM, Neil Andrew AO and Tim Fischer AC.



Participants at a cocoa training workshop in Vietnam sample and evaluate a variety of chocolates.

Support Us, Partner With Us

Would you like to partner with us in training young people in the broad range of fields that impact food and nutrition security to the benefit of your industry, Victoria, and the global community?

With willing and continuing support, we can do more to bring reciprocal benefits to our Australian and developing country partners. Benefits come from training, not only in courses but also through opportunities for active work on projects in relevant disciplines on-ground overseas.

These build invaluable experience that later enhance the recipient's own workplace on his or her return to Australia. Training and mentoring therefore helps Victoria and local industries, as well as Australia and the developing countries involved.

To find out more about partnering with us, or to sponsor a young Victorian, please contact:

Bill Lewis, Coordinator, Crawford Fund Victoria Committee

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More information

If you need more convincing, we can provide a range of additional background and materials, or you may like to check us out through:

Web: www.crawfordfund.org

Twitter: [@crawfordfund](https://twitter.com/crawfordfund) | **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/CrawfordFund

Victorian web: www.crawfordfund.org/training/state-programs/victorian-committee/

YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/CrawfordFund/videos