

**KATRINA HODGKINSON
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES**

Facing the global food crisis

Crawford Fund Forum

Tuesday 18 March 2014 (5.15pm)

Acknowledgements:

- The Hon. John Anderson AO - Chair of the NSW Committee of the Crawford Fund
- The Hon. John Kerin AM - Chair of the Crawford Fund
- Scott Hanson - DG NSW DPI
- Dr Richard Sheldrake AM - former DG NSW DPI
- Mellissa Wood, General Manager, Global Programs, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

Parliamentary colleagues, speakers, ladies and gentlemen.

It was a pleasure to host the Crawford Fund and its 2014 forum here at Parliament House today, and a privilege to now close this Forum on **Facing the Global Food Crisis**.

I am delighted that the Chair of the Crawford Fund, the Hon John Kerin, and the Chair of the NSW Committee the Hon John Anderson are here today, together with fellow NSW Committee members..

Today's speakers have addressed some important issues, notably highlighting the need for our collaborative approach to research to continue.

Supplying sufficient nutritious and safe food is already a challenge in many countries and will be a challenge for all nations as populations rise. The statistics and the scenarios drawn by Julian Cribb continue to be sobering.

Improving the integrity and the efficiency of food production systems is needed to underpin the delivery of sufficient quantities of food both now and into the future.

The work that has been highlighted this afternoon by the invited speakers, representing a diverse range of NSW-based research teams, is inspirational.

It has highlighted the mutual benefits that can be achieved for food production systems in our partner countries, and here in NSW, through continued investment in collaborative research programs.

We clearly need to continue to work together, building the skills and capacity in research and delivery teams.

The importance of delivering skills through training programs and the networks that develop cannot be underestimated, and I acknowledge the leadership of the Crawford Fund in this area, which carries on the ideals of Sir John Crawford of promoting research to help feed a hungry world.

Projects, including those of Professor Lester Burgess, continue to build those links that underpin much of the real long term benefit from research and development funding.

I also want to acknowledge ACIAR, and their continuing collaborative efforts in working with our NSW institutions in various research fields.

ACIAR has a strong pipeline of some 92 projects in NSW, valued at \$136 million.

The NSW Government is totally supports ACIAR's efforts and shares the belief that international research has wide ranging and immense benefits to Australian agriculture.

Department of Primary Industries researchers are participating in over 20 collaborative projects with ACIAR.

This work covers important issues, including biosecurity, cropping and horticulture....it is important and worthy work.

The impact of this research is extremely significant both here and internationally, and we remain committed to playing its part to support these relationships and networks.

NSW DPI has one of the largest and most effective primary industries research capabilities in Australia, undertaking world class primary industries R&D. About \$100 million is invested each year by the NSW Government and external contributors, across more than 900 active research projects.

I trust you have found today's forum both inspiring and stimulating, and we look forward to your continuing interest and support for this work.

Thank you.