



Doing Well By Doing Good – Terms of Reference and Background

The Crawford Fund believes that Australian development assistance programs in agriculture and related sectors should retain their primary purpose of assisting economic and social development in the developing countries, in accordance with Australia's nation interests. In addition, and without detriment to this purpose, they can deliver direct and indirect benefits to Australia.

The Crawford Fund has established a task force to consider benefits accruing to Australia and its States and Territories from development-assistance related investment in international agricultural research, and to propose ways in which these benefits might be enhanced and made better known. At the same time, science and research programs, primarily directed at an Australian benefit, can contribute to global wellbeing. Similarly, global programs in agricultural science will have spill-over benefits to both Australia and the developing world. In this sense, science and the creation and dissemination of new knowledge are borderless.

Investments in international agricultural research and related training are made through ACIAR, AusAID, and the Crawford Fund as well as by the Australian Research and Development Corporations. In addition, substantial investments are made by other donors, philanthropic organisations, and particularly by the private sector. Potential benefits to Australia include productivity gains in our own agricultural systems, benefits to two-way trade and investment flows, and benefits in biosecurity, biodiversity and human health.

Much is already known about these investments and benefits; but equally much is deeply hidden or obscure; and some claims on the level of benefits are contested. The Fund has decided, therefore, to consolidate and update findings of various reviews and studies on the issues and to look more broadly to build as comprehensive a picture as possible on the costs and benefits and their distribution. It will seek to deduce, from this wider canvas, guidelines for Australian engagement in international agricultural research programs to enhance benefits to Australia and to make the benefits better known.

The Task Force will be led by the Hon Neil Andrew AO.

Terms of Reference

The study will:

1. Make an assessment, from published reports, of benefits to Australia in general from international agricultural research; benefits to be assessed should include:
 - To Australian agricultural production through germplasm exchange and crop improvement;
 - In biosecurity, biodiversity and human health.
 - From economic development in Asia flowing *inter alia* from development assistance in general and agricultural research cooperation in particular resulting in new markets for Australian produce;
 - Through increased trade and investment flows;
 - From enhanced international cooperation, funded outside of aid programs, on global issues such as photosynthesis, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and other 'big science' questions which might have had their genesis in aid programs but have now moved beyond aid into mutually beneficial science cooperation in the public, private and philanthropic sectors.
 - Impacts on human resources available to undertake agricultural research, including the valuable experience gained by Australians through their participation in partnership programmes overseas,

the attraction of young scientists to agricultural research through involvement in the aid programme, and the potential to divert overseas some human resources needed for research on domestic Australian problems. The study should address the need to grow the pool of research expertise in Australia so that international and domestic agriculture can both be well served.

2. Synthesize the series of cost benefit studies on ACIAR funded activities that have attempted to measure direct benefits to Australian agricultural production;
3. Give special attention to the biosecurity and biodiversity contributions that international agricultural research has made or could make to preventing the incursion of exotic pests and diseases; the opportunity it affords for Australian scientists and quarantine staff to observe, first hand, exotic diseases such as FMD and Citrus Greening through participation in projects undertaken abroad should be noted; possible human health benefits especially in relation to a better understanding of zoonotic animal diseases and human nutrition should be reviewed.
4. The assessment of benefits should include the benefits of partnerships and understandings that have arisen as a result of ACIAR and other aid programs that have led to collaborations well beyond the scope and lifetime of the aid investments;

In undertaking the study, the task force should consult widely including with

- Policy makers including officials in Foreign Affairs, Treasury and Finance, and State, Territory and Federal departments of agriculture, the environment, and trade;
- AusAID and ACIAR; and the international agricultural research systems and its donor and recipient agencies;
- Interested members of Australian parliaments, including through a program of briefings around these terms of reference and progressive drafts of the task force's report;
- Australian farming communities and the National Farmers Federation and its broader constituency;
- The Fund's own network of State and Territory Committees; and
- The interested public.

The outputs of the study will include:

1. Guidance for project design and appraisal as evidence-based policy advice that might encourage greater consideration of benefits to Australia criteria without detracting in any way from the main purpose of ACIAR and AusAID investments; and
2. Consultative and public awareness pathways and processes that might enhance Australian engagement in international agricultural research, and broader policy and community appreciation of the dual benefits to Australia and the developing countries of such investments.

An initial draft report is expected by May/June 2013. It will be refereed by a senior two or three person panel. Wider consultations and public awareness activities will be based around a revised draft with a final report being published in the last quarter of 2013. Consideration will be given to the inclusion of the final report in the agenda for a Crawford Fund Parliamentary Conference in 2014.

Task Force Members

The task force will be led by Mr. Neil Andrew and include Mr Terry Enright, Dr Tony Gregson, Ms Cathy McGowan and Dr John Mullen. The task force will be supported by Dr Eric Craswell who will be responsible for overall management of the project.