



THE CRAWFORD FUND
For a Food Secure World

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THE YOUNG, THE OLD & WOMEN CENTRAL TO MANAGING POPULATION & FOOD SECURITY NEXUS

Responses to food insecurity have to be considerate of the significant youth and ageing populations in developing countries, and women. Action is most needed where food insecurity is at its highest levels - in countries with high fertility rates.

This was the key message of Dr Laurent Zessler, Director and Representative for UNFPA's Pacific Office at the Crawford Fund's annual food security conference titled "Ethics, Efficiency and Food Security: Feeding The 9 Billion, Well" being held in Parliament House, Canberra 26-28 August.

"Official United Nations population projections highlight a population of 9.6 billion in 2050 and 10.9 billion by 2100, with growth expected to be particularly dramatic in the least developed countries of the world," explained Dr Zessler, who has also served with the UN in Afghanistan, West and Central Africa, through South America and in Vietnam, Pakistan and Washington.

"Youth, children and older populations in least developed countries are at an all-time high with 1.7 billion children, 1.1 billion young people and the 60 or over-60 cohort increasing at the fastest pace ever.

"Nothing short of an effective holistic approach will ensure a balance between population dynamics and food security. Dignity in human rights and non-discrimination for all, universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights and services, and strong global and national leadership are critical components to our regional and international response.

"While addressing gender equity, social development and ensuring private sector participation are all important, most critical will be the empowerment of women who will play a key role in lessening food insecurity," he said.

"The relationship of population to development is so intertwined with issues of poverty, patterns of production and consumption, and inequality that none can be fruitfully addressed in isolation."

"People must be in the centre of our collective response to the changing dynamics and key trends presently experienced globally, in particular countries with urgent food security issues," he concluded.

Other speakers will include:

- **Prof Catherine Bertini, World Food Prize winner** and former Executive Director, UN World Food Programme presenting the Sir John Crawford memorial address titled "*Effective, Efficient, Ethical Solution to Feeding 9 Billion: Invest in Women.*"
- **Ms Rachel Kyte, World Bank Group Vice President and Special Envoy for Climate Change** warning the world's agriculture is under threat and we'll face a food crisis, unless we chart a new course and seriously boost climate smart agriculture.

The Crawford Fund wishes to thank the supporters of this event including AARES, ACIAR, AIFSRC, ATSE, AVRDC, CBH Ltd, CGIAR, Coffey International, CSIRO, Cosmos Media, Department of Agriculture, DFAT, Gardiner Foundation, Global Food Studies The University of Adelaide, GRDC, ICRISAT, IFPRI, La Trobe University, Murdoch University, OGTR, PBCRC, QUT, Rabobank, RIRDC, TIA, UNFPA, UNE School of Environmental & Rural Science, UQ, UWA Faculty of Science, UWS