

INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IS AID THAT WORKS - FOR AUSTRALIA AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Collaborative projects on biosecurity, natural resources management, climate change, policy, agribusiness and socioeconomic research are just some examples of international agricultural research, involving Victorian institutions and researchers, delivering benefits to Victoria.

Much of the aid-funded agricultural research work is undertaken through projects funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), and is assisted by training funded by the Crawford Fund.

Current and pipeline ACIAR projects involving Victorian organisations account for a total expenditure commitment of approx \$28 million for 26 projects with 11 Victorian partners. This work has involved partnerships with researchers throughout Asia and the Pacific and is having a positive impact on Victorian agriculture too.

“The reasons for Australia being involved in international research and development assistance are at once altruistic and self-interested with tangible and non-tangible benefits; and our involvement is of immense benefit to our international and trade relations.”

- The Hon John Kerin AM FTSE
Chairman, The Crawford Fund
and The Hon Tim Fischer AC FTSE
Former Chairman, The Crawford Fund



The Crawford Fund's purpose is to make more widely known the benefits to Australia and internationally from international agricultural research. The Fund conducts a range of public awareness activities, researches food security issues, arranges specialist training in Australia and overseas for developing country scientists, and conducts master classes for developing country personnel in key topics in agricultural R&D.

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Our “Doing Well by Doing Good” report is available on our website or by contacting the Crawford Fund



The Fund's **Victorian committee** supports Victorian institutions and scientists to deliver training that benefits those involved in both developing countries and Australia.

By working with the Fund, institutions can gain further rewarding involvement in international agricultural research.

Are you involved in an agriculture for development project that would benefit from training for your developing country partner scientists?

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INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH WORKING FOR...

VICTORIA



THE CRAWFORD FUND
For a Food Secure World

The Crawford Fund believes that international agricultural research delivers a wide range of benefits to Australian agriculture.

It also holds the key to alleviating rural poverty in developing countries, opening the door to economic progress and serving our national interests of regional stability. By supporting agricultural research, Australia is “Doing Well by Doing Good.”

The Crawford Fund provides an avenue for Australia's highly experienced agriculturalists to exchange knowledge with their counterparts in developing countries.

“Supporting agricultural research for food security provides Australia with benefits worth more than we spend on it through our aid program.”

- The Hon Neil Andrew AO, horticulturalist,
former Speaker of the House of Representatives
and Chair of the Doing Well by Doing Good Task Force



HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF CRAWFORD FUND TRAINING WITH VICTORIAN CONNECTIONS

Fighting disease together

Dr Ganesh Pant from the **Rabies Vaccine Production Laboratory** in Nepal, has been supported by the Crawford Fund on a number of visits to **CSIRO's Australian Animal Health Laboratory** (AAHL) in Geelong. Advanced laboratory training has enhanced his diagnostic skills and strengthened cooperation and collaboration between Nepalese and Australian institutions. He has subsequently run training to share the skills he acquired in Victoria. More recently AAHL has helped by testing samples of Japanese encephalitis, avian influenza, Newcastle disease, pseudo-rabies and rabies, and has also provided reagents and other materials to help build the country's diagnostic facility.

Establishing networks in countries where diseases are present that are not currently in Victoria, enables Victorian researchers to gain understanding of the disease without risk of introducing it here. Such information is crucial for early and accurate detection of biosecurity threats and builds Victoria's capacity to deal with exotic disease outbreaks.

"It's really important to be linked to the international network because that's where we get our germplasm to breed better varieties."

- Dr Tony Gregson AM FTSE
Chairman of Plant Health Australia and
Victorian Committee, The Crawford Fund

Education and collaboration on citrus threat

Victoria has one of the key citrus growing regions in Australia and farmers are well aware of the threat of Huanglongbing (HLB), a devastating disease now rife in most South and Southeastern Asian countries, southern China and also in Florida and Brazil. A Crawford Fund Master Class was conducted on the surveillance, identification and management of HLB to increase regional expertise, and networking and collaboration among scientists working on HLB in Asia and Australasia. Attended by 44 scientists from 16 countries, including Australia, it not only helped plant protection experts from developing countries in Asia and the Pacific to improve their HLB diagnostic skills, there were significant benefits to Australia. Firstly, the improvement of diagnosis and management skills in neighbouring countries will reduce the spread of the disease there and thus reduce the risk that the disease will spread to Australia. Secondly, Australian scientists' capacity to identify the psyllid and the disease are increased, preparing them for a fast response if they enter Australia.

Landcare goes international from Victorian roots

The Crawford Fund has supported training in Landcare principles from a village level through to Master Classes with representatives from around the world. Working with **Rotary International** in villages in the Pacific Kingdom of Tonga, training and support was given to the locals to build raised domestic garden beds to prevent inundation during tropical rainstorms. Shelters were also built to protect village poultry from predation by cats and dogs. The project was based on the Australian Landcare model and included both community development and technical skills.

A recent evaluation of the project demonstrated significant economic, nutritional and social benefits to the local community.

The success of the project has attracted the support of the New Zealand Government and funding has been provided to include additional villages. The enlarged project will also have a focus on tree crop species that were recently assessed by ACIAR.

Processing and design for furniture

Responding to needs identified in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, the Crawford Fund has supported training by the **University of Melbourne's** Associate Prof. Barbara Ozarska, Leader of the Forest Products Research Group who is involved in ACIAR projects.

Six PNG delegates studied theoretical and practical wood processing and furniture manufacturing technologies in Australia and visited Victorian timber and furniture manufacturers where they observed state of the art machinery and production methods. The course exceeded the expectations of participants whose capacity to provide training to timber companies in PNG has been significantly enhanced.

Traditional Indonesian furniture manufacturers face increasing competition and to respond to the need for design knowledge, six Indonesian furniture designers studied design, product development, prototyping, manufacturing methods, packaging and marketing in Australia. Back in Indonesia, the participants are applying their knowledge and sharing their skills and experience. They have made presentations at workshops and provided training to other furniture designers.

Perhaps more importantly, the friendships and networks created in both courses strengthens and enriches the future collaboration between the Australian, PNG and Indonesian participants and their institutions.

Tree growing for improved livelihoods

A successful Master Tree Grower (MTG) program, developed through the **University of Melbourne**, has involved more than 100 courses and 2000 farmers across Australia. The idea to develop an African MTG program occurred when MTG coordinator, Rowan Reid, and **Beyond Subsistence** CEO, Jon Lambert, attended a World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) workshop in Nairobi, Kenya. The first stage was to train key personnel from Uganda, Niger, Ethiopia, Kenya and Lesotho. The Crawford Fund supported this initial MTG program in 2012.

ICRAF's research in developing countries has shown agroforestry can make a big difference: relieving poverty and increasing food security - saving lives. The MTG assists farmers identify opportunities for using trees to improve their livelihoods.

Since the initial training, courses have been conducted in Uganda and Niger, with a second course scheduled for Uganda in July 2014. "The African MTG has taken an Australian idea and adapted it to suit the needs, aspirations and opportunities facing farmers and foresters across Africa," Jon says.



Resources for dairy farmers

In developing countries, the dairy industry has an important role to play in food and nutritional security. To assist Asian countries develop their local milk industries, the Crawford Fund has supported a number of dairy books over the years by Dr John Moran, a retired Australian senior research and advisory scientist from **Victoria's Department of Primary Industries (DPI)**. Experience gained from advising dairy farmers in Australia and working with dairy farmers and advisers in South and East Asia have formed the basis of John's books. Published by **CSIRO**, with Crawford Fund support, these books cover topics from rearing young stock to business management to managing high grade dairy cows in the tropics. Four books form companion publications to each other, with new titles currently being written. To ensure the widest availability, it is possible to download the books by chapters from the internet. They form a valuable resource for dairy farmers in developing countries and Australia alike.