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## MEDIA RELEASE

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## LIVESTOCK PART OF THE FOOD SECURITY SOLUTION: TRADE & PREDICTABLE SCIENCE POLICY FOR INNOVATION REQUIRED

Animal source foods help alleviate hunger and provide high-quality protein and key micronutrients that are essential for physical and cognitive growth and wellbeing.

This will be the key message of Mr Sameer Bhariok, from Elanco Animal Health in his address to the Crawford Fund's annual food security conference titled *The Business of Food Security: Profitability, Sustainability and Risk* being held in Parliament House, Canberra 10-12 August. It will focus on the importance of collaboration and partnership between the public, private and not-for-profit sectors to achieve sustainable global food security. Other private sector speakers at the conference are from Bayer CropSciences, Olam International and Syngenta.

"The primary cause of food waste in less developed agricultural systems is losses due to disease and death. Reduction of morbidity and mortality is essential to reduce waste in animal production and the best way to do this is through new innovations in the developing world," said Mr Bhariok, Elanco's regional leader for Market Access in the Asia Pacific.

"The development and adoption of new innovation in livestock production – including products, practices and genetics - can help farmers produce more food more sustainably," Mr Sameer reported in a session that identified private sector work underway for producing more food, more sustainably.

"Reducing the environmental footprint of agriculture – something that we're all working towards – is an achievable goal."

"For example, with existing innovations, such as improved animal welfare, nutrition and genetics, we can raise the average annual increase in global milk yield from 13.5 litres kg/yr/cow to 24 litres."

"Realising this potential involves a combination of commercial innovation, corporate responsibility, advocacy and collaboration. It also requires predictable science-based policy to support innovation across diverse production systems, and to facilitate global food trade," Mr Bhariok said.

## Other speakers will include:

- Mr Anthony Pratt, Executive Chairman, Visy Industries
- HE Gerda Verburg, Chair of the UN Committee on World Food Security & of the World Economic Forum Council on Food Security and Nutrition
- Dr Martin Kropff, Director General, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre
- Dr Cary Fowler, biodiversity conservation advocate

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