

## By Liam Ryan (DAFWA) and Danielle Gale (Curtin University)

The business of food security was keenly discussed amongst over 60 attendees at a recent Crawford Fund Sundowner co-hosted by the Centre for Crop and Disease Management at Curtin University.

The 2015 WA Young Crawford Scholars Lachlan Hunter and Nikki Dumbrell kicked off the agenda by discussing their insights from the 2015 Parliamentary conference in Canberra. Lachlan, an aspiring young agricultural science and international relations student at UWA, said that one of his key learnings from the conference was the need to promote and communicate the benefits of international agricultural research. Nikki Dumbrell, a Research Assistant in the school of Agricultural and Resource Economics at UWA, highlighted the need for big picture 'disruptive thinking' and



### □ A captive audience listened to a range of engaging talks before enjoying casual drinks and networking

the increasing importance of leadership from the private sector in agricultural development. Following the WA Crawford Fund Scholars, Professor Ravi Fotedar gave an engaging discussion on global aquaculture highlighting some startling production and consumption data from



### □ Professor Ravi Fotedar, Curtin University, gave an impassioned talk about the significance of global aquaculture to food security

around the world. Ravi discussed seafood within the context of a 'growing world looking at a desirable commodity that is in declining stock,' while also highlighting the breadth of opportunities (and challenges) facing global aquaculture.

Greening Australia's Dave Collins then closed the talks with some sincere insights into a recent capacity-building trip to Uganda. Through funding from the Crawford Fund, Dave revisited a small community in Uganda near the township of Ucarty, after previously visiting in 2010 and 2012 as part of a research program to help local farmers evaluate the efficacy of cattle manure as an organic fertiliser.

After a brief introduction to Researchers in Agriculture for International Development (RAID) by the WA representative Myrtille Lacoste, 15 minutes of 'speed networking' helped the diverse mix of students, researchers and industry representatives in attendance get to know each other over casual drinks and finger food.

Overall it was a fantastic night - one which no doubt inspired and facilitated some fruitful discussions and opportunities to share insights with old friends and new acquaintances.

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 Young Crawford Fund Scholars

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