



THE CRAWFORD FUND IN QUEENSLAND

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What is the Crawford Fund?

The Crawford Fund is an Australian not-for-profit organisation that has been working since 1987 to raise awareness of the benefits to Australia and developing countries from agricultural research, and to arrange specialist training activities using Australian experts to improve developing country agriculture.

The Fund is named after the eminent Australian and a key architect of Australia's post-war growth, **Sir John Crawford**. The Fund embraces his belief that using agricultural research to alleviate hunger and rural poverty in developing countries can open the door to their economic progress, regional stability and sustainability. This provides a mutual benefit to developing countries and to Australia – a win-win proposition of 'doing well by doing good'.

The Fund has enjoyed bi-partisan support – The Hon John Anderson is our current Chair; earlier Chairs have been The Hon John Kerin, The Hon Tim Fischer and The Hon Neil Andrew. Nationally, a small central team manages the Fund, supported by State and Territory committees comprising volunteers from farming, research, policy and academia who select and support training proposals.

The Fund receives financial support from the Australian Government, State and Territory governments, the private sector and individual donations.

And in Queensland?

Each State committee is chaired by an eminent science or community leader, supported by a part-time coordinator with significant agricultural expertise.

The current Chair in Queensland is Professor Kaye Basford from The University of Queensland (UQ), who has won the Australian Medal for Agriculture. Dr Bruce Pengelly, former Partnerships Leader at CSIRO and awardee of their Medal for Lifetime Achievement, is Coordinator.

The Queensland Program, established in 1996, places emphasis on training in areas that have particular relevance to Queensland, and it organises public events and offers scholarships to encourage young Queenslanders in international agricultural development.

We are keen to provide additional training opportunities on topics that also benefit Queensland and have Queensland businesses involved as funders, trainers or participants.



The Fund has supported training to control ticks and tick-borne diseases of cattle - this photo in Mozambique.

What are the key activities of the Crawford Fund?

The Annual Parliamentary Conference

While we have public events, seminars and panel presentations around Australia, the Crawford Fund's highest profile activity is its annual conference which has been held for over 25 years in Parliament House, Canberra.

As Australia's key food security event, it involves esteemed international and Australian speakers to focus national attention on issues associated with world food security.



Queensland's 2015 Conference Scholars with Dr Bruce Pengelly.

Last year's conference focused on food loss and waste and highlighted innovations from Australia and the developing world.

Please let us know if you'd like more information on the range of sponsorship packages and benefits for this year's event.



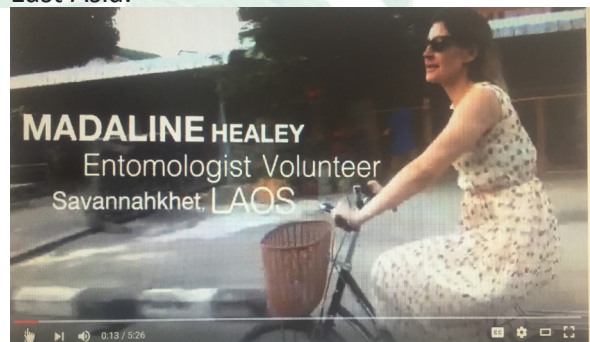
Usual full house at the Crawford Fund Conference.

Encouraging Young Australians in International Agricultural Development

In 2010 we introduced a new element to our conference as part of our efforts to encourage young people's interest in study, careers and volunteering around agriculture for development.

Our **conference scholarships support young Australians** to the event, with an additional mentoring program and interaction with influential researchers, educators and volunteer agencies. We now have a cadre of passionate, committed scholars like those in the photo opposite.

One example is Madaline Healey, who was a scholar in 2012. She then became a volunteer in plant pathology in Laos and is now at the University of the Sunshine Coast completing her PhD involving an Australian agricultural development project in South East Asia.



The Fund's video of Madaline Healey's experience in Laos.

Some of our State Committees have taken the scholar idea a step further. Our Queensland committee now supports a small group of Queensland students each year to attend the conference and to also include an international component in their post-graduate studies through travel to a developing country that is central to their research.

The **student awards** have covered a diverse range of topics including integrated pest management, development of beef cattle, and tissue culture in horticulture. Gurion Ang from UQ travelled to the Pacific for his work on evaluating field responses in the diamondback moth and enhancing its biological control agent.



Gurion Ang presenting his horticulture research.

Our student awards offer a tremendous opportunity to broaden the impact and scope of students' work in Australia and overseas and we welcome industry support.

Michael Mackay, 3rd from left, with participants of the Master Class for seedbank managers.



Training of Agricultural Scientists

The Crawford Fund's training program has touched over 10,000 developing country agricultural scientists, extension staff and farmers in a diverse range of topics.

Our flagship training initiative is for mid- or senior-level agricultural specialists under a '**Master Class**' training program.

We use our significant Australian and international networks to develop intensive training in partnership with other Australian and international research, government, industry and academic agencies.

To date, around 50 master classes have been held for over 1000 people in countries across the Asia-Pacific and Africa, and in Australia. Examples include courses in biosecurity threats, soil productivity, agribusiness, and climate risk assessment and management.

A recent master class was facilitated by Dr Michael Mackay from the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation, UQ. Co-funded by the internationally renowned Global Crop Diversity Trust (Bonn Germany), we trained seedbank managers from around the world in better data management and retrieval systems.

Queensland (and Australia more generally) is particularly reliant on access to overseas crop diversity, being home to few indigenous commercial crops - notably the humble macadamia!

A second approach is our **short-term training** of early career agricultural scientists. In this program, Australian specialists and institutions are involved in training individuals or small groups either in Australia or overseas.

For example, the Queensland committee supported training for Papua New Guinea scientists in sweet potato virus identification and disease management. This was seen as particularly important to Queensland with its expanding sweet potato industry, to PNG which has sweet potato as a staple food crop, and to the world given PNG is one of the two “centres of diversity”.

Other training in PNG focused on rodent control, an issue many Queensland farmers face too.



Participants during rodent control training in Papua New Guinea.

*A range of universities,
private sector players and institutions
now support the scholar program
generally or sponsor their own nominee
to add to the group that we fund.*

Can you partner with us?

While we greatly appreciate the continued support we receive, we also want to increase and add focus to the benefits we can attain by growing our funding base and partnerships.

The Fund has **deductible gift recipient status**, so all donations are tax deductible.

Of course we welcome donations but we are also seeking new partners to work with us by focusing support for our key activities – our public events, efforts with young Queenslanders and training in the region of relevance and benefit to Queensland industries.

Can you join us in achieving our mission - specifically where you believe your Queensland-based industry or business may benefit?

If you can help, please contact:

Dr Bruce Pengelly

Coordinator

Crawford Fund Queensland Committee

bruce.pengelly@crawfordfund.org

0418 720 364

More information

We are proud of our achievements, and trust you are also enthused by what you have read. If you would like more extensive information, please access the sites listed below:

Web: www.crawfordfund.org

Queensland web: www.crawfordfund.org/training/state-programs/qld-committee/

YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/CrawfordFund/videos

Twitter: [@crawfordfund](https://twitter.com/crawfordfund)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Young-CrawfordFundScholars/566147466853422