



THE CRAWFORD FUND IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SUPPORT US - PARTNER WITH US

What is the Crawford Fund?

The Crawford Fund is an Australian not-for-profit organisation that has been working since 1987 to support and help improve agriculture in developing countries. In contrast to other groups working on agricultural technologies, our role is to arrange specialist training activities using Australian experts, and to raise awareness of how Australian agricultural research in developing countries benefits not only the host country but also Australia.

The Fund is named after Sir John Crawford, an eminent Australian who was pivotal in Australia's post-war growth. The Fund embraces his belief that using agricultural research to alleviate hunger and rural poverty in developing countries can also give them the keys to economic progress, regional stability and sustainability. This is the win-win proposition in the expression 'doing well by doing good'.

The Crawford Fund operates nationally through its State and Territory Committees, which are serviced by a small central office. Committee members are volunteers who have strong experience in farming, agricultural research, policy and academia. The committees select and support the training proposals of relevance for their jurisdiction.

Overall our activities receive around \$1.6M/ year in funding, from the Federal, State and Territory Governments, the private sector and individual donors. The Crawford Fund directs almost all of its funding to on-ground activities; national and state directors provide their time gratis; and, operating costs are kept to a minimum.

We invite you to partner with us

We invite your organisation to contribute to the benefits that flow from the way the Crawford Fund 'does well by doing good' in developing agricultural productivity. By partnering with the Fund you can help us build capacity to secure food production in developing countries and the world.

Initiatives that make food production more efficient and that share knowledge, technologies and ideas in developing countries can open new opportunities and catalyse economic development, ultimately boosting trade opportunities.

We always welcome new partners and sponsors. You can work with us as funders, trainers or participants. The wider the network of skills the Fund provides from the Territory, the greater the pool of knowledge and ideas we can share.

As sponsors, partners and donors to the Fund's programs you gain - both directly and indirectly, by association and through new contacts and work. Donors also benefit through our 'deductible gift recipient' status.



Usual full house at The Crawford Fund Conference.

The Crawford Fund in the ACT

The ACT Crawford Fund program was established in 2006. The ACT Committee Chair is The Hon Margaret Reid, Former President of the Senate and the coordinator is Dr Tony Fischer, Honorary Fellow, CSIRO Agriculture and Food. The following provides an overview of the activities that industry or NGO partners could be involved in to build agricultural research linkages between the ACT and the developing world.

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.



2016 Conference Scholars from the ACT with Dr Tony Fischer.

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.

For instance, the 2016 Annual Parliamentary 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 highly anticipated annual event.

An important element of our conference is our efforts to encourage young people's interest in study, careers and volunteering around agriculture for development.

Encouraging Young Australians in International Agricultural 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 number of passionate, committed scholars like those in the photo opposite.

Our partnership with Researchers in Agriculture for International Development (RAID), which is now hosted by the the Fund, adds more depth to these efforts. RAID aims to be an active network of motivated researchers who enhance each other's career by sharing knowledge and opportunities related to agricultural research for international development.

For example in the ACT, Kylie Ireland was a scholar who worked as a volunteer in Laos. She is now working at CSIRO, as a Postdoctoral Fellow on Invasive Species Ecology.

The ACT Committee also supported Temma Carruthers-Taylor to research arsenic mobilisation in rice paddies in Vietnam as a part of her honours research project. She is now pursuing a PhD at Monash University in Melbourne.

The ACT Committee emphasises participation of young researchers in most of its **training activities**. For example through its support for young researchers at The International Society for Root Research (ISRR), which held its 9th International Symposium in Canberra.



Kylie Ireland in Laos with female farmers at a market.



Temma Carruthers-Taylor collecting soil samples in a flooded rice paddy field in Vietnam.

The Symposium's theme was "below ground solutions to global challenges", and the meeting attracted delegates from 35 countries focused on improved root and rhizosphere function for different plant production systems.

Among the 300 delegates were 70 students, 24 of whom were Crawford Fund sponsored Student Ambassadors from around the world. Prior to the meeting, the students created their own web page, used social media to promote the symposium, ran a 'Crazy Root' competition to stimulate interest and wrote a guide for students to get the most from international meetings.

With Crawford Fund support five young agricultural scientists so far have participated in the International Rice Research Institute's (IRRI) "Rice Research to Production (RR2P)" in the Philippines. The course covers all aspects of the rice cycle from production, research and evaluation, as well as a focus on the professional development of the next generation of scientists and extension workers. In this course participants are thoroughly immersed in all aspects of genomics research including the germplasm collection, analysis and implementation activities.

Participants saw firsthand the difficulties faced by subsistence rice farmers, the importance of developing rice varieties to feed a rapidly growing world, and the importance and difficulties in agricultural extension. Participation in the course gives a direct benefit to Australian rice-growers, by gaining direct access to world class rice research.



Student ambassadors are shown how to carefully inspect the core faces to count the crop roots and to compile the data for analysis.

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. Classes can consist of lectures, discussion sessions, video presentations, laboratory work and field visits.

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, Australia has extensive expertise in the development and deployment of GM crops and associated biosafety regulation that could assist South East Asian nations.

The Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) in close collaboration with the Program for Biosafety Systems (PBS), a USAID-supported project managed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington

DC, organised Crawford Fund supported training on “Developing and Regulating Agricultural Biotechnology Products: Sharing expertise from Australia and Southeast Asia”, which was held in Canberra.

Eighteen experienced regulators from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam participated in the program of expert lectures, case-study presentations, working-group exercises and field visits to examine key factors in environmental risk assessment for GM crops, risk management, and risk communication.

The Crawford Fund Board

The Chair of the Board of Directors is The Hon John Anderson AO, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the National Party. Other Chairs have included The Hons John Kerin AM, Neil Andrew AO and Tim Fischer AC.



Aaron Preston tilling a rice field during his training at IRRI.

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

Can you partner with us?

With willing and continuing support, we can do more to bring reciprocal benefits to our Australian and developing country partners.

Benefits come from training, not only in courses but also through opportunities for active work on projects in relevant disciplines on-ground overseas.

These build invaluable experience that later enhance the recipient's workplace on his or her return to Australia.

Training and mentoring therefore helps Canberrans and the ACT's industries, as well as Australia and the developing countries involved.

To find out more, specific to your situation, about partnering with us, or to sponsor a young Canberran, please contact:

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More information

If you need more convincing, we can provide a range of additional background and materials, or you may like to check us out through:

Web: www.crawfordfund.org

ACT web: www.crawfordfund.org/training/state-programs/act-committee/

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

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

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