

Media are welcome to attend

4 August 2017

HARNESSING BIG DATA TO TRANSFORM AGRICULTURE AND LIVES

Better use and access to data through mobile phones, apps, drones, sensors, robots, cloud technology and open-source software may all be having an impact for Australian farmers but how can we use this digital revolution to reduce the daily risk faced by farmers in developing countries. Can it transform their lives? And what are the lessons for Australia?

International and Australian specialists will discuss the possibilities offered by the digital revolution for food security at *'Transforming Lives and Livelihoods: The Digital Revolution in Agriculture'*, the 2017 Crawford Fund annual conference in Canberra on 7-8 August. It will be addressed by The Hon Barnaby Joyce, Deputy Prime Minister, at 9am 8 August in the Theatre, Parliament House.

The event includes the Sir John Crawford Memorial address by one of Africa's leading advocates for food and nutrition security, the inspirational Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, Vice President for Country Support, Policy and Delivery at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa - set up in response to a call by Kofi Annan. Lindiwe will be addressing, *'A New Narrative for Ending Hunger.'*

The conference will present a set of innovative case studies from Australia and around the world to highlight the realised and potential impacts of digital agriculture for impact at home and abroad.

Speakers' bios and abstracts are all available [here](#) and the [program](#) includes:

- Dr André Laperrière, Executive Director, Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition, giving the morning keynote on how big and open data can transform lives and livelihoods
- Dr Andy Jarvis, Leading the CGIAR Big Data Platform, will present the afternoon keynote on the areas ripe for disruption by the digital revolution, and impediments to success
- Steve Mathews, Head of Strategy at Gro-Intelligence on those around the farmer - policymakers, investors, corporates, the non-profit sector - using big data for agriculture the way it is used by the energy, banking and transportation sectors.
- Dr David Bergvinson, Director General, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics and former head of the Gates Foundation's Digital Ag Initiative, will discuss how we can unlock the potential of digital agriculture through phones and apps
- Dr Mike Briers AO, Chief Executive, Food Agility Cooperative Research Centre and Co-Founder, the Internet of Things Alliance Australia will talk about taking the hope and fear out of agricultural service innovation

Case studies will cover work underway globally, and in Africa, Asia and the Pacific.