



## THE CRAWFORD FUND 2018 SCHOLAR BIOS

**Rida Akzar** - I am a PhD student at the University of Adelaide. My PhD project focuses on understanding drivers and barriers of farmers to adopt dairy technologies and linking commercialisation aspect of dairy farmers that may influence dairy farmers' technology adoption. Generally, my research interest lies in the field of development studies in the agricultural business sector. My research interests include dairy sector development in developing countries; technology adoption; food value chain; rural economic development including small medium enterprises, women participation and employment. By attending the conference, I would like to learn more and improve my understanding between the interconnections amongst human health, nutrition and agriculture and connect it with my current research project and research interest.

**Bonnie Armour** - I am studying a double degree of Environmental Policy and Management and Agriculture Science. I am strongly passionate about the environment and combined both degrees because I believe sustainable agriculture is crucial in ensuring conservation of our biodiversity as well as feeding our growing population. I would love to travel the world and to places where I can devote myself to conserving the environment and it's constituents whilst being able to feed the world and this is why I was so keen to participate in this conference. I am a casual employee with SARDI and also work as a bartender and swimming teacher. I love to travel, to be around people, and the outdoors.

**Rebekah Ash** - I am a first year undergraduate student studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Honours) at The University of Queensland. I was fortunate enough to spend my childhood and adolescence in the outdoors and travelling. This led me to become interested in the environment, sustainability and food security. For me, agricultural science provides a pathway to connect my interests and endeavours in the fields of leadership, developing countries and sustainability. Although I am still very new to the industry I have quickly taken an interest in plant science, more specifically, molecular genetics and crop physiology. With the quick advancement of technology, I believe that there is huge potential in these fields. My volunteer work alongside Dr Brett Ferguson in the Centre for Integrative Legume Research at The University of Queensland and lectures on the Bt gene in Africa presented by Dr TJ Higgins have guided me towards these areas of agricultural science. As I am still early on in my career, The Crawford Fund 2018 Annual Conference appeared to be a priceless opportunity for a passionate student like myself that still has so much to learn and gain from the leaders in the industry.

**Kiana Barrie-Gresham** - Originating from a rural North Central Victorian town devastated by the bushfires of 2009, I developed an appreciation for the recovery of agriculture in trauma and its importance in rural communities across the world. Following the commencement of a Bachelor of Agriculture at the University of Melbourne in 2016, and an overseas tour aiding small holder farmers in rural Vietnam in 2017, my passion for research, development and extension in rural communities and villages was solidified. Now nearing the end of my undergraduate degree majoring in animal production and with a keen interest in agronomy, my goal is to one day work remotely both nationally and internationally to ensure the strength, sustainability, and continued growth of smallholder farmers, even in the face of natural and man-made tragedy or disaster. The Crawford Fund 2018 Conference is an amazing opportunity for networking and gaining a broader understanding of pertinent issues facing agriculture now and into the future; my participation will hopefully provide further direction for my meaningful involvement in the sector following completion of my undergraduate studies.

**James Bidstrup** - I am currently an Agricultural Science student studying at the University of Western Australia and a former graduate of the Denmark Agricultural College. Whilst not from a farming background, I am extremely passionate about agriculture and enjoy being able to meet new people and experience new things in the agriculture industry. During my time at the University of Western Australia I have been selected for the Agribusiness Connect scholarship which allowed me to study crop physiology overseas at the University of Buenos Aires. As well as this I have been awarded the New Colombo Plan Scholarship which gave me the opportunity to study Agribusiness in Vietnam at the Vietnam National University of Agriculture in 2017. I have taken place in several short courses and programs including the SIBI sheep camp, Brunswick cattle camp, UQ/SIBI sheep meat value chain program and was named the 2018 AAAC David Bedbrook Bursary winner. It is my aim to use my tertiary degree to become an agronomist to be able to provide a valuable service to farmers.

**Maree Bouterakos** - I have six years' experience as an Accredited Practising Dietitian in international development, academic and clinical settings across the Asia-Pacific region. My most recent position was with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Sri Lanka as a Nutrition Specialist. I proactively initiated several multi-sectorial nutrition proposals focused on nutrition-sensitive agriculture, and led the integration of nutrition into the agriculture curriculum at a leading University. I have a keen interest to explore the gaps in evidence on agriculture's contribution to nutrition security through nutrition programmes in the Asia-Pacific region. My interest extends to gathering evidence of effective measures in mainstreaming nutrition-sensitive agriculture in formal education settings and across multiple sectors.

**Rebekah Burns** - I am a final year veterinary student from the University of Sydney. I took one extra year of my degree to complete an honours research project in zoonotic diseases of goats in Laos. My main interests are zoonosis, antimicrobial resistance, one health/ one welfare and practicing evidence based clinical medicine for large animals (production and equine).

**Harry Campbell-Ross** - I have a strong interest in methods to improve cropping and livestock systems in the developing world. This stems from a desire to both improve smallholder livelihoods and contribute to solving the global food security crisis.

**Stefanie Carino** - Stefanie Carino is a recent Nutrition and Dietetics (Honours) graduate from Monash University. Throughout her degree, she has undertaken nutrition and education related volunteer work in Timor Leste, Thailand and Fiji. She has been involved in research about the teaching of environmental sustainability in nutrition curricula and has interests in public health nutrition, agriculture, community gardens, research, education, food security, food sovereignty and environmental sustainability. Stefanie sees this conference as a unique opportunity to learn about how agriculture can be harnessed to enhance nutrition and health of populations, and improve community engagement with their food sources.

**Matt Champness** - I'm a fourth-year Agricultural science student at Charles Sturt University Wagga Wagga. I am undertaking an honours project investigating the effect of salt supplementation on lambs finished on lucerne. I have an extensive background in livestock production however also have a keen interest in small holding farming after spending time in Vietnam in 2017 as part of the Syngenta connections trip. I am interested in on farm practical research to improve food and fibre production in a changing climate.

**Anita Chang** - I am a Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Bioscience (Hons I) graduate from the University of Sydney. My honours project investigated the impact of non-foetal weight loss at calving on cow and calf traits, using a walk-over-weigh system. I am currently a PhD candidate with the Precision Livestock Management team at Central Queensland University. My thesis is an investigation into the remote and autonomous detection of calving and calf loss using a series of on-animal sensing systems, such as accelerometer and GPS. I have a particular interest in cattle behaviour and technology integration within the beef sector.

**Claire Cunningham** - I grew up on a small hobby farm in Tasmania, where I learned the importance of sustainable food production. During my degree I travelled to Sri Lanka for one month as part of a scholarship program. From this experience, my passion for international agriculture grew. My aim now, is to encourage and educate communities to eat locally grown, nutritious food and facilitate

in increasing small holder agricultural production. Also, I'm passionate about raising awareness on issues relating to food security, nutrition and reducing food wastage. My long-term goal is to inform, empower and increase the health of communities globally.

**Emily Dahl** - As an Honours student in economics at the University of Queensland, I am currently researching factors that affect agricultural technology adoption in Ethiopia using household survey data collected through the Sustainable Intensification of Maize-Legume cropping systems for food security in Eastern and Southern Africa (SIMLESA) program. I am interested in issues pertaining to economic development, so I aim to acquire experience in policymaking and economic analysis to contribute technical expertise to the design and implementation of practical initiatives for advancing economic development internationally. I wanted to attend the conference to learn about other people's research work and pressing issues in the field of food supply to help further my understanding of this global issue.

**Emma de Courcy-Ireland** - I am 32 and grew up in country South Australia, though I now live in Adelaide. I enjoy watching AFL and other sports. I am involved in a community organisation that fundraisers money for women and children. I also enjoy good food and wine and spending time with friends and family. My research is focused on developing molecular markers for the biofortification of rice with zinc.

**Annamaria De Rosa** - I am passionate about how agricultural research can positively impact global food production. I am currently undertaking a PhD at the Australian National University in the Centre of Excellence for Translational Photosynthesis. My research project investigates how to improve carbon dioxide diffusion through the leaf with the overall scope of enhancing photosynthesis to increase crop yields. I look forward to gaining some insights on the policy aspect of agriculture, learning how to improve collaborations between researchers and industry and to learn about the latest strategies to reshape agriculture.

**Nam Ha Duong** - I am currently a PhD student at University of Tasmania. My PhD study has been funded by the ACIAR's John Allwright Fellowship. I completed my MSc in Agricultural Economics at Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany and my undergraduate study at Hanoi University of Agriculture, Vietnam. Since 2007 I have been recruited as a lecturer at Vietnam National University of Agriculture. To date, I have experienced 14 domestic and international projects targeting Vietnamese agri-food stakeholders of various sites facing production, consumption and marketing difficulties. My research interests are: farmer values, decision making, livelihoods, sustainable agriculture, poverty reduction, and value chain analysis.

**Abbey Dyson** - I was drawn to this scholarship because I wish to pursue a career full of travelling. Both for the chance to experience the world and other cultures, and to hopefully make a difference in developing countries. I have just returned from a volunteering trip to Bali where I worked in local schools teaching basic sustainable living practices and the impacts of plastic pollution on the environment. This was an amazing and eye-opening experience for me that has further cemented career aspirations. I am hoping the Crawford Fund Scholarship opportunity will open doors into this world and its possibilities. Beyond this, my interests focus on environmental biology, with equal emphasis on flora and fauna. Soil and atmospheric chemistry is becoming a new interest and I have spent time outside of university studying the basics of sustainable gardening and food production.

**Eloise Fogarty** - Eloise graduated with a Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Bioscience (Hons I and Medal) in 2013 from the University of Sydney. She then worked at a leading veterinary pharmaceutical company as a Research and Development Associate. Eloise commenced her PhD at Central Queensland University in 2017 where she investigates the use of autonomous on-animal sensors for welfare monitoring in sheep. Eloise is excited to attend the Conference and meet with scholars outside of the precision agriculture field. The focus on global food security also directly appeals to her thesis, given that heightened productivity can often lead to declining welfare standards.

**Demi Gamble** - I am currently a PhD candidate from ANU and CSIRO, where I'm working on photosynthetic biochemistry and physiology of cotton in response to heat stress. I'm located at CSIRO in Narrabri, and frequently travel to Canberra for most of my experiments. My background

is in botany; I completed a Masters research project investigating floral volatile production in Blue Mallee associated with pollinator and herbivore interactions. But my upbringing in a farming family brought me back to agricultural science, which allows me to feed my passion for improving the efficiency, productivity and sustainability of Australian and global agriculture.

**Alicea Garcia** - Alicea Garcia is a PhD Candidate with the University of Western Australia. Her research focuses on the gendered dynamics of climate change adaptation in agricultural communities of Ghana's Central Region. Recently Alicea was appointed a Western Australia Representative for Researchers in Agriculture for International Development (RAID), and has a keen interest in communicating the importance of addressing social and political dynamics in agriculture for improved development. Alicea feels that the Crawford Fund Conference Scholarship Program offers a unique opportunity to network and receive mentoring from experienced scholars and researchers in the broader field of agricultural research.

**Md Hasanuzzaman** - Md Hasanuzzaman is currently a PhD candidate at School of Land and Food of University of Tasmania. He is from Bangladesh. Mr. Hasanuzzaman received his B. Sc. Ag. (Hons.) and MS (Agronomy) from Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2009 and 2012, respectively. His current research involves investigating the physiological and morphological responses to osmotic stress (salinity and drought) in barley. Mr. Hasanuzzaman likes to work in the area of different biotic and abiotic stress (salinity, drought, waterlogging, acid soil, high and low temperature stresses) physiology and adaptation in important crops.

**Sophia Hoffenberg** - As a 24-year-old aspiring agriculturist and a motivated, enthusiastic, hard-working girl, I've been adventuring around rural Australia to find my place in the wide, prosperous world of agriculture. Currently, I am working at the NSW Department of Primary Industries as a Communications Coordinator within the Agriculture division. Within this role I am working closely with experts across all pillars of NSW DPI on a project aimed at better understanding the impacts of the emerging global megatrends on the primary industries. The prospect of sustainable agriculture as we look to the future with a looming population of over 9bn in 2050 is of particular interest to me. As demand expands for quality proteins, urban encroachment swallows scarce arable land and the climatic shifts wreak havoc on traditional agricultural industries, sustainable production in agriculture is threatened. Closer examination of specific drivers reveals the field of food wastage and mitigation methods as an area that I feel passionately about. One third of global food production is wasted or lost between 'field and fork', with an estimated to cost the Australian economy of \$20 billion each year. Agricultural loss and waste has significant impacts on the environment through underutilised land, water, energy and fuel resources in producing and distributing food. Opportunities to rethink food waste prevention and devise alternative food waste purposes are pertinent to future agricultural sustainability. If I can position myself within NSW, Australia and more broadly the World, to play an active role in contributing to zero waste agricultural production and consumption, I would be contributing to a cause that would have resounding effects on today, tomorrow and generations to come.

**Alex Howard** - I hold an Honours Degree Bachelor of Science (Animal Science) from the University of Adelaide, where I was involved in Salmonella research relevant to the Australian poultry industry. Since 2017, I have worked at the South Australian Research and Development Institute - contributing to food safety and process improvement research in collaboration with the livestock (red meat, pork and poultry) industries. I have a passion for working with animals and developing outcomes that improve both the quality of live and productive performance of animals in production and research settings. I wanted to attend the 2018 Crawford Fund Conference to meet people who are involved in international agricultural research and to see where there are opportunities for me to become involved and contribute to the improvement of agriculture, food, nutrition and health in the developing world.

**Silke Jacques** - Science can make a difference and I want to pursue a career in international research for development. My PhD between Faculty of Medicine and Science focused on creating crops for the future by adapting proteomics technologies from cancer disease models to plants. Whilst in South-Korea, I taught Virology, Microbiology and started a functional research lab. I joined the CSIRO Molecular Plant Pathology and Crop Genomics Laboratory where my postdoc focuses on crop protection against insect pests. My volunteering experience for CIMMYT in Kenya

made me even more passionate about sustainable agriculture and would love to make an impact through science.

**Manisha Kolakshyapati** - I am a veterinarian from Nepal and have my master's degree in animal science (nutrition). Currently, I am doing my PhD in poultry nutrition. Being a vet as well as nutritionist, I always have an interest in finding the ways to increase animal production in a sustainable way and to contribute towards food security. Also I have interest in areas such as animal derived food production and environmental sustainability, animal welfare and healthy meat production. This conference is touching a lot of my fields of interest which will broaden my knowledge and understanding about the agriculture, livestock and human nutrition. I am looking forward to learning a lot and meeting the experts in this field.

**Ei Mon Thida Kyaw** - I am a Ph.D candidate in the school of environmental and rural science, University of New England, Armidale. My position and background in my country is Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Economics, Yezin Agricultural University, Myanmar. As I am a very first year of Ph.D student, I am writing my research proposal concerning with "Impact of Labour Migration on Agricultural Production and Role of Left-behind women in Myanmar". The research is going on with these objectives: 1) to observe the causes of labour migration 2) to investigate the reduction of labour force in agriculture 3) to analyse the productivity of crops by migration 4) to reveal the role and women empowerment of left-behind women in agricultural production; and, 5) what is the coping strategies of labour scarcity in agricultural production?

**Jian Liu** - Jian Liu is an enthusiastic scientist in arthropod pest management in agriculture. She obtained her PhD in Zhejiang University, China working on the relationship among insect-plant-virus to reveal the secret of the success of white fly invasion. Then she took up a role in 2009 working in insect pest survey and pest management in Chinese Academy of Forestry. Later she focused on plant defense against insect pest in rice before joining CSU. Currently she is full time working on an ACIAR project collaborating with several organisations in Australia and Papua New Guinea. She is focusing on developing environment friendly and economic affordable pest management strategies in the sweetpotato industry.

**Tim Luke** - I'm a veterinarian, currently undertaking a PhD with Agriculture Victoria and La Trobe University. Before starting my PhD I worked in clinical veterinary practice for over 10 years in south eastern Australia, New Zealand and the UK. My PhD is focussed on the use of mid-infrared spectral data from routine herd testing to facilitate genomic selection of more resilient dairy cattle with smaller environmental footprints. I'm really excited to attend the Crawford Fund Conference, as I'm really keen to become involved in helping farmers in developing countries breed livestock that are productive but also well adapted to their local environment.

**Isabel MacPhillamy** - I am a veterinarian working in livestock development research with an interest in biosecurity and disease surveillance and how these influence regional food security. I am currently working as a project officer in three ACIAR funded livestock biosecurity and production projects in Laos and Cambodia and am currently undertaking a PhD "Managing transboundary disease reporting and response challenges to improve livestock food security in Cambodia". Outside of work I enjoy travelling, cooking, bush walking and getting into photography.

**Willa Matchett** - My key interests are fairly broad because I have not yet found what I am most excited about. That is why I am so enthusiastic about attending the conference. I feel I will gain valuable knowledge, which will shape and sharpen my interests. Growing up on a large agricultural property has shaped my interest in sustainable farming practices and the future of agriculture throughout Australia and the world. I am also interested in human consumption and waste production, and how we can minimise this by changing our policies and attitudes.

**Natalia Medeiros De Souza** - I have focused my academic life into research, focusing on biological control of pests, more specifically, forest pests. I have graduated and done a Master's in my country, Brazil, through Sao Paulo State University and in between my studies I also worked for two brief periods (five months each) as a research assistant at Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI). My main interests are entomology, sustainable pest management and community outreach and I would like to pursue a career in research and/or extension.

**Camila Moura Nogueira Ribeiro** - I am an agronomist from Brazil. I have started my career volunteering in several organic/biological farms in Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, USA, Israel, and lately, in Australia. During my undergrad, I interned in the horticulture department of Sao Paulo State University, where I had the chance to work with smallholder farmers in agroecological transition, and also with indigenous communities on the preservation of their edible traditional species. In my last year of undergrad I had the opportunity to study for a year at the University of Western Australia, where I focused on natural resource management and human and plant nutrition. While in WA I have also interned at two permaculture research institutes, one in QLD and another in NSW. After graduating, I worked in the organic coconut industry, as agronomist of a medium scale farm in the northeast of Brazil. I am now developing research at the Tropical Forests and People Research Center on the agricultural component of forest and landscape restoration projects.

**Alexander Nilon** - I am a PhD student in my second year at the University of Queensland's Centre for Horticultural Science (QAAFI). My project is concerned with the use of topical RNA interference to provide crops with resistance to key viruses without resorting to genetic modification, in order to combat issues such as the development of insecticide resistance in crop pests. My primary interests in research include agricultural biotechnology, RNA interference and its role in pathogen defense for plants, and the direct translation of research outcomes to real world applications, particularly regarding sustainable agriculture.

**Samantha Nowland** - I have a background in marine biology and aquaculture, and my particular area of research interest is the development of aquaculture-based livelihoods. I work for the Northern Territory Government as a research scientist and lead aquaculture projects (on oysters and sea cucumbers) to support the establishment of small-scale farms within Indigenous communities. I am also undertaking a PhD at the University of the Sunshine Coast on 'Developing hatchery culture techniques for black-lip rock oysters to support Indigenous economic development in remote NT'. The CF 2018 conference is of interest to me as in northern Australia we are well-placed to work with our neighbouring countries to promote international agricultural research and to assist in the alleviation of poverty. There is also much for us to learn from our neighbours that can be applied to our own rural development programs and I am interested in the transfer of social and technical knowledge between development programs.

**Georgia O'Shea** - I am currently undertaking a Bachelor of Agriculture at the University of Melbourne, majoring in plant and soil science. I have always had an interest in agriculture, more so sustainability in agriculture. I'm currently studying my second semester at the Dookie campus which has given me a much greater insight into the whole agriculture production system. I hope to work in the industry to better the sustainability practices on both the production and processing levels and help create awareness of new technologies and practices that can create a more sustainable industry.

**Evie Packett** - I am an undergraduate hydrology student currently conducting research for CSIRO. I am an undergraduate student focused on how to manage water in a long-term, sustainable, integrated way. I have a particular interest in how to manage water in Pacific island environments and groundwater systems. At CSIRO my research has focused on water management models and how they support equitable decision-making. Our team specifically works in South Asian environments and I specialise in gender equity. I am interested in the Crawford Fund conference because it will help me continue to build my knowledge of how to target social development through resource management decisions.

**Stephanie Prado** - I am a passionate Deakin nutrition student with a passion for sustainability, food security, and health promotion. I hope to one day become an APD that has an interest in teaching nutrition, and agriculture to many. I also hope to work for the FAO and WHO someday, making changes to policies. After attending a study tour in Thailand, I have become more eager to make changes on an international level. It is an interest of mine to make changes that will help feed the growing population.

**Anthony Rutto** - I am a passionate budding horticulturist with over 8 years experience in flower, fruit and vegetable production systems. I work in a key government policy development institution as a production and research technical staffer in Kenya and I am currently undertaking

my intensive higher research Masters Degree at The University of Queensland. My areas of interests is in developing and adopting sustainable production and utilization techniques of indigenous vegetables encompassing post-harvest handling as a pathway in alleviating poverty and hunger in Kenya and other developing countries particularly on women and children who are deemed economically disadvantaged and highly vulnerable to food insecurity. At the moment, I am undertaking adopted salt and water stress trials on assorted indigenous vegetables at UQ with the aim of developing future production protocols in anticipation of changes in climatic patterns. My expectations of attending this conference are to: interact with key food security and analysis on the role of research and policy as actor in food and nutrition security; have an opportunity to interact with renown researchers, policy specialist and security experts in learning from Australia's successful collaboration approaches and how these partnerships have produced workable solutions in the agriculture industry; learn more about Crawford Fund activities, their reach, impacts and the future institutional activities/projects in the face of globalization and the increased need of reducing funding; identify key research and policy gaps that Crawford Fund have developed capacity and how these capacities can be transformed into workable collaborations between me, as an actor and the Crawford Fund and extension of partnerships with other institutions in Kenya; and, at a personal level, I wish to interact with great scholars and researchers who include Dr. Marco Wopereis, a renowned horticulturist from World Vegetable Centre-Taiwan, Associate Professor Johnson of University of Melbourne on his unique approaches in Iron-fortified Maize Dr. Tania Paul who has been promoting indigenous vegetable in Australia. These great scientists have been lined up for presentation at Crawford Fund Conference 2018 and it is an opportunity to shape my professional development with their inputs in my current and future assignments.

**Cooper Schouten** - I'm an enthusiastic 25-year-old second year PhD candidate from SCU in northern NSW. I am involved in a number of ACIAR projects looking at revitalising the apirary industries in PNG, SI and Fiji. My research passion is using beekeeping as a means for generating income without exacerbating environmental degradation throughout Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. I am interested in youth and women's empowerment, international agricultural project management, grant writing and participatory action research and qualitative research techniques. I applied for the Crawford Fund Scholarship to network and learn from the experiences of other likeminded experienced professionals and peers.

**Jenny Shanks** - I completed a PhD 2015 in bee pathology, after previously completing degrees in Hort Science. I moved to Canberra for my role in bee biosecurity. I coordinate a national industry-government bee pest surveillance program. I work with Commonwealth and state/territory government, honey bee industry and pollinator-reliant hort/agriculture industries daily. My PhD and now my job focuses around ensuring Australia maintains; healthy bee populations for good pollination, the livelihood of our growers, and ensuring our food security into the future. Australia is in a unique position with healthy pollinators, however we have much to learn from overseas experiences and have a wealth of knowledge and expertise to assist in the food security and improved pollination internationally. The Crawford Fund Scholar Program allows the ability to network and engage with like-minded persons aiming to achieve outcomes that benefit many more.

**Zeping Shao** - After graduating from a Master of Engineering degree, Mr Zeping Shao joined the Centre for Nutrition and Food Sciences, Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation, in 2017, and started his PhD Program at the University of Queensland. Intrigued with taste sensory science, he commenced a project to associate food allergy and taste. Zeping's key interest areas include food nutrition, obesity, genomes/transcriptomes, immunology and food allergy. Impressed by the contribution made by Crawford Funding worldwide, he is looking forward to getting some experience and support for his food allergy project in the Crawford Fund 2018 Annual Conference and the scholar activities.

**Joseph Vile** - I am currently working at the Murray-Darling Basin Authority in Canberra, implementing Commonwealth Government policy in partnership with State Governments on water resource planning. I have a strong interest in international agricultural development, across political, policy and practical scales. I have practical experience in Viet Nam, Papua New Guinea,

Solomon Islands and Fiji, and would like to build on my experience in these countries. In Viet Nam I worked on building climate smart rice-shrimp rotation systems with smallholder farmers in Kien Giang Province, Mekong Delta, as an Australian Volunteer. In Papua New Guinea, for my ANU Honours thesis, I researched how rural people use famine foods and migration to cope with El Niño events. During the 2018 Crawford Conference I have particular interest to learn what skills I should build to complement my experience, in order to build smallholder farmer capacity, especially in the face of climate challenges; best-practice techniques to inform, involve and partner with provincial and local governments in projects; and how we can increase our impact and value in agricultural development in the context of a declining foreign aid budget. For example how we can better leverage and engage our rich talent pool of farmers in Australia, attract more investment from the private sector, and better communicate the importance of food security to donors and governments.

**Simon White** - I hold a degree in Rural Technology (Agriculture major) with First Class Honors and a PhD in irrigation management. I have over 15 years of experience working in government organisations, educational institutions and multi-national companies. My expertise is in soil, water and climate risk management both domestically and abroad. I have a special interest in conducting research and capacity building activities in developing countries in irrigated agricultural production for food security under a variable and changing climate. Previously I have had involvement in overseas aid projects focused on climate and water management at a country, catchment, farm and field scale across various countries located throughout Asia and the Pacific Islands. I believe with greater education and understanding of the interactions between agronomic, hydrological and climate systems we have the capacity to enhance agricultural production efficiency and natural resource management without compromising environmental sustainability even within an variable and changing climate.

**Matthew Wilson** - I am a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture. My research looks at shelf-life extension and quality maintenance of fresh products such as berries, herbs and other vegetables. It also touches on postharvest management and food security. I previously gained a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Science, and completed a PhD studying the commercialisation of the native Tasmanian plant, *Tasmannia lanceolata*. I hope to get the chance to meet with people from across Australia with a shared interest in international agricultural research and development.



**THE CRAWFORD FUND**  
*For a Food Secure World*

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