

## MEDIA RELEASE

**Media are welcome to attend**

**Embargo: 9am, Monday 13 August 2018**

### HOW TO DELIVER RESULTS ON MALNUTRITION

Bold declarations of intent like the Sustainable Development Goals are necessary but the real work around hunger and nutrition takes place at the country level. Even there, national plans can falter without political commitment, institutional capacity and additional funding.

This will be a key message delivered by Professor Glenn Denning from Columbia University in his address to “*Reshaping Agriculture for Better Nutrition: The Agriculture, Food, Nutrition, Health Nexus*”, the 2018 Crawford Fund annual conference in Canberra on 13-14 August. Professor Denning will discuss policies and practices for change, joining international and Australian specialists to consider how to reshape agriculture to address the increasingly urgent and competing needs of the hungry and the over-nourished, and the finite resources of our environment.

“It’s impressive that such a large number of governments, international agencies, NGOs, business and universities have embraced Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, to ‘Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition, and Promote Sustainable Agriculture.’ However, delivering results through policies and programs is proving more challenging,” said Professor Denning.

“We need to move beyond aspirational plans and good intent to get results at scale, which are currently few and far between but, I believe, are by and large achievable.”

Sharing his personal experience from four countries and over 40 years - Cambodia, Malawi, Timor-Leste and Tajikistan – Professor Denning will identify strategic operational and design lessons that can inform a more effective response to SDG 2.

“Achieving food and nutritional security requires a long-term commitment – for example, 15-20 years to eliminate stunting,” said Professor Denning, an Australian who chairs the Earth Institute’s Practice Committee and is Senior Policy Advisor for the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

“Sustained political support is critical, so we need to engage top leadership, finance ministries and the legislatures, and achieve some quick and visible wins.”

“We have the knowledge and financial resources to enable an unprecedented positive transformation of our global food system. *All that’s required* is genuine, sustained political commitment and creative implementation strategies,” he concluded.

The conference will discuss what strategies are working and provide case studies of success and impact.