

MEDIA RELEASE

Embargo: Monday, 12 August 2019

Media are welcome to attend. Interviews can be prearranged for Monday, 12 August. Embargoed media releases will be available [here](#) and the full program is [online](#).

'CLIMATE-SMART VILLAGES' FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Australian farmers may have something to learn from a suite of tried and tested practices, technologies and services for dealing with climate variability and climate change that are enabling rural communities in Asia, South America and Africa to become more climate resilient. Climate-Smart Villages are like field laboratories to test innovative approaches for Climate-Smart Agriculture, to improve food, nutrition and income security in the face of climate change.

Climate-Smart Villages will be explained by Dr Alice Ferrer from the University of the Philippines Visayas, in her address on 13 August to the 2019 Crawford Fund annual conference, titled *Weathering the 'Perfect Storm': Addressing the Agriculture, Energy, Water, Climate Change Nexus*.

"Australian farmers are some of the most innovative in the world, but I think they may have something to learn from Climate-Smart Villages (CSVs), given your farmers are facing many of the same challenges being faced by very poor farmers in developing countries," said Dr Ferrer, who recently assessed climate-smart villages which have been established in seven areas in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and the Philippines.

"The CSV approach is working where increasing weather risks are threatening agricultural production and food security. We can maintain agricultural growth while minimizing climate shocks," she said.

Organized by the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) since 2015, CSVs in Southeast Asia serve as models in making climate-resilient communities and field laboratories of CSA.

"The Climate-Smart Village approach has a high potential for scaling out promising climate-smart agricultural technologies, practices, and services," she said.

Dr Ferrer explained that some of the portfolio of climate smart agriculture practices and technologies dealing with food security, adaptation, and mitigation have included **weather-smart** activities including forecasts and insurance; **water-smart** practices including rainwater harvesting, community management of water, laser-land levelling, micro irrigation, raised-bed planting and solar pumps; **seed-smart** activities such as adapted varieties and breeds; **carbon and nutrient-smart** practices like agroforestry and minimum tillage, and **market smart** activities like farmer-to-farmer learning, contingency planning, financial services, market information, gender-equitable approaches, and off-farm risk management strategies.

"We focus on context, processes, and outcomes to get sustainable impact through the Climate-Smart Villages (CSVs) approach," she said.

"Our work around Climate-Smart Villages - the research and capacity building activities - have informed policymakers, agricultural development practitioners, and investors of opportunities and pathways for scaling the positive results we are getting, and to generate investments and inform policies at the local, national, and regional levels," she explained.

"Our challenge now is to spread or 'scale out' the adoption of the Climate-Smart Village approach so the many benefits get to more farmers and greater mitigation of the impact of agriculture on the environment is achieved," she concluded.

