

MEDIA RELEASE

Embargo: Monday, 12 August 2019

Media are welcome to attend

Embargoed media releases will be available [here](#) and the full program is [online](#).

Interviews can be prearranged for Monday, 12 August

TRANSFORMATION NEEDED IN AGRICULTURE THROUGH RADICAL CHANGE, NOW

There are opportunities for significant advances for real transformation in agriculture, but climate risk management will need to be at the core of all these initiatives. What is needed is radical change, now.

This is the key message of Dr Bruce Campbell, Director of the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), who is in Australia to address the 2019 Crawford Fund annual conference, titled *Weathering the 'Perfect Storm': Addressing the Agriculture, Energy, Water, Climate Change Nexus*. He will make his address in Parliament House, Canberra on 13 August, with other international and Australian specialists discussing strategies needed to provide water, energy and food in a sustainable and equitable way in the face of climate change impacts.

"I'm calling for a transformation to our food systems, and for success under a changing climate we must go way beyond business-as-usual. The pace of change required has never been seen before, necessitating radical change as opposed to incremental adjustments. We must transform the way food is produced, processed and consumed," said Dr Campbell, who has been doing inter-disciplinary science for development for more than two decades, and was the inaugural Director of the School for Environmental Studies at Charles Darwin University.

"In a nutshell, we will need to reshape food supply, retail and marketing from farm to fork; empower farmers, consumers, women and youth; scale-up climate-resilient and low-emission practices and technologies; expand digitally-enabled climate-information services; support enabling policies and institutions; and mobilise innovative finance to drive the transformation."

"In the developing world, we must reach 700 million small-scale farmers by 2030. These farmers have a crucial, but often ignored, role to play in finding and implementing viable, context-appropriate solutions to climate change in agriculture."

Dr Campbell argues the significant role that farmer organisations and networks can play to help farmers overcome the challenges of market and credit access and low bargaining power.

He explained the recently launched comprehensive action plan being developed through a new initiative that brings together over 100 partners to find pathways for transformation, with actions and champions to take them forward.

"Our panel of experts from around the globe has been assembled with the objective of building consensus on how global food systems need to transform and how such a transformation can be achieved. This group of leaders in business, development and science will prepare a Vision and Action Report, and includes Prof Andrew Campbell, CEO of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research."

"Several elements will need to come together to achieve the desired transformation, including meaningful policy and governance change, deepened private sector engagement with smallholders, and significant advances in digitalisation. Through such means both adaptation and mitigation in agriculture can be tackled," he concluded.

