

## **Crawford Fund**

### **e-Mentoring Description and Guidelines**

### **June 2020**

#### **Background**

Given that COVID-19 has stopped international travel, the Crawford Fund is developing an e-mentoring program to ensure that we continue to help develop the technical and organisational skills and expertise of agricultural researchers, scientists and policy makers in developing countries.

This program will link mentees in developing countries with experienced Australians. We envisage that interaction between mentor and mentee will take place by a mix of email, phone and/or internet conferencing.

The program will build on the successful outcomes of our long term existing [Mentoring Program](#), which has seen face-to-face interaction in overseas countries, also backed up by electronic contact.

We are currently (June-July, 2020) calling for expressions of interest from possible mentors and will be seeking potential mentees via existing alumni networks from July.

The Crawford Fund reserves the right to select who takes part in the program.

#### **Expectations of mentors and mentees**

- Mentoring roles will operate anywhere along the agricultural development value chain (including natural resources management, fisheries, forestry), including research, extension, management and supporting activities. There is an expectation that some mentees will be interested in cross cutting issues such as climate-smart agriculture, sustainable intensification etc.
- Mentors will be experienced research scientists or managers, still current in their fields and able to share their knowledge with developing country scientists and managers and their institutions.
- Mentoring activities will vary in terms of their frequency and type of contribution and could include assisting with delivery of high-quality laboratory results, planning field surveys, biosecurity issues, animal management, scientific methods, statistical analyses, etc.
- Mentors will establish regular contact (via electronic media) with their mentees to assist them with new and emerging opportunities and issues during the course of their mentoring role.
- Mentors and mentees will be encouraged to build ongoing relationships between Australian institutions and the overseas institutions where mentees work.
- Mentors will work with Crawford Fund and ACIAR in ensuring continual improvement in the training and learning approaches they deploy.
- Mentors will seek to advance gender equity by specifically looking to increase the capacity of female researchers, and to leverage the experience of senior female mentors.

- The Crawford Fund will provide a small honorarium to mentors to a maximum of \$250 per annum to cover their input to the program. In cases of hardship, the Crawford Fund may also assist mentees with direct costs associated with appropriate software and network access to help them participate.
- The Crawford Fund would expect short reports from the mentor and mentee on a six-monthly basis, and at the end of any relationship if shorter than a year.

## How to submit an Expression of Interest

An EOI can be made online via this link: <https://form.jotform.com/201547811939057>

We will make contact with you following consideration of the range of approaches we receive, and the mix of expertise we need based on the interest of mentees from overseas. Prior to any involvement we will provide details of any possible mentee to whom you may be then introduced.

## The Crawford Fund

The Crawford Fund seeks to increase Australia's engagement in international agricultural research and development.

We raise awareness of the benefits – for both Australia and developing countries – of investment and involvement in work for food and nutrition security and the many other impacts of agricultural research.

Our master class, training and mentoring programs build capacity with practical, highly focused training by Australians and partners across a variety of topics in agricultural research and management in Australia and the developing world. We have trained over 13,000 people in more than 55 countries since commencing our work in 1987.

Our "NextGen" program encourages and supports young Australians in their careers, studies and volunteering in agriculture for development.

From time to time we also develop policy and discussion papers and responses to Government inquiries to help shape food security and development assistance action.

We are a not-for-profit organisation and a registered charity and depend on grants and donations from governments, private companies, corporations, charitable trusts and individual Australians. We also welcome partnerships with agencies and organisations in Australia and overseas.

The Fund promotes and supports international R&D activities in which Australian research organisations and companies are active participants. It supports the work of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) and other international research centres.

We share a vision of a better world. Through collaboration and training, we can achieve more productive and sustainable agriculture, less poverty and hunger, and a more secure world.

## Further Information

For further information or queries, please contact the Crawford Fund coordinator in your State (details [here](#)) or our CEO, [Dr Colin Chartres](#).