Terms of Reference for an update to Doing Well by Doing Good

The Crawford Fund is seeking consultants to undertake an analysis of the benefits flowing from Australian investment in international agricultural research and development in the period 2010-20. Our focus covers all aspects of agri-food systems including forestry, fisheries and natural resources management.

The key aims are to:

a) demonstrate the on-going value of Australia’s aid program investments to different dimensions of Australia’s agricultural innovation system
b) make the case for continued investment in Australian international agri-food systems research and development through this mechanism
c) make recommendations on how to focus this investment in response to emerging priority areas and current global trends

The original “Doing Well by Doing Good” was the title of a Crawford Fund publication written by Professor Derek Tribe in 1991. This was updated by Denis Blight, Eric Craswell and John Mullen in 2013 and can be found on the Crawford Fund website at

https://www.crawfordfund.org/focus/doing-well-by-doing-good/

The latter publication examined:

- The role of ACIAR as part of Australia’s aid program and our agricultural innovation system.
- How international agricultural research increases farm income and prosperity for developing country farmers/fishers and foresters.
- How Australia’s investment in international agricultural research in the CGIAR has delivered benefits to Australian farmers.
- How involvement in international agricultural research increases Australia’s agricultural research capacity, and
- Other benefits accruing to Australia in terms of diplomacy and soft power outcomes that have arisen from our investment in international research and development.

The consultants selected for the current review and update should be mindful of the above objectives and specifically consider the following issues:

- Based on recent literature provide overview of global food security issues 2010-20 and consider future food security issues in the light of population growth, climate change, COVID-19 and other biosecurity potential risks.
- Provide an update with documented quantitative and qualitative examples of returns on Australian bilateral and multilateral investment in international agricultural research and development over the period 2010-20.
• Consider if and how benefits from investment in international agricultural R&D flow not only to our agricultural industries and farmers but to all Australians via cheaper and more nutritional food that has helped us all in terms of health and prosperity.

• Catalogue and describe international agriculture success stories since 2012 with respect to benefits accruing to overseas agriculturalists and any domestic flow-ons. Testimonials on perceived benefits from parties involved would also be useful here. Evidence of how involvement in government funded R&D projects has helped build private sector capacity and overseas market access would be helpful. Similarly, evidence of how involvement in overseas research and development projects has helped Australian universities build capacity and networks is important.

• Define current and future biophysical (e.g climate change, population growth) and biosecurity risks (e.g agricultural pest and diseases, zoonotic diseases) to agri-food systems in Australia and the Indo-Pacific region. Demonstrate why it is important to ensure that our agricultural R&D, biosecurity and environmental management are well integrated with global systems.

• Based on the above analyses of risks and opportunities, indicate areas of critical importance on which the Crawford Fund should focus future training and related activities. Whilst Australian foreign policy has pivoted to the Indo-Pacific region, does this mean we are losing influence in areas where our agricultural innovation experience can have significant impact such as the Middle East and Africa? Are there opportunities to further link Australian production and value chains with overseas production and processing centres to enhance regional food security? Do technology and big data offer new innovation opportunities?

• Reemphasis of the benefits to Australia coming from our engagement in the above areas to domestic food production, trade and export markets, building research and development capacity (for example, enhancing career prospects for young researchers as part of international science diplomacy programs), One-health and national biosecurity objectives, Australia’s contribution to the relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals and for regional/global foreign policy objectives.

Proposals should set out proposed methodologies to deliver the required outputs. It is expected that the work would require both desk top literature review and consultation with relevant parties including university departments, federal and state government agencies/institutes (Agriculture and Water Resources, ACIAR and DFAT), the NFF, R&D Corporations (e.g. GRDC). Proponents should also be aware that the purpose of the report is to form the basis of a significant public awareness campaign; a set of outreach meetings and briefings in national and State jurisdictions with decision makers and stakeholders, and a national media campaign to raise awareness of the case for ongoing support for Australia’s investment in agri-food systems for development.

The budget for this study is negotiable. The study must be completed by late June 2021. Proposals addressing these ToR, the selection criteria (separate document), stating team capabilities and including cvs of team members should be submitted as one document.

Any key questions should be addressed to Dr Colin Chartres (colin.chartres@crawfordfund.org), and proposals should be submitted by February 16th, 2021 to Ms Sue Faulkner (sue.faulkner@crawfordfund.org)

John Anderson AO
Chair

Dr Colin Chartres
CEO