

MEDIA ALERT

7 December 2021

Media are welcome to attend. Interviews can be prearranged for Monday, 13 December. Embargoed media releases will be available [here](#) and the full program is [online](#).

Managing the Biosecurity, Health, Trade Nexus

While Covid-19 remains the national human biosecurity imperative, when looking to the future, we need a broader perspective to better manage the links between biosecurity, health and trade.

International and Australian specialists will address this nexus at the 2021 Crawford Fund annual conference, titled *Food & Nutrition Security – The Biosecurity, Health, Trade Nexus*, in Canberra (QT Hotel, 9-5pm) and online on 14 December. Work in Australia of huge benefit or potential to Australia and our neighbours will also be highlighted.

The vast increase in and growing complexity of international trade, travel, tourism and density of development have placed ever growing challenges on maintaining human health, ensuring plant and animal biosecurity, and strengthening the protection of biodiversity.

The specific risks to human, plant, and animal health; how these factors are impacting global food and nutrition security, and the emerging technological and management solutions to overcome these risks will be discussed.

The event is being attended by almost 200 delegates in Canberra and equal number online from around the globe. Speakers include (with links to bios/abstracts):

- **The Hon John Anderson**, Chair of the Fund and former Deputy PM, will argue it's time the monolithic agriculture and health sectors worked together to stem the threats they both face.
- **Professor Prabhu Pingali**, Founding Director, Tata-Cornell Institute for Ag & Nutrition and Chair, ICRISAT will raise the need for urgent assessment and global action around policy and management of biosecurity risks and rebuilding food system resilience.
- **Dr Rob Horsch**, Advisor, Global Commission on Adaptation at World Resources Institute and former Deputy Director, Ag R&D, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will highlight how we can future proof against threats with advanced and emerging technologies and tools.
- **Rob Kaan**, Managing Director Australia, NZ, Japan & Korea, Corteva Agriscience will deliver a view from the private sector on facing challenges and opportunities for evolution and growth.
- **Professor Andrew Robinson**, Managing Director, Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis at UniMelb will overview the current and future impacts of emerging biosecurity threats to plant and animal production, human health and biodiversity.
- **Nicola Hinder PSM**, First Assistant Secretary, Exports and Veterinary Services, Department of Agriculture Water and the Environment will address Australia's crucial role in promoting science-based standards and guidance that facilitates trade in safe food.
- **Professor Pablo Zarco-Tejada**, Remote Sensing & Precision Ag, School of Agriculture, UniMelb will discuss the huge potential of using algorithms and high-resolution imaging cameras onboard drones to reduce billions of dollars of losses through early detection of pathogens.

Other speakers will present a set of innovative case studies covering work across commodities including aquaculture, grains, horticulture, and animal health which impact Australia, its near neighbours and the rest of the world. Threats include including Fall Army Worm, African Swine Fever, Foot and Mouth Disease, antimicrobial resistance and cereal rusts.