



## 2020 CRAWFORD FUND MEDALLIST

### Dr Brian Keating

The Crawford Fund's success is based on people: trainees and trainers who are seeking to make an enduring contribution to global food security. Their commitment and perseverance, often over long periods, mark the Crawford Fund out as a unique contributor. Many go unnoticed and their contributions unheralded.

Accordingly, in 2010 the Crawford Fund decided to recognise people who have made a considerable and continued contribution to international agricultural research through our programs and related activities.

It is, therefore, with great pleasure that we are presenting the 2020 Crawford Fund Medal to Dr Brian Keating. Brian's nomination is for:

**“an enduring significant contribution to international agricultural research via his development of crop models and training programs, his work on smallholder agricultural systems in Sub-Saharan Africa, and his more recent role in advising and supporting a number of CGIAR Centres and Programs.”**

Brian is an agricultural science graduate of the University of Queensland where he also completed his Ph.D. in 1981. He then joined CSIRO where he worked as a research scientist, Division Chief, Flagship Director and ultimately as Executive Director, Agriculture, Food and Health before retiring in 2015. In these capacities, Brian has demonstrated significant leadership of the Australian agricultural research agenda. He was an Honorary Fellow at CSIRO from 2016 -2020 and is now an Adjunct Professor at the University of Queensland in association with the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation.

Brian's career focus has been on the productivity and sustainability of agricultural systems in Australia and sub-Saharan Africa. He has been part of the team developing the APSIM farming systems platform for the last 25 years and was a pioneer in the application of simulation models in farming systems research in eastern and southern Africa in the 1980's and 90's. His recent contribution to the CGIAR Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security Program has also been important in that the development of resilient farming systems is particularly critical to ensure ongoing food security for many poor, smallholder farming families in developing countries.

Brian has been an active participant in ACIAR and CGIAR projects and as such had strong links with the Crawford Fund. As well as his active participation in R&D, he has played a nationally and internationally important role in advocating the critical importance of food security for smallholder farmers and to development processes in general, both inside the agricultural science community, but also in a wide range of other fora. The Crawford Fund strongly supports such advocacy, particularly given our long-held focus on raising awareness of the benefits to Australia and developing countries of agricultural research for food and nutrition security.