

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **NUTRITION SENSITIVE AGRICULTURE BRINGS MORE THAN HEALTH OUTCOMES**

Agriculture is the most direct way to improve food security and nutrition outcomes of the rural poor and can also improve incomes and women empowerment. The move beyond a research focus on yield to recognising that nutrition can, and must, also be a priority focus is a welcome development but much more effort is needed.

This is the key message of nutrition sensitive agriculture specialist, Jessica Raneri, who advises the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research and DFAT, in her address to the Crawford Fund's international conference *Celebrating Agriculture for Development – Outcomes, Impacts and the Way Ahead* on 15-16 August in Parliament House, Canberra. The conference will also be addressed by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator the Hon, Murray Watt.

“Global malnutrition and food insecurity rates continue to rise. We now have 2.3 billion people who experience moderate or severe food insecurity, nearly one quarter of children under five who are stunted and 3.1 billion people who cannot afford a healthy diet,” said Ms Raneri.

“For decades, agriculture research has been focused on increasing yields of staple crops, often energy rich but micronutrient poor. More recently, there has been a welcomed shift to recognising that nutrition can, and must, fit within the scope of agriculture with a renewed focus on improving diet diversity and quality. The benefits are many and varied, beyond health outcomes,” she said.

She explained that nutrition sensitive agriculture projects often target women and young children, as the most nutritionally vulnerable populations.

Ms Raneri's presentation will outline the key concepts of Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture (NSA), including the importance of, and challenges associated with, targeting people with diverse Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and/or Expression and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) for equity and empowerment, and provide examples of successful NSA projects and case studies.

The Fund's annual conference brings together international and Australian specialists to look at the mutual benefit and impacts of investment in global food security and poverty alleviation and consider the effects of emerging threats including climate change and changing geo-political conditions on agricultural production, food chains and the environment.

Other speakers include international affairs specialist Allan Gyngell, climate change and security specialist Dr Robert Glasser and renowned global wheat scientist Dr Alison Bentley.

Other press releases are available [here](#).

