

# Dr Madaline Healey

## **The power of people: biosecurity as a collaborative approach**

Invasive pests, such as insects, diseases and weeds, threaten plant health and productivity worldwide. Increased trade, global movement of people, and a changing climate increase the risk of these invasive threats. The impacts of these pests can be devastating to human health, biodiversity, and food security, as well as contributing to environmental change. The value, benefit and effectiveness of a people-centred approach to biosecurity and plant protection, to minimise risks posed by invasive pests from the farm gate to the international setting, can be demonstrated by drawing on the experience of Crawford Fund's crop health capacity building program in Laos and several ACIAR-funded forest biosecurity projects. This also includes the value of national and regional approaches to biosecurity as a mutual benefit to Australian and global settings. Science and technology are key to protecting plant health, however, people are the most valuable tool in the biosecurity toolbox.