

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## AGROFORESTRY SOLUTIONS FOR THE GLOBAL POLYCRISIS OF CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY AND FOOD

### - Extensive Research and Action Underway on Carbon Credits

While food production systems are criticised for degrading land, destroying forests, and accelerating climate change, when managed properly, they can be the solution to these very problems. Pathways to use agroforestry to solve the polycrisis of climate, biodiversity and food are the focus of this year's prestigious Sir John Crawford Memorial Address at Australia's key food security event.

**Dr Éliane Ubalijoro**, CEO of **CIFOR-ICRAF**, will be presenting the prestigious Sir Crawford Fund Memorial Address at the Crawford Fund's international conference - Australia's key food security event - *Global Food Security in a Riskier World* being held in Canberra, 4-5 September. CIFOR-ICRAF is the world's leader in harnessing the power of trees, forests, and agroforestry to address biodiversity loss, climate change, food security, livelihoods, and inequity.

"Forestry and agroforestry are critical to addressing the global polycrisis of climate, biodiversity and food," said Dr Ubalijoro, who is the first African woman CEO of a key international **CGIAR** Research Center and the first person in the forestry and agroforestry space to be delivering the Sir John Crawford address, which started in 1985.

"We all have the power to reimagine how we interact with nature. Through global to local cooperation and knowledge sharing for impact, we can harness the power of trees, forests, and agroforestry for a food-secure and equitable future" said Dr Ubalijoro, whose work has focused on digital innovation, gender, and sustainable development.

Her address to be presented on 4 September in Canberra is titled "*Food and Nutrition Security: The Climate, Food Systems, Agroforestry and Forestry Nexus*," and will highlight pathways to use agroforestry to solve the global polycrisis of climate, biodiversity, and food.

CIFOR-ICRAF's work has focused on this nexus for decades, championing trees on farms, land surveillance methods in response to a need for systematic landscape-level assessment of soil and ecosystem health. "An integrated approach to food and nutrition security is critical if we are to feed a growing population within planetary boundaries while maximizing high integrity carbon, biodiversity and equity solutions towards a nature-positive, carbon-neutral future," said Dr Ubalijoro.

"Trees on farms are essential for our well-being. They provide us with food, fuelwood, and rural incomes. They also protect ecosystems by sequestering carbon, protecting against climate shocks, preventing soil erosion, and supporting the biodiversity of animal and plant life on Earth. This is why CIFOR-ICRAF's work on high integrity carbon credit systems and benefit sharing with farmers includes extensive research and action around agriculture."

"The same carbon credit debates underway in Australia are also underway in the countries in which we work. Issues with carbon offsets need to be addressed to maintain the integrity of, and support for, nature-based climate solutions. CIFOR-ICRAF's work on REDD+ and land surveillance systems seeks to provide accurate and transparent measurement, reporting and verification of emissions – a vital part of the carbon market," said Dr Ubalijoro.

Other speakers include **Dr Cary Fowler**, the US Special Envoy on Food Security, **Em Prof Kym Anderson AC**, renowned trade economist and winner of the Crawford Fund medal, **Professor Wendy Umberger**, CEO, The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research; **Ben Fargher**, Environmental Markets Lead, Cargill Asia Pacific, and **Dr Warren T K Lee**, Senior Nutrition & Food Systems Officer, UN FAO.

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