

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## BOOSTING RESILIENCE IN SUPPLY CHAINS BEYOND A 'JUST IN TIME' APPROACH

The global pandemic, ongoing conflict in Ukraine, and the impacts of climate change continue to highlight pressure points in global supply chains. The resiliency of the global food system needs to be improved by evolving global supply chains beyond a 'just-in-time' approach.

**Ben Fargher**, sustainability portfolio specialist and environmental markets lead for Cargill Asia Pacific, will address resiliency of the global food system in the face of geopolitical instability and COVID 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.

"Experiences from COVID-19 lockdowns and the more recent disruptions due to the war in Ukraine, have had significant implications for farmers and agribusiness. Strategies for diversification of markets, more flexible and resilient supply chains, and planning to reduce future vulnerability for the benefit of consumers and growers must be prioritised," said Mr Fargher.

"Nearly 830 million people are food insecure, and recent and current world events highlight real and urgent challenges facing the global food system. To ensure supply chain resilience, governments across the Asia Pacific need to continue to adopt free trade policies that are open and transparent to ensure food can move from one country to another easily, thus ensuring food security.

"Better infrastructure, investment in innovation and technology, training and access to capital for farmers, and trade policies that allow farmers to increase sustainable food production are also needed.

"Market access and the empowerment of people, especially small holder farmers in the Asia Pacific region, is a critical challenge that must be addressed.

"One, if not the most urgent, challenge is the climate crisis. Cargill is committed to reducing the climate impact of agriculture and agriculture is part of the solution to this challenge. Working with suppliers, customers, and partners, action-oriented, lasting solutions must be delivered," he concluded.

The Fund's annual conference will bring together international and Australian specialists to address the grand challenge presented by the need to produce more nutritious food, sustainably, in a riskier and more uncertain world.

Other speakers include **Dr Cary Fowler**, the US Special Envoy on Food Security, **Em Prof Kym Anderson AC**, renowned trade economist; **Professor Wendy Umberger**, CEO, The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research; **Dr Warren T K Lee**, Senior Nutrition & Food Systems Officer, UN FAO; **Prof Jamie Pittock**, Fenner School of Environment & Society, ANU, and **Dr Roya Khalil**, Director of Research and Development, Incitec Pivot Fertilisers.

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