



The Crawford Fund Annual Conference

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY IN A RISKIER WORLD: Diversification for Resilient Food and Nutrition Systems

4-5 September 2023 | Canberra, Australia and online



Crawford Fund 2023 Annual Conference

Mentoring – some FAQs

Q1: When will I meet my conference scholar?

A: We will introduce you via email. If you have time, we also encourage you to arrange a phone call meeting before the conference to start to get to know each other and have the scholar more at ease with you. You will meet in person at the first scholar session on Monday 04 September from 12pm-5pm.

Q2: How will I get in contact with my scholar before and during the conference?

A: As mentioned above, we will introduce you via email and in person before the conference. We recommend exchanging phone numbers to make meeting up easier. However, it is up to you and your scholar to discuss the best way to be in contact (phone/WhatsApp/email/set meeting times etc).

Q3: What is my role as mentor during the conference itself?

A: While each mentoring relationship is different, the general role as mentor will be to guide your scholar during the conference to assist their understanding of themes and discussion topics, and to support their networking. This could include accompanying them to sessions, introducing them to your contacts, sharing your knowledge, and providing advice on any questions they might have about the sessions, their study, career or volunteering in agriculture for development.

Q4: How can I help guide my scholar during sessions and Q&As?

A: Again, this will depend on your and your scholar's goals and interests. Some ideas include:

- Meeting them before a session, asking what they hope to learn from this session, and providing any background information you have;
- Sitting with them during the session, clarifying any questions they have and encouraging them to participate or ask questions where relevant;
- Having a short 'de-brief' with them after the session, discussing the content, what they learnt; and,
- Encouraging them to engage with their own questions.

Q5: How can I help guide my scholar in networking and social events?

A: Networking is something that many young people feel overwhelmed about. Talk to your scholar about the kinds of people they might want to meet, and why. We encourage you to accompany them to at least one informal networking session (eg. catering breaks, etc), introduce them to your contacts, and/or support them in practising networking skills.

Q6: What else should I talk to my scholar about?

A: They may have similar research interests and career goals, so we hope you will have a lot in common to talk about! Aside from formal guidance (sessions, networking), they might have specific goals or projects they want advice on or be interested to hear your experiences as a senior professional in your field.

Encourage them to ask questions, and also share their own knowledge and ideas - mentoring is a two-way street and we hope to facilitate this inter-generational dialogue at the conference and beyond!

