

Emerging Voices Shaping Regional Integration for a Food Secure World

10-11 August 2026

Parliament House, Canberra, Australia, and online



CONFERENCE NETWORKING DINNER KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Monday 10 August 2026 | 6:00 - 9:30pm | The Great Hall, PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Keynote Address by The Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

The Vote of Thanks presented by Ms Megan Williams, Co-Vice President, RAID Network

Closing comments presented by Mr Shaun Coffey FTSE, CRSNZ, FAIA, FAICD, Chief Executive, Crawford Fund for Food Security

CRAWFORD FUND FOR FOOD SECURITY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TUESDAY 11 August 2026 | 6:00 - 9:00pm | The Great Hall, PARLIAMENT HOUSE and online

0800	REGISTRATION
0830	OPENING SESSION - WELCOME Ms Su McCluskey FCPA FTSE, Chair, Crawford Fund for Food Security and Former Special Representative for Australian Agriculture
0840	Ms Victoria Anderson, Secretary, Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry
0900	Keynote: Dr Sandra Milach, Chief Scientist, CGIAR Chair: Ms Su McCluskey, FCPA FTSE, Chair, Crawford Fund for Food Security and Former Special Representative for Australian Agriculture
0920	MODERATED Q&A
0945	'EMERGING VOICES' poster presentations
1000	MORNING TEA
1030	SESSION 2: 'From Talanoa to action: with Pacific Pre-COP ahead what does implementation of agri-climate solutions look like?' Chair: Dr George Carter, Senior Fellow and Deputy Head, Department of Pacific Affairs and Director, ANU Pacific Institute <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Tekini Nakidakida, Pacific policy action representative and Deputy Secretary Agriculture Department, Fiji, lead UNFCCC COP agriculture negotiator • Ms Sally Higgins, Youth Climate Champion for COP31 • Ms Imelda 'Dada' Bacudo, FAO convenor for regional momentum on agri-climate action & contribution to NDCs • Dr Sally Box, Division Head International Climate Negotiations, Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
1130	GUIDED DISCUSSION and Q&A
1215	'EMERGING VOICES' poster presentations
1230	LUNCH
1315	SESSION 3: Agriculture as a driver of climate adaptation, economic stability, and regional peace. Case studies showcasing research that delivers practical solutions for nutrition, sustainability, and community resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate-smart premium rice, securing future value chains in the Mekong Delta – Professor Jaquie Mitchell, Discipline Lead – Crop Science of School of Agriculture and Food Sustainability & Director of Research of School of Agriculture and Food Sustainability, University of Queensland • From salinity to food security – transforming cropping systems in the Ganges Delta – Dr Mohammed Mainuddin, Senior Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO Environment • From waste to wealth – the journey from Africa to the Pacific of the Black Soldier Fly – Dr Dennis Beesigamukama, Postdoctoral Fellow, ICIPE • Stopping TR4 - the global race to save bananas – Dr Tony Pattison, Senior-Principal Researcher, Queensland Department of Primary Industries
1415	GUIDED DISCUSSION and Q&A
1445	'EMERGING VOICES' poster presentations
1500	AFTERNOON TEA
1530	SESSION 4: Exploring multi-country research platforms, shared adaptation strategies, trilateral partnerships, and cross-border innovation that strengthen food-system resilience Keynote: Dr Stefan Schmitz, Executive Director, Crop Trust
1550	SHIFTS IN REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND THE WAY FORWARD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Himanshu Pathak, Director General, ICRISAT • Dr Stefan Schmitz, Executive Director, Crop Trust • Mr Soane Patolo Jr, CEO – MORDI Tonga Trust, Adjunct Associate Professor, Researcher – Australian Centre for Pacific Islands Research • Ms Sally Higgins, Youth Climate Champion for COP31 • Mr Clayton Simamao, Samoan Farmers Association
1640	DISCUSSION / Q&A
1700	SUMMING UP AND RECOMMENDATIONS Ms Rosemary Deininger, Former Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
1730	CLOSE