

## SUMMING UP AND THE WAY AHEAD

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I was reflecting that perhaps it might help our cause if we all got locked in here tonight. My job was originally to sum up the conference, but after the last discussion, I think there are a couple of high-level messages that are coming through.

Firstly, Australia has a pivotal role in food security in the future. We have a particularly useful model with the ACIAR model, which means we are a trusted partner and have the opportunity to take leadership. The conference has underscored that achieving food security in the changing climate we live in is viable, but we must get our ambition right.

Partnerships need to be inclusive. We need more sustainable and diverse investments, and there is a need to integrate across technical policy and local and indigenous knowledge areas. From the viewpoint of the Crawford Fund for Food Security, we recognise that there is an imperative at present, particularly in this country, to change some of the things we are doing.

Over the last six or seven months, we have started repositioning. Today's conference is a key part of that. We must continue the work we have been doing in capacity development, the wonderful work around the development of early and mid-career partnerships. However, we recognise that we need to do more in keeping the issues on the agenda and lifting our role in advocacy.

This is about ensuring that we have informed public voices and informed political voices. We need to start lifting the awareness and understanding that our politicians and decision-makers have so that they are informed, committed, and open to change. This is the challenge that we will be adopting within the Crawford family now. Reflecting on the last four decades that the fund has been operating, being able to tell our stories and get the stories across has been pivotal.

At this stage, I would like to invite Cathy Reade to the stage, John Anderson, and our patrons, Neil, Andrew, and Helen. To be able to tell your story is particularly important. The conferences we have had are very much down to the work and effort done by Cathy. She leaves us now to take an important role as chair of the ICRISAT board.

Our patrons will make a presentation, and I remind members of the board and their coordinators that at our family dinner tonight, we will have a more personal presentation to Cathy.

Thank you so much to everyone who has come to visit.

Thank you, and I hope you all have a safe journey home. I look forward to seeing you here again next year.