

MEDIA ALERT

31 July 2025

NET ZERO, SUSTAINABILITY AND ADVANCING FOOD SECURITY

Australia's key food security event, the **Crawford Fund's annual conference**, will have eminent international and Australian specialists considering the urgent need to craft strategies that can secure food security while promoting environmental sustainability, amid the ongoing debates around net-zero targets and the role of agriculture in emissions, sequestration and abatement.

Progress and Prospects for Climate-Resilient Agrifood Systems: Actionable Recommendations for Policymakers and Practitioners is being held on 11-12 August in the Great Hall, Parliament House Canberra. Over 300 policymakers, researchers, agribusiness and farming reps and students will be discussing the challenges and solutions for transforming agrifood systems in response to climate change: addressing the trade-offs between food production and net-zero targets, pursuing sustainable intensification, and promoting inclusivity and equity.

Media are welcome to attend, and interviews can be prearranged. **Further background**, links to **the program** and **speakers' bios and abstracts** and embargoed press releases are available.

All speakers are available for interview and include:

The Hon Joel Fitzgibbon, Crawford Fund Board member, making the 2025 Crawford Fund Memorial Address titled *"Trade-offs and Tough Choices: Lessons in Leadership from the Frontlines of Policy."*

Professor Glenn Denning, agriculture and food policy specialist and Professor of Professional Practice at Columbia University will make the keynote address, arguing that Australia has a unique geo-political opportunity to emerge as a regional leader in advancing food security.

Dr Aditi Mukherji, Principal Scientist – Climate Action in the Livestock, Climate and Environment Program of the International Livestock Research Institute will provide lessons from Asia and Africa in achieving a pathway to climate resilience.

Prof Richard Eckard, respected carbon, emissions and agriculture researcher and Professor of Carbon Farming at the University of Melbourne and Zero Net Emissions Agriculture CRC Program Leader is addressing whether we can feed the world with net zero emissions.

Dr Purnima Menon, Senior Director, Food and Nutrition Policy and Acting Senior Director, Transformation Strategies at the renowned International Food Policy Research Institute will focus on how we achieve climate resilience while we progress towards gender equity, inclusion, and community participation.

Prof Graham Sem, Environmental Science & Geography Discipline Lead at the University of PNG will present lessons from the Pacific in achieving a pathway to climate resilience.

Ms Caitlin McConnel, sixth-generation farmer, legal strategist, and prominent agribusiness leader will consider the potential legal implications of juggling environmental responsibility with economic ambition.

A set of case studies from Australia, Cambodia, Timor Leste, the Pacific, and Indonesia will illustrate where successful work is already underway, or impact is possible with improved policy and investment.

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