THE CRAWFORD FUND MASTER CLASS IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Penang, Malaysia – Sunday 26th April to Friday 1st May 2026

Crawford Fund FOR FOOD SECURITY

Introduction and Call for Participants

The 9th Master Class in Agricultural Research Leadership and Management will be delivered in Penang, Malaysia, in April / May 2026.

The Master Class offered by the Crawford Fund, in conjunction with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) is now open for registrations for this five-and-a-half-day program.

The Master Class develops the practices required to manage and lead successful R&D and extension systems that support the development needs of countries globally.

The Crawford Fund is an NGO in Australia that supports international agricultural research for developing countries. Over our 35 years of experience in training scientists in agricultural research, we have trained more than 14,000 people from over 55 countries.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the Master Class, participants will:

- Understand their roles as leaders in research activities.
- Appreciate the demands of managing and leading research.
- Understand how to achieve practical outputs to create desired impacts.
- Be able to apply processes to identify priorities and establish strategies for agricultural research.
- Be well equipped to manage people, finances and projects.
- Have a better understanding of their future development needs.

8th Master Class group Photo, Penang November 2025

5th Master Class group photo, Bangkok, 2023

Some Examples of the Modules Presented

Drawing on the latest thinking and emerging practices from the public and private sectors, the Crawford Fund has designed a program to assist individuals in managing their work better and providing leadership in their teams and organisations.

Example topics to be presented include:

- Developing your management and leadership models/practices.
- Self-awareness and personal effectiveness.
- People and team management.
- Effective communication, conflict resolution and performance feedback.
- Strategy and strategic planning.
- Global drivers and issues in agricultural research for development.
- Cultural impacts on leadership and management.
- Project management (including finances, evaluation and planning techniques).

Who Should Attend?

The program is open to participants from both the public and private sectors. This includes staff in the CGIAR or similar international agricultural research centers, staff of the national agricultural research systems (NARS), University researchers and those in the private sector working with developing countries.

Typically, attendees could be involved in any of these functions:

- Leaders and Directors of Research.
- Early or mid-career professionals.
- Managers or aspiring managers of research programs.
- Members of research teams striving to improve performance.
- Staff providing functional support for program management.
- Professionals responsible for capability building.

Costs and Registration

The course is offered at a tuition fee of USD 4,000 per person. Attendees (or their institutions) will be expected to cover their own travel and accommodation costs. Second and subsequent participants from the same institution will receive a $USD 600.00 discount.

A block booking has been made at the venue in Penang at discounted rates of approximately USD 90.00 per day (to be confirmed). Prices include taxes, breakfast and internet. Participation in the course requires all attendees to use this designated hotel.

How to Register

Participation in previous Master Classes has been highly competitive, and numbers will be limited to ensure effective engagement in the program. **Registrations are now open. Please register by 12 February, 2026** by sending an email to colin.chartres@crawfordfund.org

A short CV/resumé is to be included as part of your application. A pro forma is available along with this flyer which outlines the required information.

General Information

Attendees are expected to arrive in Penang prior to Class commencement, 2 pm Sunday 26th April. This may mean reaching Penang the day before. A course dinner will be held on Friday, 1st May and departure from Saturday, 2nd May.

Participants will be required to:

- Speak sufficient English to undertake the course.
- To attend the full course.
- Plan to maximise the benefits of the course both to themselves, as an individual, but also for their institution.
- Bring a computer/digital device for use during classes (internet connection will be provided at the venue).

Presenters

The Master Class is delivered from a hands-on perspective by experienced and successful practitioners. It will be led by Shaun Coffey, assisted by Lynne O'Brien, Colin Chartres and Bec Cotton.

Lynne has extensive experience working in a range of senior management roles within the Australian Public Service, including the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, where she undertook a range of senior executive roles in financial corporate, program management and service delivery functions.

The immediate past CEO of the Crawford Fund, Colin has also served as the Director General of the International Water Management Institute, one of the 15 CGIAR centers, and Chief Science Adviser to the National Water Commission.

Bec Cotton has been working in the R4D space for the past decade, including for ACIAR, and several Australian Universities. Bec is also completing her PhD at the University of Queensland.

Shaun is CEO at the Crawford Fund and was formerly CEO of a leading NZ Crown Research Institute, and Chief of one of the largest Divisions of CSIRO.

For further information please contact:

Dr Colin Chartres

ARLM#9 Coordinator
Email: colin.chartres@crawfordfund.org

NOTE: Should there be insufficient interest in the Master Class, it will not proceed.