



THE CRAWFORD FUND FOR FOOD SECURITY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Emerging Voices Shaping Regional Integration for a Food Secure World

10–11 August 2026

Parliament House, Canberra,
Australia, and online



Crawford Fund 2026 Annual Conference Conference Scholars' Program

Eastlake Football Club, Griffith

DAY 1, Monday, 10 August

11.30am – 4.30pm

11.30 REGISTRATION AND FINDING YOUR MENTOR

12.00 LUNCH

The Crawford Fund Scholars and Mentors meet over quick lunch

12.30 WELCOME

Lucy Broad, Director of Conference and NextGen Program, Crawford Fund welcomes the group and Krishna Chaitanya Alamuru, Secretary, RAID Network introduces RAID and explains the day ahead

12.40 “WHY INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH?”

Ms Su McCluskey, Chair of the Crawford Fund for Food Security

12.50 ACIAR IN THE Ag4D LANDSCAPE

Chair: Manita Raut, RAID Network Central Committee

Dr Suzie Newman, General Manager – Partnerships, ACIAR and former project leader ACIAR, to explain her career path, the special position of ACIAR in the Australian Ag4D space and its work
Q&A

1.20 HOW TO BREAK INTO INTERNATIONAL AG RESEARCH—OVERSEAS & AT HOME

Chair: Bridget Mullany, Vice President, RAID Network Central Committee

1. The international network and opportunities

Dr Himanshu Pathak, Director-General, ICRISAT, conference speaker

2. The international network and opportunities

Dr Janila Pasupuleti, Principal Scientist (Genomic Prediction and Groundnut Breeding), ICRISAT

3. The Australian network and opportunities

Dr Larelle McMillan, Research Director, Sustainability Program, CSIRO Agriculture and Food

COMBINED Q&A

2.10 SPEED MEET INTERNATIONAL AG SCIENTISTS, RAIDERS, VOLUNTEERS & EACH OTHER

Facilitator: Manita Raut, RAID Network Central Committee

Scholars gather with mentors for discussion in groups, with each group facilitated by a RAID member. NB: Scholars will have their 'colour' grouping on their nametag

3.10 AFTERNOON TEA

3.30 SO YOU WANT TO WORK IN A PARTNER COUNTRY?

A conversation on what you need to know.

Conversant: Bridget Mullany, Vice President, RAID Network & Bek Ash, State Rep Coordinator, RAID Network

1. Doing the most good on the ground

Dr Mohammed Mainuddin, Senior Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO Environment

2. Lessons from the government and policy

Greta Stark, Senior Policy Officer, DAFF

3. In the volunteer and project leader space

Dr Madaline Healey, ACIAR Project Leader and former Crawford Fund Laos Volunteer, scholar/awardee

4. The importance of local partnerships

Mr Soane Patolo Jr, Chief Executive, MORDI Tonga Trust, Adjunct Associate Professor, Researcher at Australian Centre for Pacific Islands Research, University of the Sunshine Coast
Questions from the floor

4.10 HOUSEKEEPING

Larissa Mullot, Crawford Fund

Collect breakfast boxes!

4.15 To Pinnacles with breakfasts to prepare for dinner/bus/group photo.

DAY 2, Wednesday, 12 August

7.40am – 12.00pm

7.40 Scholars arrive at Eastlake (bring luggage!)

7.45 QUICK BREAKFAST

8.15 WELCOME

Lucy Broad, Crawford Fund for Food Security

8.20 TELL THE WORLD ABOUT YOUR WORK

Chair: Lucy Broad, Crawford Fund for Food Security

Kath Sullivan, ABC National Rural Reporter

Tips and ideas on how to approach traditional media about your work

Q&A

8.45 RAID NETWORK, CRAWFORD FUND AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Chair: **Anam Afzal**, RAID Network Central Committee

1. Australian Development Program

Jane Bastin-Sikimeti, Director, Climate Resilient Agriculture and Food Security, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) & Penelope Howarth, Senior Adviser Climate Resilient Agriculture and Food Security, DFAT

2. RAID opportunities

Megan Williams, Co-Vice President, RAID Network

3. Crawford Fund opportunities

Larissa Mullett, Crawford Fund

COMBINED Q&A and DISCUSSION

9.30 OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD

Chair: Bridget Mullany, Vice President, RAID Network

Different opportunities in study, policy, capacity building and research from those with experience – and remember, it's more than ag!

1. Capacity Building: Dr Deirdre Lemerle, Charles Sturt University

2. Leading Projects: Dr Duong Nam Ha, University of Tasmania

3. Research as an Awardee: Sam Coggins, former Colombo Plan, CF awardee

4. International Opportunities: Mr Clayton Simamao, Samoan Farmers Association

COMBINED Q&A

10.10 COMPLETING YOUR SURVEY

10.25 MORNING TEA

10.45 DISCUSSION & REPORT BACK

Facilitator: Megan Williams, Vice-President, RAID Network

Scholars split into small discussion groups with one scholar in a group nominated to report back on the group's one key 'pearl of wisdom' and 'Next Steps' plan

12.00 CLOSE & DEPARTURE

Lucy and Krishna