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MEDIA RELEASE

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GLOBAL ORDER FOR GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

The world's attention is focused on global food security, more now than perhaps in living memory, due to living in times dominated by COVID, climate change and conflict. It's important to consider not only the emerging biophysical and geopolitical challenges in the Asia-Pacific region, but the global stability and rules-based order that has enabled the massive strides in food and nutrition security since the second World War.

This is the key message of John Anderson, Chair of the Crawford Fund, which is celebrating its 35th anniversary at its international conference *Celebrating Agriculture for Development – Outcomes, Impacts and the Way Ahead* on 15-16 August in Parliament House, Canberra.

The conference will also be addressed by Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator the Hon Murray Watt.

As part of the conference, Mr Anderson will conduct a conversation with international affairs specialist Allan Gyngell, climate change and security specialist Robert Glasser, and science advocate Kylie Walker to discuss how threats including geo-politics and climate change are impacting food and nutrition security, and what this means for Australia's foreign policy directions in the Indo-Pacific region (to be held and streamed at 3.45pm Tuesday, 16 August).

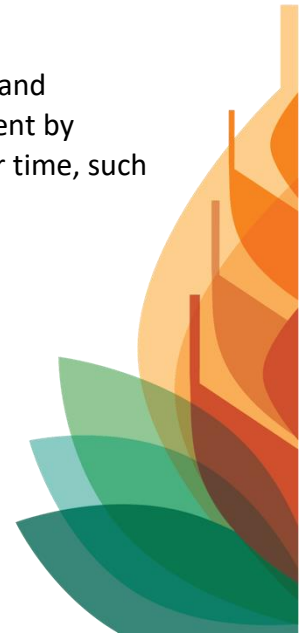
"Since the time the Crawford Fund was established in 1987, agricultural production driven by sound R&D, other innovations and a relatively peaceful global environment has enabled the world's farmers to feed approximately 3 billion more people. This is compelling evidence of the importance of the continuing success of ag R&D," said Mr Anderson.

"At the Crawford Fund, we are in the noble business of building capacity to increase food and nutrition security in less fortunate parts of the world. For 35 years this year for us, and for 40 years for ACIAR, we have been a significant part of Australia's proud record as one of the world's heaviest lifters in this area."

"This has been made possible under the auspices of a stable, global, rules-based order. It is imperative that we do everything we can to maintain this order when so many seem determined to overthrow it."

"We have seen the impact of instability on food security in the past, such as in Syria and Afghanistan, but imagine that effect globally if there is no longer a shared commitment by countries to conduct their activities in accordance with agreed rules that evolve over time, such as international law, regional security arrangements, trade agreements, and cultural arrangements."

"The Ukrainian crisis is a powerful reminder of the susceptibility of food security to international lawlessness."



“We have so many good news success stories to share - the incredible benefit-cost ratios for both recipient countries and, I stress, in Australia, from Australian and international investment in international agricultural research. The benefits span on-farm productivity and profitability, better biosecurity, greater gender equity, improved environment and natural resource management, capacity development, and what diplomats term 'soft power', outcomes. And our Australian NextGen and trainers involved in agricultural research for development tell us of the professional and personal benefits they enjoy.”

“It hardly needs stating that there is now a genuine and frightening tussle for a new more autocratic global order, one which plainly threatens progress for a fair and free world.

“Indeed, I am not certain what would happen to climate policy should the current global architecture be turned on its head.”

“Agricultural research and capacity building is already part of the solution, and outstanding organisations like Crawford Fund and ACIAR play a significant role, and could do so even more with greater support,” he concluded.

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