



MEDIA RELEASE

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CRAWFORD FUND WELCOMES NEW ACIAR CEO

The Crawford Fund has welcomed the recent announcement by The Hon Stephen Smith, Minister for Foreign Affairs, of Dr Nick Austin as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

The Crawford Fund is the Australian national support organisation for international agricultural research. It works to make more widely known the benefits to developing countries and to Australia from international agricultural research and development.

“ACIAR is a jewel in Australia’s development assistance program with a tremendous record of impact. It’s quite unique not just in Australia but internationally as a development body that works in partnership and as a catalyst to engage Australian expertise to agricultural development needs in our region,” said Dr Eric Craswell, Acting Executive Director of the Crawford Fund and Director of its Master Class program.

“Dr Austin has a significant job ahead of him at a time when agricultural development is working within a perfect storm of the global financial crisis, the ongoing food crisis, the challenges faced due to climate change and the growing demand for biofuels.”

“Dr Austin’s broad experience across several areas including dairy, grain and livestock and his background in agricultural and natural resource research and policy will be of considerable benefit to ACIAR as it plays its role with other agricultural research institutions to double food production by 2050,” said Dr Craswell.

“The Crawford Fund looks forward to continuing our close relationship with ACIAR.”

Dr Craswell paid tribute to Mr Peter Core, ACIAR’s current CEO, and wished him well in his retirement.

"Mr Peter Core presided over a period of improved transparency in ACIAR's operations, evident in the introduction of an annual operational plan and an improved website. Peter also emphasised impact assessment and the development end of the R&D spectrum. His efforts at an international level were very well received. The recent increase in support for international agricultural research, in line with Crawford Fund objectives and efforts, is a lasting legacy of Peter Core's tenure," said Dr Craswell.

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For further details contact Cathy Reade, 0413 575 934 or creade@squirrel.com.au