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MEDIA RELEASE

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CRAWFORD FUND ANNOUNCES FOOD SECURITY JOURNALISM AWARD

The Crawford Fund has joined with the Australian Council of Agricultural Journalists to launch a competition that aims to encourage working Australian journalists to investigate the important roles that agricultural research, training and rural development play in global food security.

Chairman of The Crawford Fund, The Hon John Kerin AM, made the announcement in Sydney during an address to the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) annual conference, at which he was honoured with an Honorary Life Membership of the Society.

"The Crawford Fund has worked for over two decades to raise awareness of issues related to food security, and in particular the role that international agricultural research has to play in responding to poverty and hunger. We are delighted to team up with the Australian Council of Agricultural Journalists to deliver this award and recognise excellence in reporting on food security," he said.

"Climate change, high and volatile food and energy prices, population and income growth, changing diets, and increased urbanisation will continue to put intense pressure on land and water and challenge global food security.

"Australia's farmers and our development, research and education sectors punch well above their weight in terms of assisting with global food security solutions, but much more work and more reporting to highlight the positive contribution that Australian science can make is needed," he said.

The winning journalist will be provided with a Crawford Fund 'seeing is believing' visit to a developing country to view and report on Australian and international research and training underway with a focus on food security.

Entries are open for print, broadcast and internet-based reports by working journalists around food security within the 12 months prior to the closing date of Friday, 31 May. The winner will be announced by the end of July.

Further details, including the application and judging process, are available at www.crawfordfund.org

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The Crawford Fund's mission is to increase Australia's engagement in international agricultural research, development and education for the benefit of developing countries and Australia.