

29 November 2012

Further information and interviews: Contact Cathy Reade, 0413575934

BUILDING ON AGRICULTURAL KNOW-HOW AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR AFRICAN FOOD SECURITY

The new Australian International Food Security Centre will build on Australian farmers' and researchers' ingenuity and success, as well as strong partnerships in Africa to identify innovative strategies to improve food security.

This was the message from Mellissa Wood, Director of the CHOGM-created Australian International Food Security Centre on the eve of the centre's key international forum "*Food Security in Africa: Bridging Research and Practise*," in Sydney tomorrow (30 November).

The forum is the first time that such a high level delegation of African Agriculture Ministers, bureaucrats, researchers, policy makers and extensionists will come together with Australian counterparts to focus on the many issues related to food security in Africa and the important role that Australia can play.

The event will be opened and Australia's new International Food Security Centre (AIFSC) will be launched by Senator The Hon Bob Carr, Minister for Foreign Affairs (at 9am tbc).

"The AIFSC is working to ensure that agricultural innovations are put into the hands of the African farmers that need them and who supply the bulk of the food for Africa.

Ms Wood noted Australia's ongoing impact through agricultural research for development in Asia and the Pacific.

"We will be working with many African and Australian partners and there are no magic bullets.

"African farmers manage complex systems, often in drought prone areas with risky market access.

"Many Australian farmers operate under similar conditions and are some of the most innovative and successful in the world.

"Given this, and our world class research capacity, it makes good sense for Australia to partner with the Africans to jointly tackle the problem of food insecurity.

"It is an exciting time for Africa – there is a strong future already emerging, with positive economic growth.

"A blueprint for improving African agriculture has been developed (Comprehensive Agriculture Development Plan for Africa CAADP) and the AIFSC is pleased to be able to support this initiative.

"We are honoured to have so many of our African partner countries with us in Sydney, Australia and to have their knowledge and experience to help guide our strategy for the coming years," she concluded.

Further information and interviews: Contact Cathy Reade, Media Manager, AIFSC Forum and Director, Public Affairs and Communication, Crawford Fund 0413575934



Australian
International
Food Security
Centre

aciarc.gov.au/aifsc



Australian Government

Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research