



MEDIA RELEASE

DEANS OF AGRICULTURE WELCOME INTERNATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Australian Council of Deans of Agriculture has (ACDA) enthusiastically welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement of \$47 million in new initiatives for global food security at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Perth.

"In the 'Arab Spring' of north Africa, in Mexico and elsewhere, we have already seen civil unrest sparked by higher food prices, and these have been due to relatively minor food shortages. Food crises could get much worse if we do not act," explained ACDA President, Professor Rick Roush.

"With Australia's internationally recognised expertise in highly efficient agriculture, nutrition, distribution and other aspects of food security, we are well placed to lead contributions to global peace while improving environmental protection and sustainability in food production.

"Universities in Australia have played and continue to play a critical role in international research and education in food security. We have the capability to increase our contribution to solving one of the greatest challenges of our time," Professor Roush added.

The ACDA has highlighted the great opportunities for exciting careers in agriculture. In Australia alone, the demand for tertiary graduates exceeds supply by about 4500 jobs for 700 graduates.

The global need for a safe and reliable food supply over coming decades foreshadows a continuing buoyant job market for students, both to support increased markets for Australian agriculture, and to help train overseas students and sustain international productivity.

For more about the Australian Council of Deans of Agriculture (ACDA) and background papers, see <http://www.csu.edu.au/special/acda/>

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