

# FIGHTING HUNGER WITH AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

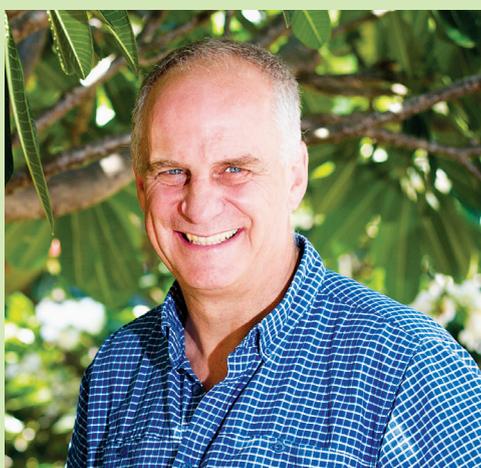
The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that about 795 million people of the 7.3 billion people in the world—or one in nine—were suffering from chronic undernourishment in 2014–16. Almost all the hungry people, 780 million, live in developing countries, representing 12.9%—or one in eight—of the population of developing countries.

According to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, malnutrition causes the death of 2.6 million children every year. A child below the age of two suffering from hunger will experience stunting—their mental and physical capabilities will be damaged for life, affecting their prospects of future employment and general wellbeing.

Agricultural development is fundamental to reducing poverty and supporting smallholder farmers to lift themselves and their families out of poverty; it is a catalyst for economic growth. At the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) we invest in applied research to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability along with food system resilience in developing countries.

This special issue of *Partners* focuses on food, capacity building and poverty reduction. I am delighted that our newest ACIAR Policy Advisory Council member from Africa, Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, agreed to write the foreword. Her intensely personal story highlights the fact that calories alone will not lead to improved nutrition and healthy diets.

Building the capabilities of the organisations with whom we work in developing countries, is a high priority for ACIAR. One of the ways we do this is by engaging young Australian agricultural research scientists in a 12-month experiential graduate program at ACIAR. This is a unique work experience opportunity for university graduates with an interest in international agricultural research and policy development.



AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IS FUNDAMENTAL TO REDUCING POVERTY ... IT IS A CATALYST FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

– Andrew Campbell

The recipes contained within this special issue have been collected by our current graduates.

As this issue demonstrates, the graduate program provides an experience for graduates to study possible roles within international agricultural research institutions in Australia and internationally. It also teaches them to appreciate the socioeconomic and cultural dimensions of ACIAR's projects, including the production of food and nutrition in the countries in which we work. Gender relationships within food chains, and how a focus on gender can increase the productivity of agriculture and livestock systems and improve food security and nutrition, is a strong theme emerging from these stories.

Graduates have responsibility for assisting research program managers with developing and supporting a portfolio of research for development projects commissioned by ACIAR. The projects involve partnerships between research institutions in Australia, developing countries and international agricultural research centres.

This *Partners* issue highlights several ACIAR projects and canvasses how support from ACIAR can assist food production in a range of industries. For example, in the area of animal health it includes pig production in the Philippines and

feeding strategies for cattle in Indonesia. Support to forestry projects in Papua New Guinea and India is recognised in the rice and vegetable dishes. Stuffed sea cucumbers from Fiji and mohinga from Myanmar demonstrate the diverse ways in which seafood can provide the basis of a nutritious and flavoursome diet.

All of these recipes have been evaluated in the most practical way by ACIAR staff—over a special lunch in our tea room. They were delicious. I hope you enjoy reading, and trying, the recipes in the magazine and, at the same time, gain an understanding of how ACIAR's work contributes to more-sustainable food systems in our partner countries.

I am pleased to be associated with this exciting work and look forward to communicating the results of it throughout 2017. I wish all of you a prosperous and happy new year. ■

**PROFESSOR ANDREW CAMPBELL**  
CEO of ACIAR