

# Australia unties aid for African food research

By Ashlee Betteridge and Robin Davies  
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A new joint program of the Australian International Food Security Centre at the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is [calling](#) for proposals.

The CA\$15 million Cultivate Africa's Future (CultiAF) fund is a challenge program that aims to improve food security and promote agricultural development in sub-Saharan Africa. It will allocate funds competitively to research initiatives which are relevant for improving post-harvest management, nutrition and water use, and have clear pathways to application.

Announced at the [2013 Africa Agricultural Science Week](#), the program will be managed by IDRC, with 50 per cent of its funding from ACIAR.

Research organisations from 10 countries – Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe – are eligible for grants of up to CA\$3 million dollars each. The application guidelines note that applicants “may work in partnership with Canadian or Australian organisations but this is not a requirement.”

Traditionally, ACIAR projects have mandated the participation of Australian researchers (something Devpolicy criticised in its [submission to the recent ACIAR review](#)), so this is a welcome development.

## About the author/s

### Ashlee Betteridge

Ashlee Betteridge was the Manager of the Development Policy Centre until April 2021. She was previously a Research Officer at the centre from 2013-2017. A former journalist, she holds a Master of Public Policy (Development Policy) from ANU and has development experience in Indonesia and Timor-Leste. She now has her own consultancy, Better Things Consulting, and works across several large projects with managing contractors.

### Robin Davies

Robin Davies is an Honorary Professor at the ANU's Crawford School of Public Policy and an editor of the Devpolicy Blog. He headed the Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security and later the Global Health Division at Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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Link: <https://devpolicy.org/australia-unties-aid-for-join-forces-for-african-food-securityresearch-20130723-2/>

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