

TRANSCRIPT OF PODCAST

WORK WITH PURPOSE – GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

DR ANN FLEMING

Research Program Manager - Fisheries
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

DR ANNA OKELO

Research Program Manager – Livestock Systems
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

DR ROBYN JOHNSTON

Research Program Manager – Water and Climate
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

Hosted by **ANDREW CAMPBELL**, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

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Enquiries should be directed to Caroline Walsh on 0413 139 427 or at caroline.walsh@act.ipaa.org.au

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DAVID PEMBROKE:

Hello, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to Work with Purpose, a podcast about the Australian Public Service. My name is David Pembroke. Thanks for joining me.

Before we begin today's episode I would like to pay my respects to the traditional custodians of the land on which we broadcast today, the Ngunnawal people and pay my respects to their elders past, present, and future, and pay my respects also for the ongoing contribution they make to life of our city and region.

Today, it's Work with Purpose – A Global Perspective special edition where we feature three Research Program Managers from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research hosted by Andrew Campbell, who is both the CEO of that organisation, but also an IPAA ACT Council Member.

The discussion is focussed on some of the fascinating work that Australians are undertaking overseas, where we are assisting communities in innovative ways. The conversation does touch on how their work have been affected by the pandemic, in this particularly unusual year.

I'm sure you'll enjoy it and I'm so grateful to Andrew and the team that we can feature the great work that is done by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research that really does show the impact the Australian Public Service is having beyond our borders.

Please enjoy.

ANDREW CAMPBELL:

Good morning, everyone. My name is Andrew Campbell. I'm the Chief Executive of ACIAR, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. And today I think, this suits the Work with Purpose, IPAA podcast series extremely well because we're talking about an agency that many of people may not have heard of ACIAR, that's doing amazing work with purpose primarily across our region, the Indo-Pacific region, to help low and middle-income countries in our region improve their food security, their food system resilience. I'm joined today by three of the research program managers in ACIAR, Robyn Johnston, who looks after our water programs, Dr Anna Okello, who looks after our livestock programs, and Dr Ann Fleming, who looks after our fisheries program. We have ten programs, so there's just three of our RPMs here today, but we hope we can give you an insight into some of the amazing work that Australian scientists are doing in our region, sharing Australian expertise in partnership with in-country partners.

And of course, this is a very challenging work at the best of times. We've been operating since 1982 and our scientists have been doing amazing work across the region. And now we find ourselves disrupted as never before with obviously the COVID-19 pandemic. And given that our work involves an enormous amount of travel, we've had to respond fairly radically across all our programs, and we'll touch on those responses as the discussion goes. But first, I might get Anna to talk about how COVID-19 arose essentially as an issue in food systems as a zoonotic disease and what that means for how we're operating, but also how we might need to reform our programs in future.

ANNA OKELLO: Thanks, Andrew. So for sure, COVID-19 is an example of a zoonotic disease. That's what we call when it spills over from animal reservoirs into, into humans. COVID is not the first disease, even in the 21st century for this to have happened. Many people may have remembered the SARS pandemic back in the early 2000s, which was another example of a coronavirus similar to COVID-19 where this has happened before and spilled over. So I think the really interesting thing here is that our agrifood systems are the interface between human health and agriculture, and ACIAR has been doing a lot of work for many years, looking at the interface of these two systems. And I guess people always think, well, obviously things that we grow and food that we eat has an impact on human health. Many people may not realise the number of what we call foodborne diseases or zoonotic diseases that come from animals, that are also really important and things that ACIAR has to think about when we designed some of our research programs.

ACIAR has always funded quite a lot of research on food safety. For example, we've been working with the International Livestock Research Institute for over ten years now, looking at food systems research in Vietnam and trying to work out what are really the risks, not just from a biophysical perspective in terms of diseases spilling over. But if we do things to make interventions in these food systems to make them safer, what are the impacts, on not just the people that eat the food, but also the people whose livelihoods depend on selling that food and growing that food? So we've been working in the port system there.

ANDREW CAMPBELL: So Anna, what sort of things are Australian scientists doing with partners overseas to try and prevent future zoonotic diseases?

ANNA OKELLO: So we've got a really interesting program that is co-funded between ACIAR and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security, which is really a One Health research program where we're working with a number of partners in Australia including Menzies, the Burnet Institute, CSIRO and Nossal Institute out of the University of Melbourne. And these scientists are working in partnership with researchers in Indonesia, Fiji, Cambodia, Laos, a number of countries to really look at some of these big One Health issues. So for example, anti-microbial resistance in Fiji. There's a great partnership going on there between CSIRO and the Fiji Ministry of Health and Agriculture, to look at the risk of diseases coming from pathogens in those food systems. Nossal Institute, for example, is working with the Cambodian government, looking at how do we really strengthen the veterinary systems in countries like Cambodia and Laos because, without strong veterinary systems, the human health system can also not be strong if we don't know where these diseases are coming from. And the Menzies Institute is working with the Indonesian government to really look at zoonotic malaria, which is a new emerging problem in Indonesia.

So I think these are all examples of ways in which Australian researchers are working on more of the preventative side of things, looking at the health systems strengthening in these countries. Strong systems overseas also means strong systems back here in Australia.

- ANDREW CAMPBELL: Yeah, that's a very interesting point. We fund Australian scientists to work in partnership with scientists from countries in the region, in the Pacific, and our near neighbours. But many times they learn things in those projects that then have benefit back here in Australia. One of the areas where that's happening certainly is around fish ladders, where we've taken science that was being applied here in the Murray-Darling basin and then developed it in much more challenging contexts in the Mekong. Do you want to talk about the fish ladder work in Laos?
- ANN FLEMING: Yeah. Thanks, Andrew. Yes. It's one of the significant projects in my program. Most people would know in the Mekong, it's a massive, one of the most significant rivers in the world, and the diversity in volume of fish that supplies poor people across Southeast Asia is incredible. And not only for food security but also for income.
- ANDREW CAMPBELL: I think some of those countries, 60% of all protein consumed by people is fish out of the river.
- ANN FLEMING: Exactly. We're just starting to learn about the importance of fish as nutrition and moving towards eating more fish. But these countries they have been eating fish for hundreds of years and very much depend on it as their major source of protein.
- ANDREW CAMPBELL: So what happens to those fish when you stick a big dam in the middle of the river?
- ANN FLEMING: We're working on huge hydroelectric dams that have been established in the Mekong, ten for Laos. Two already established. But there's also the small low-level dams, just three meters high. They're the weirs, the flood gates, the regulators that are positioned to control the movement of water from the Mekong through the tributaries into the wetlands. And so both types of barriers stop fish from migrating, which means that they can't get to their breeding grounds. Which means that the regulators are great for controlling rice production but there's this impact that's now being realised that this highly important source of protein is being compromised.
- ANDREW CAMPBELL: And so the Australian scientists are working on fish ladders to help the fish swim upstream past the dams and also to get back down through the dam without getting squashed.
- ANN FLEMING: They have to move both ways. And so what is really exciting is that we're using the knowledge that we've developed in Australia, working on the Murray-Darling basin and applying that knowledge, that technology to help our partners overcome this problem. So it's both fish ladders, which actually allow fish to navigate through upstream but also the putting in mechanisms to allow them to migrate downstream as well through the flood gate systems.
- ANDREW CAMPBELL: We were lucky enough last year to visit the one on the Xayaburi Dam in Laos and the Mekong, and literally, hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent building the biggest fish ladder in the world. And to give people an idea of the size, there's more concrete in the fish ladder than there is in the MCG. So this is a very large engineering structure and we've had to invent new methods to detect how the fish are, whether they're going past or not with electronic tags and other things.

- ANN FLEMING: Yeah, it's exciting piece of work. The size of that dam as you and I saw it's hard to fathom that. And the size of this fish ladder is incredible. And the challenge is that our commissioned organisation, Charles Sturt University, has developed or is developing totally new techniques to tag fish in the Mekong. And this is different size fish from huge, potentially half-ton right down to ten centimetres. And even that, how to tag fish of diverse sizes and species, and then place them upstream and then how to set up the technologies within those, that massive fish ladder to pick up the movement and then assess how effective that fish ladder is in allowing fish to reach their breeding grounds.
- ANDREW CAMPBELL: It struck me when we were there that Professor Lee Baumgartner from Charles Sturt Uni, who probably reasonably well known in Wodonga, but not a household name across Australia, is actually doing incredibly important work overseas that will make an amazing contribution in those countries if it's successful.
- ANN FLEMING: Yes. His team and himself, they're in hot demand across Southeast Asia, Africa, Indonesia. And he's an incredible scientist, not only for his technical expertise but his ability to work with our partners which is a key skill in itself.
- ANDREW CAMPBELL: Which reminds me of another one. In fact, invented here in Canberra. We have a gizmo called the Chameleon for measuring how much water is in the soil. Robyn, do you want to talk a bit about that and how it's being applied in Africa and potentially soon closer to home?
- ROBYN JOHNSTON: Thanks, Andrew. So Australia as you know, water management is becoming more and more important. Australia is moving very much to precision agriculture approaches, where we monitor and measure very carefully the amount of water that goes on in irrigation. But those sorts of technologies are quite expensive and haven't really been available in the developing world. So Richard Stirzaker from CSIRO in Canberra, has been working on simple, low-cost approaches for farmers in the developing world to measure and monitor the amount of water and nutrients that they put onto their crops during irrigation. And he's using a system which reads out as coloured lights so that the farmers get an immediate feedback in terms that are meaningful for them of what the water status is. So a red light tells them their soil is very dry and needs watering. Green, it's moving into a dryer phase. Blue, no need to water.
- And so Richard has been working very much along the lines of working with farmers to learn about how to use water most effectively. And the wonderful thing about it is that the savings in water, not only benefit the farmer and the environment, but they also translate to savings in labour. If you've got to water less often, then you've got more time to do other things on the farm or for other income-generating activities.
- ANDREW CAMPBELL: So this is an example where Australia operating in a very dry, but extremely variable climate has had to develop agricultural technologies for managing that variable climate that are now in much more demand overseas as other countries find that their own seasons are becoming less predictable and more extreme. Do you want to talk more broadly about irrigation schemes and some of our water basin management work where Australian science is helping say, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and also the Mekong countries?

ROBYN JOHNSTON: So one of the other areas we're working in is the Eastern Gangetic Plain. The area where India, Bangladesh, and Nepal come together, which is one of the most densely populated agricultural areas in the world because it's a low-lying delta area under increasing threat from climate change. So food security there is an enormous issue and we've been working in that area around the questions. Because it's a monsoonal area, there's abundant water during the wet season and water is much harder to come by during the dry season. So we've been working across a range of scales on approaches to allow farmers to get a second or a third crop to increase food availability. So at the farm level, we've been taking the approaches that Australia has been developing over the last 50 years for conservation agriculture which both increases productivity, reduces inputs, and saves water. And at the biggest scale, we've been using Australia's expertise in surface water and groundwater conjunctive management to look at how groundwater plays into water availability in that area. And then CSIRO has been translating our experience with basin scale management to look at how water can be shared across countries and across sectors.

ANDREW CAMPBELL: So, in essence, our scientific expertise and the depth of our expertise in food production but also in managing challenging environments is a strategic asset for Australia as we interact with our partner countries across the region because they're all facing similar challenges of how we continue to produce food more sustainably in more difficult environments.

ROBYN JOHNSTON: Yeah, very much so. I think two of the advantages Australia has, one is that we're used to working in water-scarce environments but the other oddly is that we're used to working in data-scarce environment. So a lot of the expertise that would come in from Europe or America, they're used to having much more abundant information. Whereas Australian scientists got very good at making the best of a limited set of information and being able to use that most productively.

ANDREW CAMPBELL: And also in Europe, the US, Japan, there's a much higher level of agricultural subsidies, which means that farmers have more money. And again, in Australia, perversely, it's an asset for us that our agriculture is not subsidized. And so we've had to come up with miserly ways of improving the system that farmers can afford to implement without subsidies.

ROBYN JOHNSTON: Yeah. And those low input systems are very important in the developing world.

ANDREW CAMPBELL: And many of our listeners may not realise, but a big proportion of the world's food is actually grown by smallholder farmers. 500 million smallholder farmers who themselves are among the poorest people in the world. Some of them actually landless. And so a big part of our work is working with the poorest of the poor to help them produce more food for themselves as well as for their communities and to manage their animals and their resources in the best way possible. Anna, do you want to talk about some of the animal health work, small scale animal health work that your program has been doing and the way that feeds into biosecurity and risks to humans?

ANNA OKELLO: Yeah, absolutely. So I think, maybe some things that many people may not realise around livestock when they think of livestock in a high-income country scenario is that livestock in low middle-income country settings actually play a large range of roles. Yes, it's contribution to food and food security, particularly through meat, milk, eggs. But livestock are actually, they act as a bank for people. Their social security. If people need to pay for hospital fees, for example, they'll sell a pig. Livestock are really liquefiable assets. So a lot of the work that we do in the lifestyle program is not just around how do we produce more livestock but really trying to recognise the really diverse role of livestock in these livelihoods. Sorry.

ANDREW CAMPBELL: Cultural as well.

ANNA OKELLO: And cultural as well. So I think it's been really interesting. There's been a disease spreading through Asia region called African swine fever, for more than a year. We've been dealing with governments in a lot of our partner countries, on how to manage this disease.

It's a disease of pigs. It kills the pigs outright. There's no vaccine for it at the moment. So really a large amount of the protein through people eating pork has dropped out of the system in countries like Vietnam, China, Laos, Myanmar and then closer to home in countries like Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea where people may not necessarily eat pigs, but they're really valuable culturally. How do we capture all the different impacts of a disease like African swine fever, not just in terms of food security, people not having that pork to eat? But someone not having the money or the gift when someone dies, for example, to give at the funeral or when their child has to go to school. When you have livestock disease, you see a lot of multiplier effects on the communities. Weddings don't happen, for example. Kids can't go to school. People can't pay for their out-of-pocket healthcare costs.

So yeah, a lot of the research we're doing around African swine fever, for example, is more about, not just necessarily how do we control the disease and biosecurity messaging and all that sort of thing but what is the impact on the livelihoods that this is having.

ANDREW CAMPBELL: On biosecurity? There are a number of APS agencies who work on biosecurity, particularly at the border. Would you like to comment on how our work pre-border helps Australia's biosecurity?

ANNA OKELLO: Absolutely. If you think of biosecurity, it's pre-border biosecurity and then borders. So border biosecurity, which is where the x-ray machines at the airports and that sort of thing. And then we have post-border, which is everything that happens inside Australia. So ACIAR works very much on this pre-border part of the equation. We work with the Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment. Also they have a pre-boarder program and also the Northern Australia Quarantine Service. We also work with DFAT again, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. In Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea, we've got good examples of this cross agency collaboration where we have many meetings with DFAT and the Department of Agriculture around how do we pool our resources here in Australia to best offer the assistance to governments in Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea. And we've been doing that with African swine fever. Fall armyworm is another example. There's different types of bio-security issues but I think it's a really good example of how Australian government agencies, we do talk to each other. We work together, we pool our resources and find out, okay, who's best place to help with these things.

ANDREW CAMPBELL: And in some cases, it's through ACIAR projects that Australian scientists get to work on diseases overseas. And we'd much prefer that they're working on them overseas than waiting until they get to Australia. So I'm a forester originally, and we have Australian foresters working on diseases of eucalypts and acacias in Vietnam. And we'd certainly prefer that they work on them there than wait till they get here. In the past, we've had Queensland scientists working on Fusarium wilting bananas in the Philippines and elsewhere. And then very luckily for Australia, one of those scientists spotted what he thought was the same thing on a farm in Queensland. And it turned out they were able to stop that. Potentially could have destroyed the Australian banana crop. Quarantine one farm and stop it in its tracks but only because that scientist was able to recognise it very early because they'd been working on it overseas. And I think we've had a similar story with Newcastle disease in chickens haven't we, Anna?

ANNA OKELLO: Absolutely. And I think they're really good examples of how capacity building, we do a lot of capacity building in ACIAR, but not just in that in our partner countries. We also build capacity of our own researchers. And I think if COVID has shown us nothing else, diseases don't respect national boundaries, and the more we can work in partnership to address swiftly moving diseases around our regions such as African swine fever, fall armyworm, both Australia benefits from that, as well as our partners.

ANDREW CAMPBELL: Every now and again, we have a project overseas that's a bit experimental that yields potentially significant benefits for us. And I was thinking here of work in the Philippines on blast fishing. And how do you get coral reefs to come back after blast fishing? That now looks like it might come back to the Great Barrier Reef. Do you want to talk about that Ann?

ANN FLEMING: Yeah, another really exciting piece of work. So blast fishing, dynamite fishing has damaged reefs in the Philippines, plus of course, coral bleaching, climate change impacts. And again, coral reefs support fish populations and fish is very important for Philippine people in terms of income for poor coastal communities and food security. So we've got a fantastic team at Southern Cross University working on the Great Barrier Reef and at the same time working in the Philippines on trying to develop techniques of sexual-based restoration, where the natural spawn from the coral, which I think many people would have heard, how this occurs in the full moon and first week of March or somewhere similar. And you can collect that spawn. It's floating on the surface of the sea. You have to go out there at night. And the work is to develop the technologies to collect that at a scale that can then be used as a resource to take back down to those damaged coral reefs and then support them to grow and restore the coral reef.

So there's a whole lot of different technologies at each of those steps that the team is developing both at the Great Barrier Reef but that fantastic knowledge exchange and application. It actually started in the Philippines has now been applied to Great Barrier Reef, but of course, technologies are both ways now. And the more interesting recent development that we'll be moving into is to hone in on those coral species that are actually heat tolerant. And so that as climate change becomes a greater problem and sea temperatures rise, we'll actually have selected the corals that will be able to better cope with those high temperature conditions.

ANDREW CAMPBELL: Yes, when we develop partnerships with our partner countries, of course, we spend a lot of time discussing with them what their priorities are. And in the 30 something countries that ACIAR works with, climate change is priority one, two, or three in every single country that we work in. So, Robyn, I know it's no longer your area, but you might want to mention some of the work that we're doing to help countries understand their agricultural emissions and to quantify the opportunity because although low and middle-income countries, agriculture is not a huge contributor to global emissions. Within those countries, usually, the agriculture sector is one of their more important contributors and they are interested in finding out where are the opportunities to benefit. And Anna, you might want to mention the work on livestock emissions and ensuring that we get more accurate data around that.

ROBYN JOHNSTON: So Australia has put quite a lot of effort into systems to measure and validate greenhouse gas emissions from different land sectors. And in some of the countries we work with, although, as Andrew says, they may not be major emissions in global terms. It can still be an important pathway for support, for changing systems, both to improve productivity and reduce emissions at the same time from the agricultural sector. So we've been working with, initially CG in Vietnam through the University of Melbourne and University of Queensland to take our expertise on estimating and validating emissions from the agricultural sector to help those countries be able to report accurately against the Paris commitments for what's called their nationally determined contributions. The point of doing that is twofold. One is that it enables them to tap into some of the global funding mechanisms to reduce their emissions, but it has a secondary, but quite important benefit that it just gives them a better basis for understanding their agricultural statistics generally. So that's an interesting piece of work that's just starting to develop.

ANDREW CAMPBELL: And particularly livestock are often in the gun in greenhouse gas debates, Anna, but in some cases, this is a problem of people assuming that all livestock are the same. And there's a big difference between a Kansas feedlot and a Maasai herder.

ANNA OKELLO: Exactly Andrew. And this is a message that me and others have been trying to portray for a long time. I mean, like Robyn said, agriculture is a significant contributor to emissions in many of the countries we work in, but if you break that down, livestock is usually more than 50% of those agricultural emissions. So a lot of the work that we've been trying to do in the livestock program is capture... When we're trying to improve productivity of livestock from a livelihoods' perspective or a food security perspective, what are we trying to do? We're trying to feed them better food. We're trying to control disease so it doesn't spill over to humans. We're trying to control disease so animals can produce better. All those things. The third win of that is a potential that better fit animals, better produce animals, actually emit less emissions on a per head basis.

So when we say, okay, we're going to improve these systems, make them more efficient and trying to market that, I guess, from the greenhouse gas perspective, we need very accurate ways of measuring those emissions reductions. And like Robyn said that one of the bigger problems we've got with many low middle-income countries is that the inventory systems for measuring those emissions aren't sensitive enough. And like Australia, we have a tier three emissions inventory. We're using some of the people that have been developing those systems here in Australia to work with our partner countries to move them from a tier one to a tier two emissions inventory.

ANDREW CAMPBELL: This is an area where through our emissions reduction fund and the carbon farming initiative, indigenous Savanna burning programs, Australia is actually a world leader in managing emissions in the land sector. And in fact, next year, we take on the global chair role of the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases. And one of the reasons for that is because our science is so well recognised and well respected across the world. So this is an area where Australia is making a leading contribution across our region and helping many countries to both understand their profile but also identify where they can profitably tackle it. And when we have industry like the Australian red meat sector setting itself, a carbon-neutral by 2030 target it means that we actually have many leading producers that we can showcase the work on farm that's happening in Australia and that's of great interest in partner countries.

And again, noting that, that hasn't been driven by agricultural subsidies but by farmers just wanting to produce much more efficiently. I'm going to discuss now a very high priority for the Australian aid program. And noting that my boss, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, is also the Minister for Women, and that is gender equality across all our work. And I'm going to ask each of you to talk about some of the work within your own programs that's about women's empowerment. I'll talk more broadly about it but Ann, would you like to talk about some of our work in the Pacific?

ANN FLEMING: Yes. That's come to my mind, Andrew. Thank you. Yes. We've got a long-term project to support women in the Pacific to produce pearl handicrafts. So not the round pearls that we're all used to, but what's called the Mabe pearl or a half pearl that is much easier to produce. The technology is more simple. So, it's much more appropriate for coastal communities and particularly women actually farm the oysters in Tonga, Fiji, PNG, and other women or the same people in that village will then craft that into a piece of jewellery. And because of the tourism that used to go to the Pacific and hopefully will return not too far into the future, there's a really strong demand for a piece of artifact that is actually locally made and encompasses the local culture. And that's particularly strong in Tonga. They've got a long history of carving whalebone and wood.

So actually the men are engaged in this work in Tonga and they're producing beautiful, high quality pieces of work. Not only high quality but also the trinket trade, which is volumes and that will produce more benefits for more people. And particularly for people that aren't necessarily highly skilled. So it's an opportunity that is very diverse. And particularly we've found that the benefits to women are not only that benefit through income, but the social connection and the sense of independence and pride that they can contribute to their household income or to their communities as a whole for projects.

ANDREW CAMPBELL: So we're not just talking about more food in people's bellies, we're talking about improving their overall livelihoods, their economic opportunities, their access to resources, and decision making.

ANN FLEMING: Yes, exactly. It's not only the economic benefits but also the ability to make their own decisions about their own lives, which is important to everyone.

ROBYN JOHNSTON: If I can come in there. Women's empowerment is really deeply embedded in everything we do at all levels. But one of the things that I find really rewarding and important in the work we do is that we work with a lot of researchers from developing countries. And this gives us an opportunity to particularly give opportunities to women researchers who might otherwise find it quite difficult to get that next step in their national systems. So it's really great to have women PhD students, women officers from agricultural agencies, who come out in the field with us. And it does allow us as well to work more deeply with the women farmers because very often the extension systems are all about the men. By taking more women into the field we can get a better sense of how the women are contributing there. And women are basically half the agricultural workforce so it's an important area.

ANDREW CAMPBELL: And so we've developed a new program for women's leadership and management skills across the agricultural research sector. And when I say agricultural I mean fisheries and forestry and climate and water and everything else, nutrition called the Meryl Williams Fellowship. And our Minister put out a terrific video about that last week and that's again, helping to develop new women leaders right across our region and building their linkages with Australia. So just to wrap up, I think we've had a few little examples of how Australia's depth and breadth of expertise in science is a terrific, soft power asset for us in our relationships across the region. As many countries strive to tackle some of the same problems that we've been wrestling within Australia over many, many years but it's extremely rewarding work. And just another example of the rich diversity of things that the APS is doing right around the world.

Thank you.

DAVID PEMBROKE: So there you have it. A great conversation between Andrew Campbell, Dr Anna Okello, Dr Ann Fleming and Dr Robyn Johnston really giving us the great sense and the impact of the work that is done by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research beyond our borders. So thank you to all of them for contributing to Work with Purpose.

You will know now that IPAA ACT is a partner of the GovComms Festival, which is part of the OECD's Government After Shock global dialogue. It is on November the 17th and it will be going for 24 hours where we will public an enormous amount of content about the impact of COVID-19 on the way government is communicating both internally and externally. We also have great support from Griffith University who will be running a 24-hour education program. If you are interested in participating, please Google GovComms Festival and please register your interest so you can be involved in this important Festival.

In terms of Work with Purpose, if you would like to recommend or share or leave a review, it does help us to be found and we are so grateful for the audiences who turn up each week in such big numbers to support this important program about the important work of the Australian Public Service.

A big thanks as always to my friends at IPAA ACT. Also to the contentgroup team and to the Australian Public Service Commission. Without the support of those organisations this program would not happen. So thank you for coming back to listen to Work with Purpose. We'll be back at the same time next week, but for the moment, it's bye for now.