



Ms Mellissa Wood
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Ms Mellissa Wood is ACIAR's General Manager, Global Program and Director of the Australian International Food Security Research Centre (Food Security Centre). The Food Security Centre is working to strengthen Australian aid efforts to improve global food security through facilitating delivery and adoption of agricultural innovations (technologies, policies and practices) to smallholder farmers in Africa. The Food Security Centre engages with a broad range of national and international partners – from researchers through to delivery and extension workers, public and private sectors, donors, community groups and civil society.

Before joining ACIAR, Ms Wood previously worked with the FAO-based Global Crop Diversity Trust for two years as Director of Operations and for three years as the Director of Program Development. In these roles she worked with many global institutions, including the FAO, the CGIAR, World Bank and major donor organisations and governments on food security issues, including plant genetic resources conservation.

In Australia, Ms Wood's experience includes as Program Leader, Information and Risk Sciences, in the Bureau of Rural Sciences within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. In that role Ms Wood managed the establishment of the Australian Centre of Excellence for Risk Analysis and ran a team that provided scientific support to Biosecurity Australia. Prior to that, Ms Wood was Manager of Australia's National Forest Inventory where she represented Australia on the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and Montreal Process. Ms Wood has a background in natural resource management and spatial information systems to support agricultural policy and decision making across a range of scales.