

DR JAMES WILSON SMITH

Dr James Wilson, “Jimmy”, Smith is an animal scientist and research manager, known internationally for his leadership in livestock research. He has advocated for informed discussion on animal production and livestock development and brought new innovations to each of the institutions in which he has held senior leadership roles. This includes the International Livestock Research Institute, the World Bank, and the Canadian International Development Agency.

Born in Guyana, Dr Smith obtained his BSc from Tuskegee University, Alabama and his MSc and PhD from the University of Illinois. Thereafter, he worked in positions that have contributed towards improved wellbeing for hundreds of millions of people in poor nations. Nations where livestock is fundamental for livelihoods and livestock products are essential for adequate nutrition and for mental and physical development.

As a Principal Policy Adviser for sustainable agriculture in the Canadian International Development Agency, Dr Smith's role as Ministerial Adviser was instrumental in the restoration of agriculture as a priority sector for Canadian International Development Agency's investment in agriculture and towards meeting the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals.

As Senior Manager of the World Bank's portfolio on Livestock, Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr Smith repositioned the institution's investments around three pillars: livestock as a pathway out of poverty; livestock and the environment; and livestock human-ecosystem health. This has become the global standard for allocating financing for livestock development.

Dr Smith is currently Director-General of the International Livestock Research Institute, ILRI, in Nairobi, Kenya. The Institute, is a member of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and is the world's premier international livestock research Institute. As Director General, Dr Smith is responsible for strategic planning, research leadership and management, resource mobilization and business development, partnerships and communications, corporate responsibility and team development.

At ILRI, Dr Smith has refocused the role of the Institute and worked to integrate universities and advanced research institutes from developed nations, including Australia, into coordinated global research teams to address issues of regional and global significance. This has included, animal and human nutrition, antimicrobial resistance and zoonotic diseases.

In all his senior roles in different organizations he has been responsible for significantly increased investment for agricultural and consequently human development and has made important contributions to agricultural research in developing countries. He has published many book chapters and articles in national and international journals and presented many keynote lectures and seminars. His research and his leadership have advanced our knowledge of integrated livestock production and management and contributed to international development.

Presiding Chancellor, Dr James Wilson Smith is a worthy recipient of the honorary degree of *Doctor of Agricultural Science*.