

2019 AARES Distinguished Fellow

Professor Rob Cramb



Rob Cramb is a leading researcher in rural development, agrarian change, and natural resource management in Southeast Asia, including the evolution of farming systems, land-tenure arrangements, and community-based resource management in marginal upland areas.

Rob graduated in agricultural science (Hons) in 1974 and completed a Masters degree in agricultural economics from the University of Melbourne in 1977. Rob then worked in Sarawak, Malaysia, for 7 years on a World-Bank-funded National Extension Project (1982-83). He subsequently completed PhD studies (1987) under the supervision of Ian Wills at Monash University in development economics and Southeast Asian studies.

In 1987, Rob commenced working at The University of Queensland, and he recently retired from UQ as Professor of Agricultural Development and Deputy Head of School for Agriculture and Food Sciences.

He has been a prolific researcher, leading or contributing to 19 large research projects. He has authored four books and 125 refereed journal articles and book chapters on a wide range of development-related issues.

Outstanding among Rob's high-quality research publications is his 2007 book '*Land and Longhouse: Agrarian Transformation in the Uplands of Sarawak*'. This work made a major contribution to debates about economic, social and environmental change and conflict in the uplands of Southeast Asia.

Rob has supervised a long list of Australian and international PhD students, many of whom have gone on to prominent careers in academia or the public service.

Rob's contributions to AARES include being President of the Queensland Branch and a regular contributor to the AARES annual conferences, to which he has introduced many talented young scholars from developing countries.