



# What is ACIAR?

The **Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)** is an Australian Government statutory authority that operates as part of Australia's Development Assistance Program within the portfolio of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It was established in 1982 to assist and encourage Australia's agricultural scientists to use their skills for the benefit of developing countries as well as Australia. It contributes to Australia's Aid Program objectives of advancing Australia's national interest through poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

## CONTACT:

**ACIAR  
Communications and  
Information Services  
GPO Box 1571  
Canberra  
ACT 2601  
AUSTRALIA  
Ph: (02) 6217 0500  
Fax: (02) 6217 0501  
Email:  
[comms@aciar.gov.au](mailto:comms@aciar.gov.au)**

## Webpage:

[www.aciar.gov.au](http://www.aciar.gov.au)

## ACIAR's vision

ACIAR looks to a world where poverty has been reduced and the livelihoods of many improved through more productive and sustainable agriculture emerging from collaborative international research

## Mandate

ACIAR's mandate is to:

- commission research into improving agricultural production in developing countries
- fund project-related training for partner-country scientists
- commission some development of results from its research
- communicate the results of agricultural research
- administer the Australian Government's funding contribution to the International Agricultural Research Centres

Since 1982 ACIAR has coordinated, managed and cooperated in 700 research projects in more than 30 countries in Asia, the South Pacific, Africa and the Indian subcontinent. This has involved over 150 overseas organisations working in collaboration with more than 50 Australian research bodies.

Collaboration with researchers in developing countries is central to the development of ACIAR's program and is integral to all ACIAR projects. ACIAR provides training and infrastructure to help build partner capacity to undertake and apply research.

Australia is rare among industrialised countries in having the range of climates—cool and warm temperate, subtropical and tropical—that typify the developing world. As a consequence Australia's scientists possess an outstanding research capacity to tackle agricultural problems in the Asia-Pacific and beyond.

ACIAR projects involve true collaboration, creating 'home-grown and home-owned' solutions, more likely to deliver results suited to the partner countries specific needs which in turn makes their application more likely and successful.

## Developing-country partners

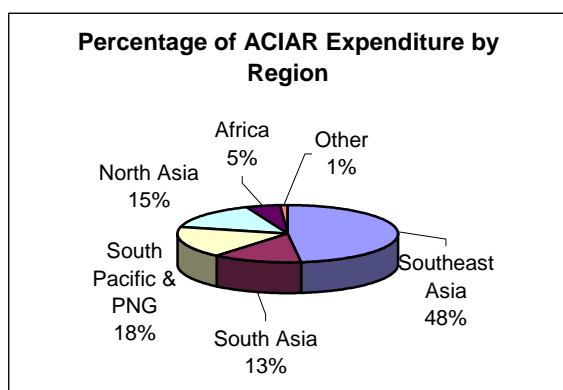
ACIAR plans, funds and manages projects in fields under the broad category of agricultural research and development—crop and livestock sciences, fisheries, forestry, land and water resources and postharvest technology. The Centre also commissions studies of the economic and policy issues concerned with the management of agricultural systems and natural resources, and helps partner countries build their capacity to engage with the increasingly global market economy. ACIAR provides support to international agricultural research centres, and links them to Australian research organisations.

Agricultural research is vital in lifting farm production above the subsistence level, increasing rural incomes and employment. This helps stimulate consumer demand, creating a surplus for further investment.

Exporting countries, such as Australia, stand to benefit. For example the bluetongue virus diagnostic project in southern China not only strengthened veterinary diagnostic services but also made a substantial contribution to the progressive opening up of the live cattle trade between northern Australia and China.

### Where ACIAR operates

ACIAR projects focus on problems that are widespread, within a country or across regions. Currently there are bilateral projects under way in around 30 developing countries, mostly in the Asia-Pacific region.



### Funding

In the 2005–06 Australian Budget the Government appropriated \$49.3m to ACIAR. Combined with other revenue ACIAR's total operating budget is \$53m, and its budgeted expenditure is \$41.2m on specific research and \$2.5m on non-project training.

### Promoting sustainability

ACIAR focuses on sustainable systems to deliver new scientific advances, technologies and practices for sustainable agriculture.

- developing integrated pest management systems without chemical pesticides
- extension of Landcare in the Philippines to help sustain at-risk farming lands
- management of water resources in the Asia–Pacific region
- development of new aquaculture industries to reduce capture fishing
- collection and conservation of unique crop germplasm resources

### Delivering benefits

Independent economic assessments of the impact of ACIAR projects and anecdotal evidence show substantial gains for developing countries and also Australia:

- \$234m attributable to ACIAR of the predicted gains of \$1.8 billion from adoption of zero till agriculture and management of herbicide-resistant weeds in northwest India
- \$496m from a project introducing faster-growing pig breeds and better feeding options to Vietnam
- \$1.3 billion from introducing improved eucalypt varieties to China, with ACIAR's investment accounting for 78% of total research funding in this work
- \$117m from improving the efficiency of dairy cattle and buffalo in using poor quality straw feeds in India
- \$152m of benefits to Vietnam from accelerating the utilisation of improved Acacia hybrids in plantations.
- adoption of research outcomes to control rodents in rice-farming, as Government policy in Vietnam and Indonesia

### Benefits to Australian rural industries

- \$223 million from the biological control of banana skipper butterfly.
- off-shore protection against FMD, a potential outbreak in Australia is estimated to cost at least \$2.7 billion
- annual net gain in the faba bean and lentil industries of around \$13 million due to research undertaken by the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
- resistance to barley yellow dwarf virus incorporated into Australia winter wheats, resulting in yields up to 60% greater than existing high-yielding winter varieties
- information on fruit fly species and their habitats in countries adjacent to Australia helps assess the risks of fruit flies entering Australia
- access to germplasm and improved varieties for incorporation into breeding programs for crops and horticulture industries