

2007–08 at a glance

Revenue increased from \$60.9 million in 2006–07 to \$66.0 million in 2007–08. This larger revenue base featured an increase in funding of \$4.4 million to 21.9 million for an expansion of South-East Asia programs in Indonesia, Philippines and Laos, including projects co-funded by AusAID.

Key programs attracting budget support included:

- The collaborative ACIAR–AusAID program of agricultural research in Papua New Guinea
- The ACIAR components of the Smallholder Agribusiness Development Initiative in Indonesia (SADI) which increased by \$4.1 million to \$10.4 million
- Management of two of the four components of the Australia–Pakistan Agriculture Sector Linkages Program
- Continued support for the successful Seeds of Life program in East Timor.

Outlays lifted to \$66.0 million in 2007–08 from \$60.8 million in 2006–07. The **operating surplus** for 2007–08 was \$27,944, compared to \$55,000 in 2006–07.

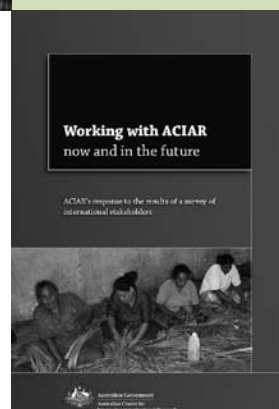


Parliamentary secretary, Mr Bob McMullan in East Timor with Seeds of Life project.

Adoption pathways closely addressed in the design of projects and private sector NGO partners are now actively involved in about 50 ACIAR projects.

Building capacity through training:

- During 2007–08 we expanded our **postgraduate training scheme** with a \$1 million increase in funding to \$4.6 million for postgraduate training—the John Allwright Fellowships—supporting 40 new placements for partner country scientists within Australian Universities.
- Ninety-four per cent of our training course participants rated the ACIAR training courses as highly satisfactory or very good.



Project partnerships 2007–08:

- ACIAR projects harnessed **Australia's outstanding strengths in agricultural research** to develop partnerships with developing country research institutions across more than 300 active projects.
- Continuing trend towards **larger, integrated programs** rather than numbers of small, free-standing projects
- More than 60 per cent of new projects in 2007–08 were designed to have **significant farmer or policymaker impacts** within five years of completion – exceeding the Annual Operational Plan target of designing 40 per cent of new projects to have a 'short time to impact'.
- ACIAR continued to support the rebuilding of scientific capacity and agriculture and aquaculture industries affected by the **December 2004 Tsunami** in Indonesia's Aceh province.
- Our programs in **Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq** continued to be challenged by circumstance but have delivered results in 2007–08 in post-conflict agricultural reconstruction through implementation of ongoing programs and a new project in Afghanistan to rebuild the wheat and maize industries.
- Projects tackle the **challenges Australia shares with the countries in our region** in a range of areas, including biosecurity, quarantine, climate change, and water management policy.

Some key research-related publications:

- *Quality management of fresh produce from the highlands of Papua New Guinea: a postharvest manual*
- *Diagnostic manual for plant diseases in Vietnam*
- *Economic potential of land-use change and forestry for carbon sequestration and poverty reduction*
- *Achieving food security in China: implications of World Trade Organization accession*
- *Breeding and feeding pigs in Vietnam: assessment of capacity building and an update on impacts*

36 publications produced in 2007–08 and more than 25,000 hard copies distributed



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Our **impact assessment work** continues to show that ACIAR support for bilateral R&D activities is an exceptionally efficient means of investment in development assistance:

- **Seven assessments were published** in 2007–08, all showing continued strong investment returns to research.
- Large projects (more than \$400,000) completed in 2003–04 were reviewed in 2007–08, with results published in an **Adoption Study Summary Report**.
- Candidates selected for impact assessment with a program rather than project focus and with sampling rather than selection through expected successful impacts.
- The seven assessments published in 2007–08 show the **total net present value of welfare gains to partner countries and Australia was \$2.3 billion**.
- **For individual assessments**, the net present values ranged from \$6.1 million to \$1,105.5 million, with the corresponding benefit to cost ratios ranging from 5:1 to 257:1 and the internal rates of return from 25 per cent to 210 per cent.
- Assessments continue to show that **ACIAR's collaborative partnership modality has a substantial impact on capacity building in our partner countries** and the quantified welfare gains from this are substantial.
- Assessment at a program level revealed the **complexities of R&D investment** and the multi-faceted aspects of its impact. For example, over 20 years of fruit fly research has provided a significant return on the invested funds but the underlying story about how the impacts have been achieved and the circumstances under which they are not capitalised on provide important lessons for development of future activities.



Staffing levels (FTEs) at ACIAR did not increase in 2007–08. Outlays on salaries increased from \$5.3 million in 2006–07 to \$5.4 million in 2007–08.



LEFT: Fruits of long term work to rebuild agricultural capacity in Aceh