



INDONESIA *Newsletter*

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2009 Derek Tribe Award



Sarina Locke, ABC Radio Journalist is interviewing Prof. Dr. Ketut Sugama

Prof. Dr Ketut Sugama, Director, Seed Development, Directorate General of Aquaculture, Jakarta, and formerly Director of the Research Center for Aquaculture, Agency for Marine and Fisheries Research, is the recipient of the 2009 Crawford Fund Derek Tribe Award in recognition of his outstanding work and leadership in the field of aquaculture. Through his personal research, leadership and vigorous promotion of small-scale hatchery technology for milkfish and grouper, Professor Sugama has driven the rapid adoption of sustainable mariculture in several parts of Indonesia that has lifted

thousands of farmers out of poverty.

His research results have been adopted internationally, and have led to increased sustainability of mariculture through the increased production of grouper fingerlings in many countries, particularly in the Asia–Pacific region. The work is also relevant to Australia where aquaculture centres in Queensland use hatchery techniques directly based on those developed by Prof. Sugama. His dedication has supported the establishment of an agricultural sub-sector that will provide long-term benefits within Indonesia and elsewhere.

Potato project has planted the seeds for success

Project: Optimising the productivity of the potato cropping system in South Sulawesi and West Nusa Tenggara

Theme: Adapting smallholder management practices to reduce vulnerability to pests and diseases and to improve profitability.

The issue

With increasing market demand in Indonesia for potatoes that can be used in food processing, smallholder farmers and their families have the opportunity to improve their incomes by producing profitable potato crops. Although Indonesia produces more than one million tonnes of potatoes each year, South Sulawesi and West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) produce just 2 per cent and 0.03 per cent respectively of national production. With improved management, and by focussing on quality, there is the potential for strong growth. In the eastern provinces, potatoes are grown in rotation with other crops, such as cabbage, so it is important for total farm productivity that production be improved for these other crops as well. Long-term sustainability is also essential, which is why smallholders need to use appropriate management techniques to control pests and disease successfully. The costs of not getting it right are high: poor quality produce and reduced profitability.

Collaborative response

ACIAR–SADI has invested A\$2 million in research for potato development in Indonesia. This involves improving Indonesian potato farming systems by developing good management techniques so smallholders can grow high quality and profitable produce. Benchmarking farming methods and techniques will help smallholders compare and share ways of developing profitable systems. ACIAR–SADI is building on its investment by expanding its research and cooperation projects into South Sulawesi and West Nusa Tenggara (NTB). This collaboration with smallholders in eastern Indonesia means that they will be able to use the best management practices to produce high-quality potatoes and other rotation crops for the food-processing industry.

Emerging effects

Farmers have been participating in regional field schools to develop their knowledge and skills in controlling pests and diseases, and in production management. They have also been contributing to a baseline survey that will benchmark a range of important production and marketing issues. Work has started to

find a pest-free area that could be useful in seed potato production.

Future direction

The research will continue throughout the season to improve smallholder practices, enabling farmers to produce more effectively high-quality produce that is ready for the processing sector. Benchmarking data will be analysed to gain insight within and between regions on effective management practices for potato farming. For the long-term viability of the Indonesian industry, a safe, pest-free area for growing certified seed potatoes needs to be established. This project is progressing in West Nusa Tenggara and will create a new industry in seed potatoes that will cater to strong domestic demand from smallholders who are producing for the processing sector. ACIAR–SADI may also assist with creating appropriate certification and regulatory systems for this certified seed production and to ensure its long-term sustainability.

Key partner organisations

- Department of Primary Industries, Victoria, Australia
- The University of Queensland, Australia
- International Potato Center, Indonesia
- Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia, Australia
- Agency for Food Crops and Horticulture, Indonesia
- Assessment Institute for Agricultural Technology, South Sulawesi, Indonesia
- Assessment Institute for Agricultural Technology, Nusa Tenggara Barat (BPTP NTB), Indonesia
- Department of Agriculture Service, Central Java, Indonesia
- Department of Agriculture Service for Food and Horticultural Crops, West Java, Indonesia
- Indonesian Vegetables Research Institute, Indonesia
- Institute for Rural Technology Development, Indonesia
- Department of Agriculture Service for Food and Horticultural Crops, South Sulawesi, Indonesia
- Assessment Institute for Agricultural Technology, Indonesia
- Department of Agriculture Services, West Nusa Tenggara (DP NTB), Indonesia



Organisations throughout eastern Indonesia are collaborating to boost the potato industry and help local farmers.





Project: Improving rice productivity in South and South East Sulawesi

Theme: Adapting smallholder management practices to reduce vulnerability and improve profitability

The issue

Rice is a staple food of Indonesia. Indonesia's population, now 230 million people, is increasing by 1.4 per cent annually; rice supply is now at its lowest for 30 years and rice prices are at a 10-year high. This means Indonesia, like many other countries in Asia, is faced with the problem of securing rice supplies to feed its people. The Indonesian government is keen to improve rice farming productivity and increase returns to farmers in areas where production has stagnated. South and South East Sulawesi provinces have great potential to increase rice production, and so the National Rice Increase Program has identified these provinces as those with the greatest potential for boosting the national rice supply. The South Sulawesi provincial government is aiming at increasing the quantity of rice for export from the province from 1.2 million tonnes in 2008 to 2 million tonnes in 2009; the surplus rice mostly destined for other provinces of Indonesia.

A study for ACIAR–SADI by Indonesian research and development agencies and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), found that the reasons for low yields were:

- technical constraints, and
- little knowledge of intensive crop management practices that have been successful in other parts of Indonesia.

Boosting rice yields to feed a nation

Collaborative response

The ACIAR–SADI research team plans to boost local rice production by focusing on sustainable, profitable productivity improvements in irrigated rice farming systems. Farmers will be provided with the know-how to improve their current farming practices. The objective is to increase rice yields by 10 per cent, and this will be done by identifying, adapting and implementing appropriate crop management practice.

The Indonesian Center for Rice Research (ICRR) and the Indonesian Center for Agricultural Technologies and Development will work with the Assessment Institutes for Agricultural Technologies (BPTP), provincial and district extension offices, universities, non-government organisations and smallholder farmers in selected villages in South Sulawesi and South East Sulawesi. Improved crop-management practices have the potential to increase productivity, and these practices are being tested and adapted to local conditions by smallholder farmers.

Emerging effects

The ACIAR–SADI research partnership is initially working in four villages that each have 100 to 200 hectares of rice land. The research team expects that within three years at least 240 farmers in these villages will have moved from testing to practising improved management of their crops. Pilot outreach programs will then commence to expand the program to nearby villages.

The next objective is to expand the economic benefits to at least 6000 farmers as local research and extension agencies roll out the changes. Word of mouth will help spread the new practices still further; it is hoped that farmers working with the PNPM–AP subprogram of SADI will use their block grants to improve their farming practices and consequently their productivity.

Future directions

The most promising crop management practices will be integrated with a program of Integrated Crop Management, and with Prima Tani (business models for agriculture), which are being promoted by the Indonesian government. The extension pathways and strategies developed will be models that can be used by the national rice program to facilitate uptake of improved rice production practices in farming communities. Rice marketing in Indonesia is influenced by the government rice market (BULOG) and by the open market price. Once farmers start to improve their management practices they will benefit by better prices from higher quality rice.

Key partner organisations

- International Rice Research Institute, the Philippines
- Assessment Institute for Agricultural Technology, South Sulawesi, Indonesia
- Assessment Institute for Agricultural Technology, South East Sulawesi, Indonesia
- Indonesian Center for Rice Research, Indonesia



Average yields per crop of irrigated rice in South and Southeast Sulawesi (2–3 tonnes/ hectare) are substantially lower than the national average (4.6 tonnes/ hectare)

New project

LPS/2008/038 Improving reproductive performance of cows and performance of fattening cattle in low input systems of Indonesia and northern Australia

Project duration : 1 July 2009 – 31 December 2013
Allocated funds : AUD1,582,238

Indonesian demand for beef is rising by 4 per cent each year and a good part of this increased demand is met through imports. The increasing beef consumption is driven by the westernisation of diets, and that more Indonesians now live in urban centres and have more disposable income. Indonesia's government has placed a high priority on achieving self-sufficiency in beef cattle production. Increasing the production of beef depends on smallholder enterprises in densely populated rural areas increasing the reproductive rates of cows and improving their management techniques to accelerate the fattening of animals so that they can be taken to market sooner. To achieve these objectives, changes are needed to traditional methods of feeding cattle with rice straw combined with small amounts of crop residues and supplements. Better ways of feeding cattle will be tested systematically on Indonesian farms and on Australian cattle stations. The tests will help to find the best combination of high quality supplements and traditional fodder to fatten animals and to then maintain body weight and condition.

These changes are expected to increase calf production to close to one per year, rather than one every 18 to 24 months. A new system will also help to increase growth rates for cattle, allowing smallholders to either increase their stock of breeding cattle or sell cattle earlier than previously. Estimates based on current profit margins in Indonesian smallholder cattle farms suggest that applying the results of successful research could result in an increase in gross margins of at least 50 per cent compared with current husbandry systems. The work will focus on Indonesia's East Java province, home to 25 per cent of the nation's beef cattle. Research findings will also be applied and adapted to indigenous pastoral systems in Australia's Northern Territory.

Collaborating Institutions

- University of Queensland, Schools of Animal Studies and Veterinary Science, Australia
- Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources, Australia
- Indonesian Center for Animal Science Research and Development, Indonesia
- Beef Cattle Research Institute, Indonesia
- University of Haluoleo, Indonesia
- Assessment Institute for Agricultural Technology, South East Sulawesi, Indonesia
- University of Mataram, Indonesia
- Assessment Institute for Agricultural Technology, NTB, Indonesia



Applied Bio-containment principles

The CSIRO's Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) in conjunction with the Gordon Institute of TAFE is offering a five-day course in Applied Bio-containment Principles to enable employees to work safely in physical containment (PC) 3 and PC 4 laboratory facilities.

The course will teach the knowledge and skills necessary for professionals, researchers and laboratory workers to meet safety, regulatory and bio-containment requirements associated with research and development in the veterinary and medical disease control industries. This is a practical course that utilises the world-class bio-containment facilities of the AAHL.

Location: Australian Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong, Victoria

Date : 1 to 5 February 2010

Phone : +61 3 5225 0585

Fax : +61 3 5225 0766

Email : bio-containment@gordontafe.edu.au

Web : www.csiro.au/events/index.html

Staff movement

After over a decade with ACIAR, John Skerritt has just been appointed Deputy Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries, Victoria.



Dr. John Skerritt

John has had a significant influence in his responsibility for the strategic direction and delivery of ACIAR's research and development program and a leadership role in negotiating, designing and establishing project partnerships valued at over \$500 million.

As well as being a champion of the need for ACIAR to always 'define research questions' in its programs and projects, John has led the way in encouraging ACIAR to understand better the process of practice change through a greater

focus on 'research on extension'. He has also led the development of new partnerships to expand ACIAR's reach through collaboration with development agencies. Under John's leadership, the project partnership with AusAID has expanded from \$1.5 million of co-funding annually to almost \$20 million this year, and he has fostered major new collaborations with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) as well as NGOs such as World Vision and a range of commercial partners. The postgraduate (John Allwright) program has increased enormously under his stewardship and John has led the development of new research management training programs for mid-career professionals.

He will continue to be involved in international agricultural research through his role in the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). John is currently the Board Chair of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and together with Policy Advisory Council Chair, Prof. Beth Woods, sits on the Board of the Alliance of CGIAR centres.

John's enormous contribution to ACIAR and to ACIAR's achievements is widely acknowledged and greatly valued.



New Publication

Annual Operational Plan 2009–10

Summary

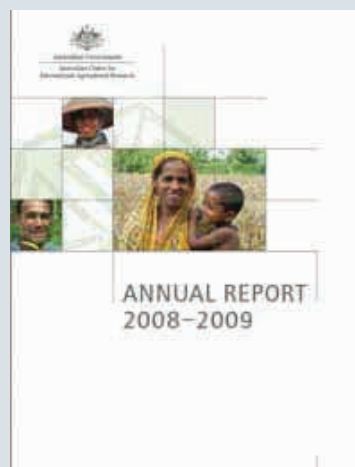
The ACIAR Annual Operational Plan (AOP) is our key communications document on operational issues to inform partners and stakeholders. It is presented on a region and country basis, with priorities for each grouped into research program areas along with detailed project listings. The AOP provides a focal point for project development around these priorities. The AOP is the result of detailed consultations with partner countries, Australian organisations and government agencies.

The appendixes provide a range of detailed information including material on the benefits from ACIAR-funded research to Australia, engagement with NGOs, community organisations and various development indicators.



Annual Report 2008-09

ACIAR's Annual Report for 2008-09 outlines the Centre's research and financial performance during the past financial year. The report has been prepared in accordance with the relevant sections of the ACIAR Act 1982 and the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997, and meets all reporting requirements, as well as ACIAR's performance against its 2008-09 Annual Operational Plan.



John Allwright Fellowships for 2009

We are pleased to announce the results of the recent selection round to consider applications for John Allwright Fellowships for study at Australian universities in 2010. There was a very strong field of applicants.

The Training Committee was able to offer 20 scholarships for study commencing in July 2010.

Of prime importance in the selection process was building institutional capacity and strategic fit to ACIAR's program. Selection of the successful applicants was made against the following criteria:

- strong evidence of a link to or involvement in an ACIAR project
- whether they had had prior opportunities for overseas study
- a strategic fit to ACIAR's program, and academic records and referees reports

Five of the twenty successful candidates are from Indonesia. After the required IELTS test, they will be provided with further English training if they do not have a score of 5.0 or above. Further assessment will be conducted after six months.

The following five Indonesians have been awarded Fellowships:

- Ms Wahida, Center for Agriculture Socio-Economic Analysis and Policy Studies (ICASEPS)
- Ms Karnita Yuniarti, Research and Development Center for Forest Products Technology (FORDA)
- Ms Rini Murtiningsih, Indonesian Vegetables Research Institute (IVEGRI)
- Mr Iwan Kurniawan, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
- Mr Cardial Leo Penu, Politeknik Pertanian Negeri, Kupang

2009 John Dillon Fellowship – outcome

From 50 applications from 12 countries, the Committee selected ten scientists to receive a John Dillon Fellowship Award for 2009. The program will be conducted in February and March 2010.

Three of the ten awarded a Fellowship are from Indonesia. They are:

- **Dr Joko Pitono**, Head of Planning and Evaluation Division, Indonesian Centre for Agricultural Technology Assessment and Development, Bogor, Indonesia
- **Dr Muhammad Taufiq Ratule**, Director, Assessment Institute of Agricultural Technology of South East Sulawesi, Indonesia
- **Dr Warsito**, Project Coordinator, International Potato Center, Bandung, Indonesia

Potential programs for the winners were discussed and it was agreed that they should be in five groups according to their disciplines. Five programs will be developed and will begin with the leadership course at the Mt Eliza Centre for Executive Education, with further formal training at ACIAR in professional communication and research management. Awardees will also visit two to five different Australian research organisations to gain an insight into management approaches and perspectives.



Scoping mission in Papua



Julien de Meyer, Country Manager for ACIAR Indonesia with Mr Barnabas Suebu, the Governor of Papua

Julien has just returned from a scoping mission in Papua and West Papua provinces to explore possible links with the Program Nasional Pemberdayaan Masyarakat (PNPM). The mission was a collaborative effort by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank. The potential for research into cocoa was evident all along the trip, as well as the need for increased

pig and sweet potato research. A general need for increased effort in capacity building was reported by the provincial and local authorities.

While in Jayapura and Manokwari, Julien had the chance to catch up with Pak Albert (thank you for your help and assistance during this trip) and had dinner with Pak Triono, Pak Jon and Ibu Dani. All three are members of the Pig and

Sweet Potato Project team and he heard about the excellent results and successes of this past year. As well, the scoping mission team had the chance to meet and brief the Papua Governor Barnabas Suebu. The governor was pleased to hear that we would expand our research activities to include research on cocoa in his province.



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