

Communicating research

Expenditure in 2002–03	\$702 225
Expenditure in 2001–02	\$897 000
Expenditure in 2000–01	\$954 894
Proportion of total ACIAR expenditure 2002–03	1.5%

ACIAR has a statutory obligation to communicate the results of the research it funds, and currently allocates approximately 1.5% of its budget to these activities. ACIAR's scientific publishing program aims to help bridge the gap between research and its adoption by providing low-cost access to syntheses of information from individual projects or programs of work, and 'how to' manuals for field workers and trainers. Building the capacity of partner countries and their researchers in the art of good written and oral scientific communication is also a priority.

Achievements

During 2002–03 ACIAR published and distributed 16 new titles in its scientific series (monographs, proceedings and technical reports), and eight titles in its impact assessment series (reports and working papers). These are listed in Appendix 3. All titles are distributed electronically and in hard copy. Hard copy distribution of books during the year amounted to almost 9000, of which 780 were sold to the developed world. About 2660 overseas subscribers received copies of ACIAR's corporate newsletter and magazine, with another 1050 copies of each issue distributed in Australia. Many more people from both developed and developing countries accessed and downloaded publications and parts of publications from ACIAR's website.

Noteworthy books published during the year include the monograph *Rats, Mice and People: Rodent biology and management*, which was launched by the Parliamentary Secretary, the Hon. Chris Gallus, MP. This book brings together the best current information from all parts of the world on rodent biology and management, including the sociology and economics of rodent management, and health effects on humans.

Fruits of Oceania is an English translation by ACIAR crop protection research program manager Dr Paul Ferrar of a French title. It will benefit researchers throughout the Pacific region.

Four titles address issues associated with the rapidly growing Asian livestock industries. Monographs 95 and 97 report results of studies on the Indonesian beef industry and on the effects of globalisation



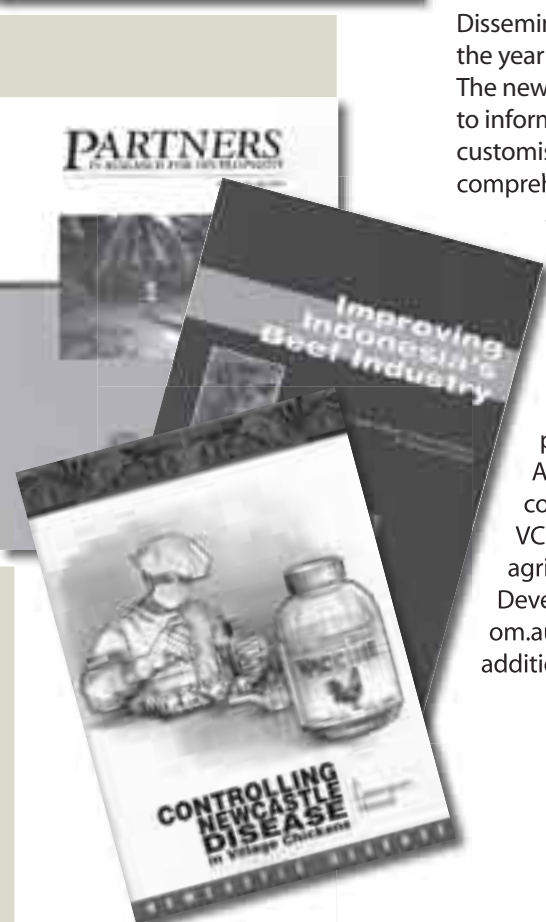


and economic development on the Asian livestock sector respectively. Proceedings 108 and 110 include papers presented at workshops on genetic improvements for beef production, and strategies to improve Bali cattle.

The year's outputs also included the final in a series of three handbooks on *Controlling Newcastle disease in village chickens*, and a new title in a series of booklets on extending the use of forages among smallholder livestock keepers. The latter were produced in six languages by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, in association with ACIAR.

Vietnam's Information Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development continued to collaborate with ACIAR in translating and distributing selected ACIAR publications in the Vietnamese language. During 2002–03 the following books were translated: *Controlling Newcastle disease in village chickens: a field manual*; *Elimination of aflatoxin in peanuts*; and *Postharvest handling of fresh vegetables*.

Dissemination of ACIAR's information was strengthened during the year through redevelopment of its website (www.aciar.gov.au). The new, fully searchable site provides easy-to-navigate access to information on ACIAR's projects by country and discipline, customised information for researchers and consultants, and comprehensive information on training and impact assessment activities as well as online access to full text and abstracts of publications.



The Communications and Information Services Program is coordinating ACIAR's contributions to the joint World Bank-AusAID Virtual Colombo Plan (VCP) initiative. About 8 per cent of ACIAR's bilateral research project funding in 2002–03 was invested in disseminating Australian knowledge through information and communication technologies, which is a major goal of the VCP. ACIAR is providing extensive in-kind contributions to the agriculture and rural development segments of the Australian Development Gateway project (www.developmentgateway.com.au). Links between ACIAR's website and the Gateway bring additional users to ACIAR's project information and publications.