

“ I wish to make special note of the impact of the work carried out by ACIAR, which is held up internationally as an innovative example of support to agricultural science for development that pays high returns and benefits to poor farmers and consumers in developing countries and also Australia.”

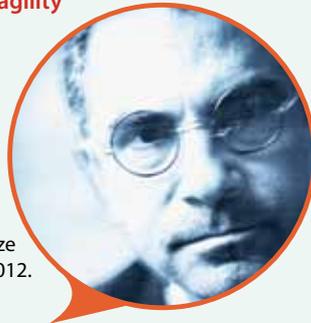
—Dr Derek Byerlee, co-author,
World Bank's World Development Report 2008: Agriculture for Development.

“ One area of excellence has been in agricultural research where ACIAR has a strong record of achievement stretching back over several decades. Independent evaluations show that ACIAR has performed impressively, but its overall funding remains modest. Increased funding for agricultural research seems warranted given high prices and serious concerns around food security.”

—Independent review of aid effectiveness, April 2011.

“ Australia's support for Timor Leste has played an important role in helping overcome the sense of fragility that followed independence and threatened the confidence of our people in our institutions. Today that fragility is being replaced by a cautious, but growing sense of optimism.”

—East Timor's former President and Nobel Prize recipient, José Ramos-Horta, 2012.



“ In particular ACIAR's emphasis on agricultural research to achieve sustainable development and natural resource management funds research that directly contributes to Australia's pursuit of better outcomes in areas such as water management, soil degradation, biodiversity and climate change responses. Similarly, ACIAR's projects dealing with food safety, animal and crop health and biosecurity concur with and contribute to Australia's need to maintain and enhance its agricultural and food health and safety status.”

—The Centre for International Economics in its submission to the Productivity Commission Study on Public Support for Science and Innovation, 2006.

“ Fortunately, the impact and influence that Australians have had on world agricultural development has been much greater than is implied by the size of Australia's aid budgets. When praising the 'magnificence' of Australia's contribution to international agricultural research and development, David Hopper, a former senior vice-president of the World Bank, pointed out that: 'This is partly explained by the fact that, for a developed country, Australia has a high proportion of sub-tropical agriculture. But equally important—indeed perhaps more important—is that Australia has produced, and continues to produce, men and women of talent and vision who have recognised the contribution international agricultural research can make toward human development and have not hesitated to immerse themselves in the process.' ”

—Derek Tribe, author of *Doing Well by Doing Good*, published in 1991.

“ ACIAR performs an important function independently in the aid program in improving the well-being of people in developing countries and Australia through collaborative research partnerships aimed at the development of sustainable agricultural systems and the design of appropriate natural resource management strategies. ACIAR's projects mobilise Australian research expertise, thereby contributing to building research capacity both in Australia and developing countries.”

—Government response to the 1992 review of ACIAR's sunset clause by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

“ Australia's working relationships with the CGIAR, particularly CIMMYT, ICRISAT, and ICARDA, is critical to the flow of knowledge and plant genetics into our own crop improvement programs. ACIAR's high standing within the global agricultural research community has been central to this, with the GRDC a long-standing supporter and partner in our combined efforts to not only improve the circumstances of Australian farmers, but farmers in poorer countries for whom crop productivity is fundamental to improving people's lives.”

—John Harvey, managing director of the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), 2012.

“ Over the past 30 years, ACIAR has played an outstanding leadership role in Australia's engagement in international agricultural research, development, extension and education in developing countries in Asia, the Pacific region, the Middle East and Africa. This has imparted knowledge and skills and delivered sustainable technologies for local conditions which have contributed to global food security. The most uplifting aspect of the capacity building is that it empowers people and provides the opportunities that short term welfare can never match. The value of international genetic resources of grain crops to Australian agriculture has been enormous. The role of ACIAR in collaboration with CGIAR Centres and national programs to help fund new collections, expeditions and evaluation of genetic resources including collaborations across national and international borders has been invaluable and commendable.”

—Hackett Professor Kadambot Siddique, AM FTSE FAIA, Chair in Agriculture and Director, the University of Western Australia Institute of Agriculture.

