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SOIL WIN FOR GREEN WASTE

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PROFITABLE EROSION CONTROL

FOOD'S
RESOURCE
BASE
CHALLENGE





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SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FOR THE FUTURE

Across the world, the landscape on which agriculture produces food and materials for clothing and housing is a resource under pressure. More sustainable use of agricultural resources is a global issue, and research partnerships are reaching across national and geographic boundaries to foster improved whole-farm-system approaches as the demand for food and fibre increases world-wide.

In this issue of *Partners* we highlight the important link between good natural resource management and food security. We focus on ACIAR-supported initiatives and partnerships which are delivering sustainable approaches to agriculture, with examples of projects that demonstrate that environmental sustainability can also help smallholders increase their productivity.

Improving global food security is an important aim of ACIAR, and has been highlighted in a recent Australian Government 'Food Security through Rural Development' initiative announced in the recent 2009-10 Budget (see page 27). Its aim is to lift agricultural productivity in developing countries by working with other donors and research institutions using environmentally sustainable approaches.

As ACIAR Commissioner John Williams outlines on page 4, the challenges facing agricultural science are immense, but sustainability is achievable if scientists and producers can develop agriculture in a wider ecological framework.

In this issue we report on research in India and Australia that is both improving soils and reducing environmental damage through use of organic fertilisers (page 6), helping farmers rehabilitate their land in Aceh (page 10) and ways farmers in the Philippines are reducing soil erosion and increasing their incomes by planting harvestable hedgerows (page 12).

Other reports cover ACIAR-funded work in the Philippines that is reducing pesticide run-off into waterways, and also being applied in South Australia (page 16), and helping to identify suitable locations for sea-cage aquaculture to reduce environmental impacts (page 23). Another report is on research in Papua New Guinea that is helping communities develop sustainable harvesting strategies for their timber resources (page 24).

Farmers and scientists have been working on combining sustainability with profitability for a long time. The work of solving these problems continues, through ACIAR and a host of other organisations, in Australia and in the Asia-Pacific region. ■

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Partners in Research for Development is the flagship publication of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). *Partners* presents articles that summarise results from ACIAR-sponsored research projects, and puts ACIAR research initiatives into perspective.

Technical enquiries will be passed on to the appropriate researchers for reply. Reprinting of articles, either whole or in part, is welcomed provided that the source is acknowledged.

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