

# Multilateral program

Active projects in 2006–07	30
AOP budgeted expenditure in 2006–07	\$10,069,029
Actual expenditure in 2006–07	\$10,310,261
Expenditure in 2005–06	\$10,002,356
Expenditure in 2004–05	\$9,984,197
Proportion of total ACIAR expenditure 2006–07	17.8%



Key performance indicators	Performance 2006–07
Alignment with ACIAR's funding strategy for the IARCs	All IARC projects developed in 2006–07 focused on ACIAR mandated countries, areas of IARC comparative advantage, and aligned with ACIAR Annual Operational Plan and Centre Medium Term Plans.
Demonstrated project impacts (of an IARC project) as measured by formal evaluations undertaken by our Impact Assessment Program	Impact assessment study of sorghum breeding activities with ICRISAT showed that the rates of return to the research were a NPV of all benefits of US\$42.9 million giving a B/C ratio of 31:1 and an IRR of 29%. Benefits to the capacity building estimated as US\$38.6 million or 90% of the total benefits.

## Position

ACIAR is responsible for administering, on behalf of the Australian Government, Australia's contribution to the International Agricultural Research Centres (IARCs). The IARCs are internationally funded, independent, non-profit institutions that carry out research and related activities to help achieve sustainable food security and reduce poverty in developing countries. Research-related activities cover agriculture, forestry, fisheries, policy and environmental management.

The goal of ACIAR's multilateral program is to ensure the effectiveness of, and benefits to, developing countries and Australia from agricultural research conducted by the IARCs with funds provided by Australia.

ACIAR's policy position for contributions to the IARCs involves:

- allocating around 20% of ACIAR's total appropriation to the IARCs
- allocating between one-third and half of ACIAR's annual IARC investment as project-specific funding, while half to two-

thirds is allocated to core or unrestricted funding

- focusing the unrestricted funds on a reduced number of centres, based on comparative research advantages.



[www.cgiar.org](http://www.cgiar.org)

## Disbursement of multilateral funds, 2006–07

In 2006–07 contributions for core funding of IARCs amounted to 53.3% of actual multilateral expenditure. Project-specific funding accounted for 45.8%, with the remaining 0.9% of total multilateral research funding allocated to other regional support activities. Fourteen IARCs are also receiving core funding (untied to specific projects). The allocations are based on the comparative advantage of individual IARCs to deliver research applicable to Australia's regional priorities.

Of the 14 centres receiving core funding, four are located in the Asia–Pacific region and another seven have a mandate that covers staple crops in the region. The remaining two, CAB International (CABI) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), are responsible for research information systems and food policy respectively (see table on page 99).

Fourteen IARCs received project-specific funding through ACIAR this year. Twelve of the centres are associated with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), while CABI and the World Vegetable Center (AVRDC) work in areas of agricultural development of particular interest to Australia (see table on page 99).

Project-specific research funding is designed to build tripartite research linkages, which allow scientists from IARCs, advanced research institutions in Australia and national agricultural research institutes in developing countries (particularly those that are ACIAR bilateral partners) to interact on specific issues.

Projects developed under project-specific funding arrangements operate as part of ACIAR's 13 discipline-based research programs. IARC projects complement and add value to the bilateral programs run by the discipline areas. Eight new activities

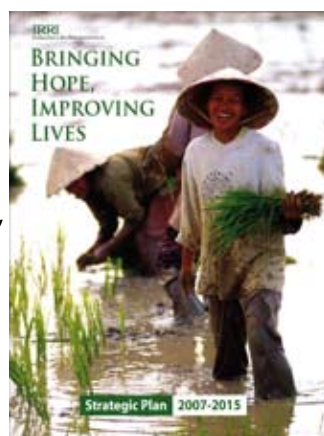
were initiated and three completed in 2006–07. A total of 30 projects, including these, were active in 2006–07.

ACIAR also supports relevant CGIAR system-wide

initiatives. These are cross-centre programs that link research complementarities of different centres to address and resolve global and regional issues through strategic research approaches.

The allocation of project-specific funding to an IARC and, where appropriate, Challenge Programs of the CGIAR will be considered annually on a competitive basis, where projects are selected on the basis of:

- relevance to ACIAR's country priorities
- impact focus
- networking with the National Agricultural Research Systems in ACIAR partner countries and with Australian research agencies
- justification, scientific merit and consideration of equity amongst IARCs.



## Project examples

Examples of some project outcomes associated with the international centres have been separately reported in some country programs. Work continues in **Afghanistan**, channelled through CIMMYT, while the program in Iraq is supported through **ICARDA**. These projects report considerable progress in spite of the civil unrest in both countries. **CIMMYT** and **ICARDA** are also partners in the project, described in the China country report but applicable to many countries, which is trying to ensure productivity and food security through **sustainable control of wheat yellow rust**.

Agricultural knowledge, science and technology (AKST) have played key roles in reducing poverty. An ACIAR project involving **The World Bank** and **IFPRI** is attempting to discern the best way of disseminating information to promote agricultural advances and how to improve the pathways to ensure those benefits reach the world's poor, with particular emphasis on India and China.

**Bioversity International** (formerly the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute) has joined forces with another ACIAR bilateral research team to do battle with two fungal diseases of banana—Fusarium wilt and blood disease. These diseases have already devastated the crops of smallholders in Indonesia and could well threaten the banana industry in neighbouring countries, including Australia.

A project involving **IRRI**, and described at length in the Philippines report, is gauging the impact of migration and/or off-farm employment on roles of women in Asia and Australia. It tells the familiar tale of how economic pressures are pushing members of farm households to seek off-farm work. The study is gathering information in the hope of bettering the situation of women who are usually left behind to look after the farm.

**CABI** is leading a program to combat the main pest to coffee in PNG—coffee green scale—which, on average, reduces high yield crops by 10%. This project is developing and fostering uptake of biological control over other integrated strategies for coffee green scale. More information about this project, which is studying the distribution, impacts, biology and control of coffee green scale in the coffee growing zones in PNG, can be found in the PNG report.

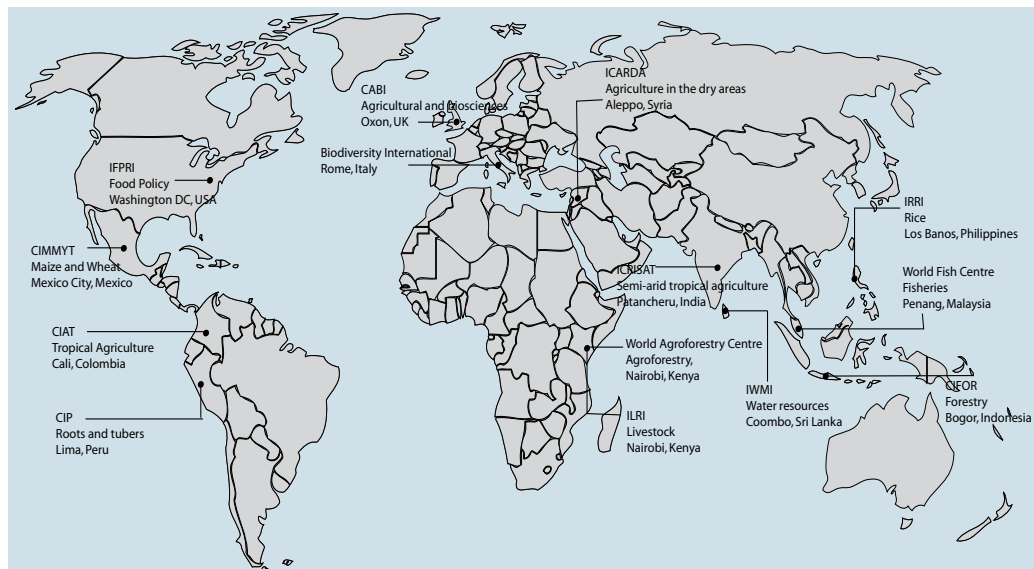
Rebuilding continues in those regions affected in December 2004 when the tsunami hit Indonesia. A project assisted by the **AVRDC** is seeking to restore farmland which, in many cases, was smothered under deposits

of mud, salt, soils and debris. Once restored, vegetable and crop production can resume.

In Indonesia, larger scale teak plantation production is slowly in decline despite rising demand, and most production now comes from smallholders. **CIFOR** is helping smallholders find alternative sources of income as they wait until trees mature, and is also giving them knowledge about silvicultural techniques and marketing strategies.

In a project just commenced, **ILRI** and **IFPRI** are working with others to help Vietnam's smallholder pig producers. The project seeks better technology and policy options, and innovative forms of marketing that will improve the producers' access to higher value market chains and thus help to raise their incomes.

## Location of international centres receiving core funding from ACIAR



## ACIAR funding to international agricultural research centres in 2006–07

Acronym	Centre title and location	Core Funding	Project-specific funding	Total
<b>Centres associated with CGIAR</b>				
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture, Colombia	\$250,000	\$220,512	\$470,512
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research, Indonesia	\$250,000	\$243,530	\$493,530
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, Mexico	\$750,000	\$533,010	\$1,283,010
CIP	International Potato Center, Peru	\$250,000	\$425,983	\$675,983
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas, Syria	\$250,000	\$489,013	\$739,013
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre, Kenya	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, India	\$500,000	\$535,679	\$1,035,679
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute, USA	\$500,000	\$258,835	\$758,835
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute, Kenya	\$250,000	\$164,994	\$414,994
BI	Bioversity International, Italy	\$250,000	\$99,259	\$349,259
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute, Philippines	\$750,000	\$592,315	\$1,342,315
IWMI	International Water Management Institute, Sri Lanka	\$500,000	\$258,352	\$758,352
WORLD FISH	World Fish Center, Malaysia	\$500,000	\$319,863	\$819,863
<b>Centres not associated with CGIAR</b>				
AVRDC	The World Vegetable Center, Taiwan	\$0	\$439,368	\$439,368
CABI	CAB International, UK	\$250,000	\$144,548	\$394,548
<b>Total funds to IARCs</b>		<b>\$5,500,000</b>	<b>\$4,725,261</b>	<b>\$10,225,261</b>
<b>Regional Support</b>				
APAARI				\$75,000
Crawford Lecture				\$10,000
<b>Total Multilateral funding</b>				<b>\$10,310,261</b>