



Sharon Harvey, Education and Training Officer

Building research capacity

AOP budgeted expenditure in 2003–04	\$2,403,000
Actual expenditure in 2003–04	\$2,465,634
Expenditure in 2002–03	\$2,513,554
Expenditure in 2001–02	\$1,995,000
Proportion of total ACIAR expenditure 2003–04	4.9%

Key performance indicators	Performance 2003–04
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New short course on research management successfully run in three countries. 	Course run in three countries (Vietnam, Pacific and Indonesia).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inaugural John Dillon Fellows rate the research management training provided as 'very good' or better. 	All inaugural fellows rated the course as very good or better.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least eight students successfully complete postgraduate awards. 	Six fellows completed postgraduate studies; a further five fellows were permitted to transfer to a higher award or extend their fellowship.

Position
The goal of this program is to build the research capacity of agricultural research institutions in partner countries by providing both discipline-specific and broader training opportunities where suitable.

ACIAR supports training that relates directly to the Centre's projects, complementing research in active, recently concluded or advanced pipeline projects through the provision of:

- postgraduate fellowships (John Allwright Fellowship Scheme)
- research management training (John Dillon Memorial Fellowship)
- short-term cross-discipline training courses for ACIAR project staff
- training courses provided through the ATSE Crawford Fund for project staff on ACIAR-funded projects.

There is a particular emphasis on providing postgraduate and short-course training for ACIAR project scientists from PNG, the Pacific Islands, eastern Indonesia, East Timor, Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos.

Achievements

Postgraduate fellowships

John Allwright Fellowships are the main activity administered by ACIAR's training program. Fellowships are awarded to project scientists from developing countries currently or recently involved in an active ACIAR project, to undertake Masters or PhD training at Australian universities. The focus of a fellow's studies is strongly related to the theme of the project, but is not considered a part of the project.

In 2003–04, \$1.53 million was expended on the John Allwright Fellowship Scheme, with 50 active fellowships representing 15 countries. Six fellows completed their studies during the year, and eight, from Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines, commenced at seven universities in Australia. During their Fellowship all fellows spend a week visiting ACIAR headquarters, to receive training in science communication, writing research papers and a range of other activities.

Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development

Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD) is an AusAID-funded scheme providing young Australians with an opportunity to spend between three and 12 months assisting a development activity in a partner country. During 2003–04 ACIAR provided nine assignments for Youth Ambassadors working on ACIAR projects in developing countries.

There were five active Youth Ambassadors at 30 June 2004 situated in:

- China, with one working on postharvest handling and disease control in melons studying host-pathogen interactions on Chinese melon cultivars

- the Philippines, where one AYAD is working on a rodent management project in the rice terraces in the Ifugao region of Luzon. A second has been assigned jointly to ACIAR projects on Landcare in the Philippines and water resources management of the Inabanga watershed, Bohol Island, monitoring impacts of agriculture on water quality
- Cambodia, where an AYAD is working on assessing availability of groundwater resources for supplementary irrigation in the rain-fed lowlands of particular districts in Takeo and Kampong Cham provinces
- Vietnam, where an AYAD is conducting surveys to identify the key postharvest diseases of Vietnamese temperate fruits and is also assisting with training Vietnamese staff in scientific methodology.

ATSE Crawford Fund fellowships, training courses and Master Classes

In 2003–04 ACIAR provided the ATSE Crawford Fund with funding of \$861,115, including management of an Australian Government allocation of \$650,000, as well as \$211,115 for joint training activities. The ATSE Crawford Fund also attracted contributions from State Governments and the private sector.

In 2003–04 the Crawford Fund conducted short-term training activities associated with ACIAR projects, including Master Classes on management of agricultural biosecurity, and on research management (University of New England).

Training courses including individual training activities associated with ACIAR projects were:

- Detection of ergosterol in paddy using solid phase extraction and HPLC (University of NSW)
- International workshop on agricultural supply chain management in developing countries (Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries)
- Seminar on status of grain drying in South Asia (University of NSW)
- Agricultural leadership for sustained improvement and innovation in South Africa (CSIRO Livestock Industries)
- Training workshop in using risk factor analysis to investigate pre-weaning mortalities in pigs (South Australian Research and Development Institute).

These classes and workshops helped ensure ACIAR research results were more widely applied in developing countries as ACIAR project leaders instruct scientists from countries other than those where their projects are situated.

The Crawford Fund also sponsors short-term training fellowships. In 2003–04 the Fund sponsored three fellowships to enable members of ACIAR project teams to undertake training activities in Australia for up to three months.

Returnee small project awards

John Allwright Fellows who have returned to relevant employment in their home country after completion of their postgraduate studies, are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$10,000 as follow-on funding. The returnee scheme provides funding for an activity which continues, or is related to, the research done within an ACIAR project associated with postgraduate work. These grants are primarily aimed at developing small-scale research projects in the returnee's institution, which may catalyse longer-term support. In 2003–04 six small grants totalling \$45,985 were awarded.



Impact of the John Allwright Fellowship Scheme – Survey Report



www.aciar.gov.au

John Dillon Memorial Fellowship

The John Dillon Memorial Fellowship aims to develop the leadership skills of Fellows in the areas of agricultural research management, agricultural policy and/or extension technologies, through exposure to Australian best-practice organisations involved in research, extension and/or policy making. The Fellowships provide a tailored career development opportunity for a small number of outstanding partner country agricultural scientists or agricultural economists actively involved with ACIAR projects. Three John Dillon Fellows from Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam visited in February–March 2004 for approximately six weeks each. This included a meeting with Minister Downer at Parliament House.

Cross-program training

Cross-program training courses conducted by ACIAR in 2003–04 were:

- *Follow-up to experimental design and analysis training (Cambodia)*
Training on writing project proposals and presenting results was delivered to Cambodian scientists in October 2003 and February 2004.
- *Evaluation training for agricultural research projects (Fiji)*
In April 2004 a training course was held in Nadi, Fiji, attended by 19 project leaders and team members involved in ACIAR projects in Samoa, Solomon Islands, Noumea, Vanuatu and Fiji.
- *Genotype x environment analysis (Cambodia)*
A course on introduction to modern PC-based data handling and statistical methods was held for 23 Cambodian researchers working on ACIAR-funded and managed projects in early November 2003.
- *Follow-up to experimental design and analysis training (Cambodia)*
A follow-up course to the training on introduction to modern PC-based data handling and statistical methods was held in June 2004 and provided one-on-one training to individual project scientists.
- *Economics, marketing and extension for agricultural scientists (PNG)*
Co-funded by AusAID, the course was held in Lae during May 2004 and included modules on production economics, commodity marketing, trade and supply chain management.
- *Research management and priority-setting (Indonesia)*
This course, requested by the Director-General of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Research, was presented to 21 Indonesian project staff involved in ACIAR projects.
- *Short course on experimental design and statistical analysis (Indonesia)*
Following the internet-based data analysis/statistics course provided by the University of Canberra to ACIAR project staff in Lombok, an eight-day follow-on course was held in Bali in June 2004 for the original participants and other Indonesian ACIAR project staff.
- *An introduction to modern PC-based data handling and statistical methods* took place in Nepal during March 2004 for 15 students. This followed on from the successful short course run by The University of Western Australia on *Genotype by environmental analysis* held in Nepal (Kathmandu) in 2002–03.



Indonesian scientists at a training course on research management