

# Communicating research

<b>AOP budgeted expenditure in 2003–04</b>	\$735,000
<b>Actual expenditure in 2003–04</b>	\$742,721
<b>Expenditure in 2002–03</b>	\$702,225
<b>Expenditure in 2001–02</b>	\$897,000
<b>Proportion of total ACIAR expenditure 2003–04</b>	1.5%

Key performance indicators	Performance 2003–04
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of visitors to ACIAR's website increases steadily.</li> </ul>	106,184 unique visitors, with monthly trends rising gradually.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Downloads of publications from ACIAR's website increase by more than 20% over the year.</li> </ul>	Monthly downloads increased by 180 per cent from October to June.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 15 John Allwright Fellows receive training in scientific communication.</li> </ul>	Twelve John Allwright Fellows and three Dillon Fellows received training and information.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outputs, outcomes and impacts of concluded ACIAR-funded projects are displayed on the ACIAR website.</li> </ul>	Concluded project summaries now available.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The agriculture and rural development section of the Australian Development Gateway includes links to ACIAR materials.</li> </ul>	The Gateway includes links to ACIAR material.

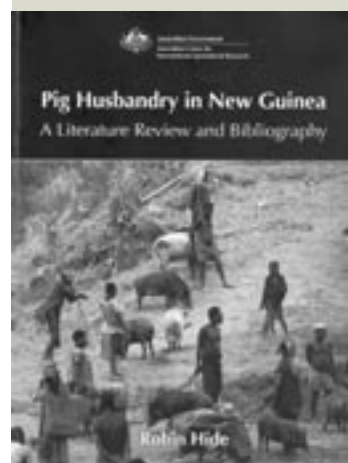
## Position

ACIAR has a statutory obligation to communicate the results of the research it funds. ACIAR's scientific publishing program aims to help bridge the gap between research and adoption by providing low-cost access to syntheses of information from individual projects or programs of work. ACIAR uses current information and communication technologies (ICTs) to disseminate research information, taking account of constraints in access and familiarity with these technologies in partner countries. ACIAR also works with its partners to build capacity in scientific and technological communication for development purposes.

## Achievements

During 2003–04 ACIAR published and distributed 20 new titles in its scientific series (four monographs, six proceedings, six technical reports and four ACIAR working papers), and four reports in its impact assessment series. These are listed in Appendix 4, together with the corporate and research awareness titles produced during the year. In addition, Vietnamese translations of three ACIAR publications were supported, and Asian language versions of two monographs were issued in collaboration with CIAT.

Pigs are an integral part of the culture and political organisation of many New Guinean tribes. The monograph *Pig husbandry in New Guinea* summarises current knowledge of pig production systems in PNG and Papua (Irian Jaya), and is a valuable resource for those concerned with animal production, animal and human health, food supply and nutrition





Heather Briggs,  
Program Manager

in New Guinea. It complements ACIAR projects on improving the productivity of traditional pig production systems. Another popular new monograph, *Field methods for rodent studies in Asia and the Indo-Pacific region*, is the product of past and ongoing collaborations with rodent researchers in many Southeast Asian countries, as well as interactions with European colleagues. It covers methods for studying pest rodents and the damage they cause in fields. The books will be used as standard reference works by researchers, students and technical officers.



Maureen Kenning  
Program Assistant

In developing countries, tree plantations and agroforestry have become an increasingly important source of timber, fuelwood and raw materials for pulp and paper. *Eucalypts in Asia* is the proceedings of an international conference on this topic, and covers many of the issues that have arisen as a result of the introduction of eucalypt species and the development of new rural industries based on their utilisation.

ACIAR has worked to help the re-establishment of East Timor's agricultural sector since late 2000. The book *Agriculture: new directions for a new nation* contains papers presented at the first international agricultural conference ever held in this small country. The papers deal with policy issues and technical information on cropping, livestock, fisheries and forestry, and agricultural education.



Robin Taylor  
Publications Manager

Other new publications cover peanut breeding, nutrient management in tropical agriculture, weed control and feeds for aquaculture.

More than 10,000 hard copies of publications were distributed, of which 608 were sold to developed world customers, earning net income of \$9,525. Complimentary copies were distributed on request to 1011 people and institutions involved in agriculture for development. The most popular hard copy titles were *The coconut odyssey*, *Nutrient disorders in plantations*, and *Working with mycorrhizas*, while the most frequently downloaded titles included several on biological control of pests, *Pig husbandry in New Guinea* and *Survey toolbox for aquatic diseases*.



Warren Page, Science  
Communicator and Web Manager

The magazine *Partners in Research for Development* was redeveloped to combine the best features of the old-style *Partners* and corporate newsletter with a new look and feel. The former *ACIAR Newsletter* was discontinued after the 44th issue. Six of ACIAR's country offices published newsletters featuring ACIAR's activities in their country or region. The former *Postharvest Newsletter* was relaunched as the electronic news bulletin *Linking farmers with markets* ([www.linkingfarmerswithmarkets.net](http://www.linkingfarmerswithmarkets.net)).

ACIAR is a partner in AusAID's Virtual Colombo Plan program, which promotes opportunities for people in developing countries to access education, information and knowledge by using ICTs to support and accelerate international development as these technologies become more affordable and widespread. During the year ACIAR contributed to scoping of the agricultural section for phase 2 of the Australian

**Partner to [www.developmentgateway.com.au](http://www.developmentgateway.com.au)**

Development Gateway project ([www.developmentgateway.com.au](http://www.developmentgateway.com.au)). Several new activities were supported that use Australian expertise and ICTs to improve communication between researchers and their beneficiaries, and to package information derived from agricultural research in ways that will be more accessible and relevant to end users. In one case scientists, extension and multimedia specialists from Australia, India and Vietnam met to scope the content of four multimedia CDs on controlling pests and diseases of groundnuts. In another activity, a project team successfully trialled the use of Microsoft NetMeeting and Windows Messenger technologies between Toowoomba in Australia and Sulawesi in Indonesia, with satisfactory video and audio linkages over a dial-up telephone line from a local farmhouse at the Indonesian end. Trials will continue, and are expected to increase the frequency of team interactions while reducing the need for travel.



Summaries of active ACIAR-funded projects have been published on our website since 1999. During 2003–04 annual project progress summaries were added, and summaries of the outcomes of projects completed over the past two years were prepared and published. These summaries are now being linked with other databases of information relevant to agricultural and rural development, including the CSIRO Global Development website, and the Australian Development Gateway.

Capacity building activities included training for John Allwright Fellows in written and oral communication for different audiences, and targeted communications training for ACIAR's country office staff.

### www.aciar.gov.au

ACIAR redeveloped its website during the first half of 2003, and recorded statistics on the site from midway through September 2003.

The site is designed as a first stop gateway into ACIAR and its operations.

ACIAR's website is the main means of dissemination of its information and publications. Analysis of website visitor and download statistics shows that the average number of visitors per day increased. During the same period almost 75,000 full copies of research publications were downloaded.

This chart shows the number of unique (or individual) **visitors** to the site as well as the number of **hits**, both along the left hand axis. The average **duration** of each visitor's time spent on the site can be read along the right hand axis.

Website Trends 2003-04

