



Course Name

Agriculture Policy – Promoting Competitiveness

Background

This course focuses on agriculture policies that help create an environment that encourages private sector engagement and improves competitiveness in key agricultural sectors such as food crops, horticulture and feed grain. The course was identified by the Australian Embassy in Jakarta in consultations with Bappenas and the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Promoting Rural Incomes through Support for Markets in Agriculture (PRISMA) stakeholders.

Agriculture (food crops, horticulture, forestry, livestock and fishery) is the backbone of Indonesia's rural economy and provides the primary source of income for the majority of poor rural households. The sector is not only important economically (absorbing 38 million people or 30% of the workforce), but also politically. Government interventions to achieve food self-sufficiency such as distribution of subsidised seeds and fertilisers and protection against import of seeds and other inputs can contribute to limited private sector investment, competition and business expansion.

Private sector growth in the agricultural sector is often hampered by constraints including high costs of doing business, low access to information or services, weak financial services, poor transport infrastructure and an anti-competitive regulatory environment. Private sector investment is discouraged by policies and perceptions that farmers are subsistence-oriented as opposed to business-oriented.

Indonesia is at a critical juncture in its development trajectory. In preparing its new Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN), Indonesia is increasingly recognising how private sector investments and innovations can contribute to development goals and a prosperous Indonesia. It will also take into account alternative financing models including philanthropic and business contributions. Economists note that Indonesia will benefit and avoid being caught in a 'middle income trap' if efforts and resources are directed towards encouraging inclusive growth and becoming a global competitor, including through providing incentives and a more conducive climate for business investment. By adopting a market-driven approach, Indonesia could consider more 'growth-oriented' policies and market innovations.

Under our bilateral relationship is PRISMA, a multi-year development partnership between the Government of Australia and the Government of Indonesia that aims to accelerate poverty reduction through promoting inclusive economic growth. The program works to increase smallholder farmers' competitiveness and access to new markets, better inputs, know-how and technology. PRISMA utilises a Market Systems Development (MSD) approach by working with various market players to address key constraints that hinder agricultural productivity. The goal of PRISMA is to achieve a sustainable 30% increase in the net incomes of a total one million smallholder farming households by 2023.

MSD is an approach used to make markets function more efficiently and beneficially for poorer producer groups, including smallholder farmers. Specifically, it offers guidance on how to diagnose market-wide problems affecting poor women and men, and how to intervene to address them. To achieve influence, MSD practitioners partner with businesses or government agencies and provide support in the form of technical advice, research, training or co-funding. This will ultimately result in the change in behaviour of business and other market players.



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This Agricultural Policy course will be tailored to the participating agencies' and participants' specific objectives and to the current Indonesian agricultural policy environment. This will be complemented by a particular focus on the structural reforms, systems and regulations Australia has implemented to achieve economic growth and promote competitiveness in its agricultural sector. The course learning objectives are listed below. Course learning objectives will be fine-tuned after the participant selection has been finalised and after the participants have presented their Award Project plans at the pre-course workshop.

The participants will apply the knowledge to their work through an Award Project, an individual or small group project focusing on translating the Indonesian Government's RPJMN and/or institutional priorities (Renstra) in their work.

Learning objectives

On completion of the course, participants will be able to:

- Benchmark policy and institutional arrangements to promote agriculture market competitiveness, private investment and sector productivity.
- Analyse Australian government's (federal, state) regulatory roles and budgetary considerations
- Explore Australian value chain analysis for agriculture commodity products
- Explore Australian approaches to stimulating local demand and influencing consumption
- Compare Australian and international learnings from reforms to increase the level of competition, market systems development and business strengthening services in the agriculture sector
- Explore policies targeted to nutrition-sensitive and climate smart agriculture

Dates and location

The award will be delivered over a 2-week period in Australia. The program is divided into three parts: pre-course workshop in Indonesia, in-Australia program and a post-course workshop. Attendance in the whole three parts of the course is **compulsory**. The course is scheduled as below:

- The Pre-course Workshop in Indonesia: 6 November – 8 November 2019
- The short course in Australia: 25 November – 6 December 2019 (departure from Jakarta on 22 November, return on 8 December)
- The Post-course Workshop in Indonesia: 17 March – 19 March 2020

Participants

Course participant profile:

- Senior level staffs with minimum three years' experience in relevant ministries including:
 - BAPPENAS/ Ministry of National Development Planning
 - Ministry of Village, Development Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration
 - Ministry of Agriculture
 - Ministry of Industry
 - Ministry of Trade
- Senior level staffs with minimum three years' experience with responsibility for agriculture policy planning, policy implementation, trade and investment sector from local government in six PRISMA target provinces
- Senior level staff from agriculture input companies
- Participant selection endorsed by the organisation/supervisor



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- Commitment to prepare and implement a development project as part of the course
- Commitment to engage actively and foster networks with multiple stakeholders, including in Australia and Indonesia
- Commitment to facilitate the transfer of learning from the course with colleagues and peers
- Applicants are expected to have professional working proficiency in English. The applicants' English language competency is part of the selection process. The assessment of language competency is based on a phone interview and any additional evidence provided by the applicant (proof of studies or living in an English-speaking country, working in an English-speaking environment, completion of studies in English, language courses or language tests)

The participants are selected through a competitive process; whereby there is a call for proposals, applicants submit a written proposal which is reviewed by a selection panel and the most suitable candidates are chosen.

Women and people with disability are strongly encouraged to apply.

Participants will be identified through a competitive process whereby applicants fill in an online application form. Participants will be asked around their role relevancy, experience in relevant field, career objectives, and course implementation plan. Participants will also be required to introduce an Award Project topic as part of the application. The application will be reviewed by Australia Awards in Indonesia and the Australian Embassy to explore motivation and other demonstrated competencies to ensure commitment and interest in the study program.