



Australia Awards

Australia Awards in Indonesia – Short Term Award Agriculture Policy – Promoting Competitiveness



Group photo with UQ team and the owner of the family-owned Lindsay Ziser Farm in the front of a controlled-environment green house of capsicum in Lockyer Valley, Queensland

Course Highlights:

- Pre-course workshop on 6-8 November 2019
- In-Australia course on 25 November – 6 December 2019
- Post-course workshop on 3-5 March 2020

The Agriculture Policy – Promoting Competitiveness Short Term Award (STA) was funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and delivered by The University of Queensland's (UQ) specialist International Development unit (UQID). The STA was conducted over a two-week period in Australia from 25 November to 6 December 2019 with a pre-course workshop (6 to 8 November 2019 in Purwakarta, Indonesia) and a post-course workshop (3 to 5 March 2020 in Sentul, Indonesia). The course focused 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 consultation with Bappenas and the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Promoting Rural Incomes through Support for Markets in Agriculture (PRISMA) stakeholders.

The STA combined the world-leading expertise and extensive producer, government and industry linkages of UQ's School of Agriculture and Food Sciences (SAFS) with the international development and project management expertise of UQID. SAFS has been supporting Indonesia's agriculture sector continuously since the 1970s in areas of animal health and production systems, rice and food crop management, policy, markets, and supply chains.



Participants

The STA was delivered to 22 participants (12 women and 10 men) from the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration, Bappenas, Regency Administrations, Ministry of Agrarian and Spatial Planning Affairs and representatives from two private sector companies – CROWDE.CO and PT Pupuk Kaltim Kalimantan Timur. The participants came from: Special Region of Yogyakarta, DKI Jakarta, West and Central Java, Central Kalimantan, West Nusa Tenggara, Papua, West Papua and North Sumatra. The group was joined by a representative from the Australian Trade and Investment Commission.

Course Highlights

The extensive engagement with policy makers, advisers, and implementers at both state and federal levels was a highlight of the Australia delivery, including engagement with the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland Department of State Development Manufacturing Infrastructure & Planning, and the Australian Department of Agriculture, including ABARES, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The engagement with DFAT included discussions with the Indonesia Branch and the Free Trade Agreement Goods Branch, as well as a Networking Event with a keynote address given by the Chief Negotiator for the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA). These engagements gave key insight into how policy is created, implemented and reviewed in Australia.

On the other side of the policy cycle, participants were able to speak directly with farmers and industry groups who are both directly affected by and involved with lobbying for policy change. Through farm visits in the Lockyer Valley and engagement with peak industry bodies including the Meat and Livestock Australia, AgForce, and the Grains Research and Development Corporation, participants gained an understanding of the effects of both effective and ineffective policy on the industry, and the mechanisms available to the industry to influence government policy makers.



Course Leaders Prof Malcolm Wegener and Dr Gunnar Kirchhof with inclusive agriculture policy specialist Dr Gomathy Palaniappan discuss the promotion of inclusive agricultural value chains in the Indonesian and Australian contexts with the course participants.

Industry and stakeholder engagement was also a focus of the pre and post-course workshops. In Purwakarta, the participants had the opportunity to hear from senior Ministry of Agriculture and BAPPENAS representatives and they visited a PRISMA project, EAST WEST Seed Indonesia (EWINDO). In Sentul, the group participated in a panel discussion with representatives from the Indonesian Agro-climate and Hydrology Research Institute (IAHRI), Indonesian Centre for Agricultural Socio-Economic and Policy Studies (ICASEPS), PRISMA and Indonesian Center for Agricultural Land Resources Research and Development (ICALRD), and also toured ICALRD's Agriculture War Room.



Farm visit at Lindsay Ziser Farm in Lockyer Valley, Queensland and brief discussion with the owner on the supply chain of his farm produces



Site visit at the Field Research Facility at UQ Gatton Campus and brief discussion on plant breeding work by Queensland researchers

Award Projects

As part of the STA the participants developed and implemented Award Projects which applied learnings from the course to support private sector growth in the agricultural sector. Participants developed and implemented Award Projects that covered areas such as agricultural science and extension, policy, rural sociology, digital agriculture, trade and eco-tourism. Some of the most successful projects included: using smartphone apps to ensure that farmers received appropriate payment for work completed; a web platform providing up-to-date trade information for Australian exporters and Indonesian importers of agricultural produce, and; introducing a "One Data" concept for agriculture to increase the availability and accuracy of data available to Indonesian government agencies.



Participants work in groups to identify value chains of agricultural commodities in the Indonesian context.

Example of an Award Project:

Muhammad Burmansyah, Partnerships Manager at PT Pupuk Kaltim Kalimantan Timur, took the GEDSI-related course content to heart, successfully undertaking to educate women cocoa farmers on the use of a new, scientifically developed cocoa-specific fertiliser to boost productivity through the Pupuk Kaltim's Agent of Change Program in association with PRISMA. His project will assist women farmers to improve their productivity and competitiveness as well as contribute to strengthening the Indonesian cocoa production sector. His organisation produced a video that can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XI5LJcdrbko>

Testimony:

"Now, I have had a good understanding of the value chain of the agriculture product, especially livestock, and some measures that can be applied to increase the competitiveness of the target commodity throughout the chain. I am benefitted from this course as I am confident to apply the achieved knowledge and skills to increase the competitiveness of cattle business in Tomage and Bomberay District, Fakfak Regency, which will be initially carried out through my Short Term Award project... Not to mention, now I have had a better understanding of Australia policy in relation to agriculture competitiveness. Australia is a country with no subsidy, fair trade, high investment in research and development, and high commitment to quality and sustainability of agriculture product, from which Indonesia should learn to."

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