



Australian Embassy
Manila

Australia-Philippines Agriculture Cooperation

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1. Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

ACIAR has invested approximately A\$21.54 million from 2004 to 2012 in agricultural research in the Philippines (see Annex 1). ACIAR assists the Philippines to increase the productivity, marketability and international competitiveness of Philippine agricultural products, taking into account the impacts of trade liberalisation.

ACIAR is currently funding: two multidisciplinary programs for improved domestic profitability and export competitiveness of selected fruit value chains in the Southern Philippines (A\$3.2M from 2008 to 2012); enhanced profitability of selected vegetable value chains in the Southern Philippines (A\$4.3 million from 2008 to 2012); two new projects on improved investigation, diagnosis and technical support for the control of respiratory diseases of pigs in the Philippines and Australia (A\$1.3 million from 2010 to 2013); and watershed evaluation for sustainable use of sloping agricultural land in the southern Philippines (A\$1.97 million from 2011 to 2015).

Another two new projects are expected to commence in 2011: improving watershed rehabilitation outcomes in the Philippines using a systems approach (A\$2.0 million from 2011 to 2016); and expansion and diversification of production and management systems for sea cucumbers in the Philippines and northern Australia (A\$1.67 million from 2011 to 2015).

2. Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

AusAID has provided approximately A\$170 million from 2004 in support of agriculture and rural development in the Philippines (see Annex 2). AusAID activities relevant to the agricultural sector include: improving farm-to-market roads at the sub-national level to enhance market access; attracting private sector investment through public-private partnerships (PPPs); encouraging development of export industries; income and employment generation for the rural poor; and contributing to land administration and management reforms to make land markets more efficient to contribute to economic growth.

In 2009, AusAID launched a A\$100 million Provincial Road Management Facility that will focus on rehabilitating and maintaining provincial roads in the Southern Philippines, which will facilitate economic activity in predominately rural areas. By 2014 an estimated four million people will have better access to jobs, markets, health services and schools.

In 2011, AusAID started a three-year program of technical support to strengthen the Philippine Government's approach to attracting private investment through public-private partnerships (PPPs). Over the next three years, AusAID will support the development of several agriculture PPP projects: 5 – 6 integrated agro-industrial food parks; establishing cold chain systems and grain centrals with bulk handling facilities; taking at least one large-scale irrigation project to market. This program will make a substantial contribution to the Philippine Government's efforts to build the necessary infrastructure for the development of the agribusiness sector.

While the new Development Assistance Strategy (2012 – 2017) will have a rural development focus, it will not have a specific emphasis on agriculture.

3. Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) support

DAFF provides substantial support and technical expertise to projects that are funded and/or delivered by AusAID and ACIAR. DAFF also undertakes a number of cooperative activities with Philippine Government agencies including:

- Master Class on agricultural trade policy and biosecurity – three Philippine participants (A\$144,000 for 2007);
- Improved stunning practices in the Philippines – Increased dialogue between Australia and the Philippines, as well as consumer certainty in relation to animal welfare, handling and slaughter (A\$50,000 from 2007-08);
- Halal benchmarking visit to Australia in October 2009;
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Capacity Building Program (A\$4.079 million from 2004-09);
- Public Sector Linkages Program (PSLP) project examining the establishment, maintenance and sustainable use of biological collections linked to agricultural trade (completed in December 2009);
- An officer from the Philippines Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources attended the International Tuna Management Workshop (June 2010).
- Phytosanitary Risk Management: Strategic and Operational Options for Market Access (completed December 2010; PSLP project).
- An Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) project to assist APEC member economies to implement cross-sectoral policies and strategies that deal with serious disease threats that may emerge when there is a cross-over of animal health, human health and environmental factors - this approach is increasingly referred to as One Health (February 2011).
- International Cooperation and Capacity Building activity on plant pest and disease diagnostic capacity building in the Philippines (A\$86,000; commenced January 2011 and to be completed by June 2011);
- The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Science (ABARES) is working with counterpart agencies in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam to model the impact of agricultural trade liberalisation (A\$305,000, commenced November 2010 and expected to be completed by December 2011; PSLP project).
- Building Capacity for Plant Pest Surveillance and Diagnostics (commenced in September 2010 and to be completed by February 2012; PSLP project);

Annex 1: ACIAR Projects

Current projects related to agricultural trade

- Enhanced profitability of selected vegetable value chains in the southern Philippines (A\$4,293,429 from 2008 to 2012)
- Improved domestic profitability and export competitiveness of selected fruit value chains in the Southern Philippines (A\$3,208,521 from 2008 to 2012)
- Sea ranching and restocking sandfish in Asia-Pacific (A\$1,572,162 from 2007 to 2011)
- Samal Island mango growers R&D study tour to Australia (A\$60,000 from 2010 to 2011)
- Improved investigation, diagnosis and technical support for the control of respiratory diseases of pigs in the Philippines and Australia (A\$1,330,860 from 2010 to 2013).

Completed project related to agricultural trade (co-funded with AusAID)

- Detection surveys for mango and seed and pulp weevils in Sarangani and Davao del Sur, Mindanao (A\$250,000 from 2007 to 2008).

Other on-going projects

Bilateral

- Sustaining and growing landcare systems in the Philippines and Australia (\$2,164,42116 million from 2004 to 2009; co-funded with AusAID)
- Enhancing tree seedling supply via economic and policy changes in the Philippines nursery sector (A\$845,892 from 2006 to 2010)
- Improving development outcomes for smallholder farmers through closer collaboration between landcare and other ACIAR projects (A\$150,000 from 2010 to 2011)
- Preliminary assessment of the hand-line (banca) fisheries in the Philippines (A\$149,996 from 2009 to 2011)
- Evaluation and adoption of improved farming practices on soil and water resources, Bohol Islands, Philippines (A\$864,066 from 2007 to 2011)
- Refinement and application of Cage Aquaculture Decision Support Tool for freshwater systems (A\$147,600 from 2010 to 2011)
- Testing and development of a tool for measuring capacity-building among the field scientists (A\$116,000 from 2010 to 2011)
- Testing and development of a tool for measuring capability-building among the field scientists (A\$115,900 from 2010 to 2011)
- Watershed evaluation for sustainable use of sloping agricultural land in the southern Philippines (A\$1,965,000 from 2011 to 2015).

Multilateral

- Developing molecular markers to enable selection against chalk in rice (A\$998,960 from 2007 to 2012).

Pipeline bilateral projects

- Improving watershed rehabilitation outcomes in the Philippines using a systems approach (A\$2.0 million from 2011 to 2016)
- Expansion and diversification of production and management systems for sea cucumbers in the Philippines and northern Australia (A\$1.67 million from 2011 to 2015).

Training

- Funded two major training programs: John Allwright Fellowships (8 doctoral programs and 1 Master of Science program) and John Dillon Memorial Fellowship (six-day leadership training) awarded to three Filipino researchers currently involved in ACIAR horticulture programs.
- Other capacity-building opportunities were awarded to ACIAR research partners:
 - Master class on Concepts and Tools for Agricultural Research Evaluation and Impact Assessment (three participants); Australian Plant Pathology Society Conference and Tree Pathology Workshop (two participants).
 - Training on the identification and isolation of mango scab at Mareeba Research Station, Queensland by a mycologist from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños who is involved in the Horticulture Program.
 - Two researchers from the Visayas State University attended a short training in Queensland to learn the different tests that are needed for the identification of the many *Phytophthora* species in durian and jackfruit.
 - Ten Samal Island mango growers undertook a value chain mango study tour to Queensland.
 - The Crawford Fund financed Rowland Holmes, Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI), to conduct three workshops in the Davao region – two for mango growers and one for mango extension workers. This linked, and directly complemented, the current ACIAR mango project in Davao.

Annex 2: AusAID activities supporting Agriculture and Rural Development

Current Trade-related and Agriculture projects

- Provincial Roads Management Facility (PRMF), A\$100 million, 2009-2015.
PRMF will focus on rehabilitating and maintaining provincial roads in the Southern Philippines, which will facilitate economic activity in predominately rural areas. The farm-to-market roads improved under PRMF will benefit Filipino farmers across the Southern Philippines.
- Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program (PACAP), A\$29.6 million, 2005-2011.
PACAP provides financial assistance and multi-level capability building in partnership with local government units, non-governmental organisations, and people's organisations with the end-view of improving the quality of life of poor communities. Key areas of PACAP support include agriculture development and income and employment generation for the rural poor, among others.
- Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Program in the Philippines, A\$13.6 million, 2011 – 2013.
The PPP Program provides technical support to strengthen the Philippine Government's approach to attracting private investment through public-private partnerships (PPPs). The agriculture sector will benefit significantly from the program. AusAID will support the development of several agriculture PPP projects: 5 – 6 integrated agro-industrial food parks; establishing cold chain systems and grain centrals with bulk handling facilities; taking at least one large-scale irrigation project to market. This program will make a substantial contribution to the Philippine Government's efforts to build the necessary infrastructure for the development of the agribusiness sector.

Under, or complementary to, the Public Sector Linkages Program (PSLP):

- Phytosanitary Risk Management: Strategic and Operational Options for Market Access, A\$81,830, July 2010 to July 2011 (completed December 2010).
A three day workshop organised by DAFF will enhance economic integration by reducing phytosanitary barriers to trade and build capacity through technical training. This will help countries meet international obligations under the WTO SPS Agreement and the International Plant Protection Convention. The activity brought together young plant health scientists and promoted sharing of risk management and market access experience across a set of APEC economies.
- Building Capability for Plant Pest Surveillance and Diagnostics, A\$185,810, September 2010 to February 2012. Partner countries: Indonesia; Timor-Leste.
DAFF will enhance: economic integration through reduction of unwarranted, phytosanitary barriers to trade; food security by facilitating access to information required for domestic pest management; and capacity building through technical training.

The activity will seek to develop skills in pest surveillance, basic and specialist diagnostics skills and achieve modest enhancements to physical infrastructure supporting national reference collections. The project also includes a one-day seminar to promote SPS awareness among senior government and industry representatives.

- International Cooperation and Capacity Building activity on plant pest and disease diagnostic capacity building in the Philippines, IAC funding - A\$86,000, January 2011 to June 2011.

This activity includes procurement of diagnostic equipment for the Philippines and a short, technical, planning visit to Manila. This funding complements and significantly strengthens a series of pest surveillance and diagnostics capacity building activities already underway in the above PLSP activity with Timor Leste and Indonesia.

- Trade Policy Modelling, A\$305,000, November 2010 to December 2011. Partner countries: Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam. ABARES is working with counterpart agencies in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam to build research and policy capacity in modelling agricultural trade liberalisation.

- Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme – Methyl Bromide Fumigation Audit Training, A\$120,000, 2010 to 2012. Partner countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand.

Delivered by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS). This will increase the capability of partner countries to manage international quarantine treatments and comply with international standards, including SPS obligations under the WTO.

- APEC ‘One Health’ project, February 2011.

The project included a three day foresight and scanning workshop for officials from animal health, human health and environmental agencies in the Philippines. The workshop built an awareness of how foresight approaches and tools can be used to improve the process of developing plans and policies for the future. The topics chosen for investigation and discussion were relevant to the broad ‘One Health’ agenda. The workshop was planned and hosted by the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer and attended by 27 officers from across the three agencies. The workshop was held in Cebu in February 2011.

Completed projects

- Philippines-Australia Local Sustainability Program (PALS), A\$23.1 million, 2004 to 2010.

PALS aimed to improve the capability of local communities and local government units to plan for the management and utilisation of their physical, human and financial resources, and manage activities that will improve sustainable livelihoods.

- Land Administration and Management Program (LAMP) Phase 2, \$33.2 million, 2005 to 2010.

LAMP Phase 2 is contributing to making land markets more efficient which is crucial for economic growth. LAMP aimed to reform the land administration system to better contribute to Philippines' socio economic development through policy development/reform; institutional development and capacity building; acceleration of land adjudication and titling to ensure tenure security and establish efficient and accessible land registration information system; and instituting uniform valuation standards resulting in a single valuation base for taxation.

- Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Eradication Project, A\$2.3 million, 2004 to June 2009. The project has been instrumental in achieving international FMD-free certification for the Visayas and Mindanao and extended in 2006 to Luzon with the aim of achieving FMD free certification.
- Asia Regional Program: Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Capacity Building Program, A\$4.079 million, August 2004 to June 2009. The program focussed on building human SPS-related capacity in animal and plant health.
- Strengthening the Capacity for Field and Laboratory (animal health) Surveillance, approximately A\$212,000, May 2008 to June 2009. The project aimed to strengthen veterinary services capacity especially in field and laboratory surveillance for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).
- Improving pest management and supply chain systems for mangoes in the Philippines, A\$1.16 million, January 2005 to September 2008; *co-funded with ACIAR*.
- AusAID has also assisted in reviewing the performance of the National Food Authority and funded the World Bank's Public Expenditure Review of the Agriculture Sector. These studies have led to further policy discussion with Government, led by the World Bank, on policy reforms in the sector, particularly the tariff and subsidy arrangements in support of the Government's Rice Self-Sufficiency objective.
- Establishment, Maintenance and Sustainable Use of Biological Collections Linked to Agricultural Trade, A\$111,600, February 2006 to February 2008.
- Philippines-Australia Technical Support for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, A\$7.6 million, 2003 to 2006.

Under the Public Sector Linkages Program:

- Improving Trade Policy in the Philippines: An Assessment of the Economy wide Impact of Tariff Reforms and the Implementation of Safeguard Measures under the WTO (A\$141,016 / 2005 / Curtin University)
- Strengthening Public Sector Capacity to Support Enterprise in Mindanao (A\$126,184 / 2005 / Queensland University of Technology)
- Building Philippines National Pest Lists to Underpin Agricultural Exports (A\$154,360 / 2005-2006 / DAFF)

- Strengthening Philippine Trade Training Centre Capacity to Deliver E-Commerce Training to Small-to-Medium Exporters
(A\$112,958 / 2005-2006 / Queensland University of Technology [QUT])
- Improving Mango Industry Sustainability & Smallholder Income Generation in the Philippines through Expansion of Area Freedom Certification against Mango Pulp and Seed Weevils
(A\$265,000 / 2005-2006 / Queensland Department of Primary Industries)
- Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) for the Philippines
(A\$183,835 / 2006 / AQIS)
- Trainer's Training Workshop on understanding the WTO and Preferential Trade Agreements (PTA's) such as APEC
(A\$176,640 / 2005-2006 / Queensland University of Technology)
- Leaf-Oil Production to Improve Rural Living Standards around Mt Kitanlad Range Nature Park, Mindanao
(A\$174,896 / 2006-2007)
- Assessing the Economic Potential of Key Tree Species from Trial Plots to Improve the Livelihoods of Small Timber Growers
(A\$112,256 / 2006-2007 / CSIRO)
- Raising Technical Capabilities to Underpin Trade and Investment in Biomass Carbon
(A\$103,175 / 2006-2007 / CSIRO)
- Developing Effective Capacity Building Support for Rural SME's
(A\$213,160 / 2006-2007 / QUT)
- Improving the Productivity & Profitability of Trees in Small Farms & Community-Managed Plantations in North Eastern Mindanao
(A\$192,837 / 2006-2007 / CSIRO)
- Establishment, Maintenance and Sustainable Use of Biological Collections Linked to Agricultural Trade in the Philippines
(A\$111,675 / 2006-2008 / DAFF)
- Application of Advanced Forest Tree Seed Technologies to Improve Wood-Based Economic Opportunities in the Tree Plantation Province of Mindanao
(A\$161,237 / 2007-2008 / CSIRO)