



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture
and Water Resources**

**Inquiry on the role of development partnerships in agriculture and agribusiness
in promoting prosperity, reducing poverty and enhancing stability in the Indo-
Pacific region**

Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources is involved in a range of agricultural economic and technical partnerships which promote prosperity by helping to increase agricultural sector growth and trade, including in fisheries and forestry. This submission provides a summary of the department's work, which focusses on the first bullet point of the Terms of Reference.

The department aims to achieve more sustainable, productive, internationally competitive and profitable Australian agricultural, food and fibre industries and to safeguard Australia's animal and plant health status. Agricultural partnerships support these aims by helping to meet the department's strategic objectives of expanding exports, sustaining natural resources and managing biosecurity risk.

These partnerships are intended to be mutually beneficial. They help enhance agricultural trade and prosperity for Australia and partner countries by supporting growth in market opportunities, integration into global value chains and improving the efficiency of trade. This in turn supports economic growth, increased productivity and higher living standards and so contributes to development outcomes.

Between 2010-11 and 2014-15, the department estimates that it invested \$49.8 million in capacity building projects (a subset of a broader suite of partnerships). The top 12 countries receiving the greatest amount of capacity building funding through projects were all within the Indo-Pacific region. Indonesia received the largest amount of funding (\$26.8m of which was for one project), followed by the Pacific Islands (\$3.2m) and Papua New Guinea (\$2.9m).

The key areas of agricultural cooperation include:

- reducing and controlling animal diseases (including those that affect human health) and promoting biosecurity risk management practices in priority locations
- reducing technical barriers to trade, including through contributing to developing international technical standards
- improving scientific capabilities and strengthening pest and disease surveillance efforts
- increasing preparedness to detect and respond to exotic pest and disease incursions
- accessing global information and analysis to inform domestic policy development

- promoting industry capacity and cross-sector collaboration in harmonising biosecurity treatment standards
- international engagement to advocate for best practice in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and trade policy, including policy dialogue and capacity building with partner countries and international organisations
- joint management of shared fish stocks vulnerable to over exploitation to achieve sustainable management and ongoing access for Australian producers.

Bilateral agricultural partnerships occur through Australia's free trade agreements, memoranda of understanding, bilateral programs and dialogues. These help to identify and implement opportunities for agricultural cooperation with key trading partners. Key partnership themes include industry development, managing sanitary and phytosanitary risk, and combatting illegal fishing and logging.

The department also engages in multilateral agricultural partnerships. Key partner organisations include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), Codex Alimentarius Commission, regional fisheries management organisations and arrangements (RFMOs), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Key aims include maintaining technical capability to deliver international science-based standards for trade, supporting animal and plant health for biosecurity risk management, informing domestic policy development, influencing global agricultural policy dialogue and supporting the sustainable management of resources.

I have attached some specific examples of the department's agricultural partnerships that illustrate the diversity of the department's work.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Mórriis
A/g Deputy Secretary
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

12 November 2015

Attachment A

Agricultural partnerships undertaken by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources: examples

Government Partnerships for Development Pacific fisheries project

The department is delivering, in conjunction with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority and the Attorney-General's Department, a \$2.446 million DFAT funded project over three years to improve the capacity of States in the Pacific region to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities. Through partnerships with the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency and Pacific Island countries, the project will implement in-country fisheries monitoring and control arrangements, develop a fisheries catch documentation scheme and conduct cooperative enforcement operations. By addressing illegal fishing, the project will improve the region's capacity for greater legal, but more sustainable catch levels and secure greater market access, thereby enhancing economic development and food security.

Indian Ocean Rim Association Economic Diplomacy Fund regional fisheries engagement

The department, in conjunction with DFAT, is providing \$150,000 to support the engagement of developing Indian Ocean rim states in regional fisheries management decision making. The project brings together a network of rim States through various meetings and workshops to improve the capability to promote and defend their common interests in the sustainable development of regional fisheries resources.

Australian contribution to combatting illegal logging in the Asia-Pacific

Under the Illegal Logging: Regional Capacity Building Partnership, a total of \$8 million has been provided to build capacity in the Asia-Pacific region to combat illegal logging through the implementation of timber legality verification systems and promote the trade in legally harvested forest products. In 2012-13, the second phase of the Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade program delivered 115 projects in Indonesia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Lao PDR and China to implement timber legality verification systems at a cost of \$6 million. A further \$2 million has been provided for four projects in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea under the International Tropical Timber Organization's Thematic Programme on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade that are due for completion in 2016.

Australian contribution to support OECD agricultural policy review of India

The department will provide funding of \$150,000 to support the proposed OECD agricultural policy review of India. The review will explore India's agricultural policy settings and calculate India's Producer Support Estimate to measure the level of and type of financial support the Indian Government provides for its farmers. The review will increase Australia's understanding of India's agricultural policy settings and its food security situation, and help Australia to engage with India to support the development of the Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).

Australian support for ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand-Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA)

The department is managing a 3-year, \$2.25 million program (funded by DFAT) in support of the AANZFTA to improve diagnostic capacity for plant pests and diseases in

South-East Asian countries. Improved diagnostic capacity will contribute to a sharper appreciation of regional biosecurity risks and help to avoid unnecessary phytosanitary barriers to trade among AANZFTA countries.

Cooperation partnership with Argentina on Electronic Certification

The department is working with Argentina's quarantine agency and agriculture ministry on a detailed work plan for the next two years that will specify where Australia and Argentina can collaborate on furthering Electronic Phytosanitary Certification within Australia, Argentina and IPPC regions.

The Australia Indonesia Partnership for Emerging Infectious Diseases Animal Health Program Phase 2 (AIPEID2)

AIPEID2 is a continuation of phase 1 of the AIP-EID (DFAT provided \$22 million over 4 years, FY 2011-2015) with funds of up to \$6.9 million to be delivered over three years (2015 - 2018). Phase 2 will continue activities to deliver sustainable strengthening of Indonesia's veterinary services to prevent, detect and control emerging and priority infectious diseases of animals. Stronger veterinary services and improved control of animal diseases (including those that infect humans) will contribute to the improvement of human health, food security and the prosperity of rural communities.

The Timor-Leste Village Poultry Health and Biosecurity (VPHB) Program

The department and the Timor-Leste Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) jointly manage the VPHB Program (DFAT funding of \$1.4 million over three years [FY 2014-2017]). The VPHB Program aims to improve food availability by controlling diseases (through improved vaccination for Newcastle disease and poultry management techniques) and strengthen biosecurity arrangements in Timor-Leste. This will strengthen the department's relationship with MAF, assist in managing Australia's biosecurity risk and strengthen regional agricultural trade and biosecurity.

The Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses (STANDZ) Program

Australia provides support (with DFAT funding) to the World Organisation for Animal Health's STANDZ Program, which helps to both control and reduce the incidence of foot-and-mouth disease in South-East Asia. It also supports the strengthening of government veterinary services and the control of other major animal diseases that affect public health, such as rabies. Funding is due to conclude in June 2016.

The Government Partnerships for Development project – *building the capacity of overseas biosecurity agencies to implement and manage biosecurity systems*

Working with nine countries in the Indo-Pacific region, the department will assist in identifying governance deficiencies in the management of biosecurity treatment systems related to the movement of cargo. The project aims to implement sustainable remedial strategies through the development of appropriate biosecurity methodologies and associated tools. Sustainability is further supported through the delivery of technical and administrative training to both public and private sector representatives, encouraging greater collaboration between these two sectors. This will improve the regulatory environment by creating consistent biosecurity standards, shared expectations and more effective governance measures.