

Program Profile



ARISA:
Testing ways to
stimulate collaboration
between industry
and research and
development

WHO WE ARE

The Applied Research and Innovation Systems in Agriculture project (ARISA) is a program under AIP-Rural aimed at increasing net farm incomes for 10,000 smallholder farming households in eastern Indonesia through private sector and research institution partnerships by the end of 2018. ARISA's focus is on strengthening farmer-relevant innovation at the research and business interface by increasing the capacity and incentives for public research institutes and universities to collaborate with small, medium and large agribusinesses to adapt existing innovations for agriculture in eastern Indonesia.

BACKGROUND

Despite rapid growth in recent years in Indonesia, reducing poverty remains a challenge. As 63% of Indonesia's poor live in rural areas, a more profitable agricultural sector will significantly assist in reducing poverty rates. For agriculture to deliver sustained impact on income in the growing and increasingly open Indonesian economy, it will need to become more competitive. One of the key indicators used by the World Economic Forum to assess national competitiveness is innovation. ARISA looks at how to stimulate productivity and increase poor farmers' access to markets by partnering with the private sector to scale-up competitive enhancing innovations in agriculture.

The generation of innovative agricultural ideas in Indonesia is not lacking, but there is a problem commercializing these ideas. The reason for this is: (1) an absence of incentives for commercialising research; (2) a lack of match-making capability between Research Institutes and industry; and (3) relatively few examples, models or mechanisms for effective public-private collaboration.

HOW DO WE WORK

Under DFAT's AIP-Rural program and in partnership with CSIRO, ARISA addresses these constraints by testing new ways to stimulate this collaboration between industry and research institutes in applying new or adapted technology, processes and/or products that will improve the competitiveness of smallholder farmers. ARISA focuses on strengthening linkages between research institutions and the private sector to

unlock the potential of domestic research capacity to commercially apply agricultural innovations that provide direct benefits to Indonesian farmers

ARISA identifies and supports a small number of practicable and commercially viable innovations that have already been developed in other parts of Indonesia or in other countries, but which have not yet been taken up to any significant extent in eastern Indonesia. It strengthens these innovations with applied and adaptive research using a M4P approach. ARISA only focuses on innovations that already exist. It does not conduct research on the development of new technologies.

ARISA's focus on the commercial application of innovations at scale means that it must work with and through effective channels of dissemination and commercialisation. In practice that means research organisations collaborating with the private sector. It is this private sector-research organisation collaboration which is the fundamental innovation being tested and promoted by ARISA. The program also undertakes research on the facilitation process and its efficacy to deliver outcomes that impact on farmer incomes.

ARISA's principal delivery strategy is to provide grants to research institution and private sector collaborations that scale up existing or near-commercially ready innovations in areas relevant to smallholder farmer needs in eastern Indonesia.

WHAT WE OFFER

- Technical support through access to capacity building and internationally experienced technical expertise.
- Financial assistance to share and spread investment risks through matching co-investment.
- Relationship brokering to help identify relevant partners and to develop and strengthen these collaborations.
- The opportunity to link and network with a range of other stakeholders for mutual benefit.
- Access to national and international best practices for the development of agricultural innovation systems.



Photo: ARISA