



Australia Awards

Australia Awards Short Course Climate-smart Agriculture for Healthy and Sustainable Food Production



Group Photo, The University of Queensland, St Lucia Campus, Brisbane, Australia

The Australia Awards Short Course on Climate-smart Agriculture for Healthy and Sustainable Food Production (CSA) was led by Professor Ammar Abdul Aziz and Dr Risti Permani and supported by Dr Julius Kotr, Dr Ali Akbar and Dr Akhitya Kiloos.

The objective of the course was to introduce policymakers and policy advocates to existing climate-smart agricultural practices and innovations that support the sustainability of Indonesia's agriculture and food production systems. The course addressed the challenges posed by climate change while strengthening approaches to managing on-farm natural resources and capital. It also examined the relationship between climate-smart agriculture, nutrition outcomes and broader community health, including improved access to affordable and diverse food.

Seven learning objectives were identified through consultations with the Australian Embassy in Jakarta and key Indonesian stakeholders. These objectives focused on benchmarking and best practices in food production and food security, increasing agricultural productivity, analysing nutrition outcomes, promoting inclusive climate-smart agriculture practices, and strengthening professional and institutional networks with Australian counterparts. During the Pre-Course Workshop, these objectives were refined to align with participants' individual learning goals.

To demonstrate the practical application of knowledge gained during the course, participants were required to complete an Award Project at the conclusion of the program. Award Projects were undertaken either individually or in small groups and focused on specific topics aligned with the course objectives, enabling participants to apply course learning directly to their professional contexts.

Course Highlights

- A networking dinner in Canberra at Old Parliament House, which included a Welcome to Country and Opening Remarks by Mrs Lintang Paramitasari Parnohadiningrat Wibawa, Deputy Chief Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Canberra and guests from ACIAR and CSIRO
- Site visit to Malgowie Farm and Queensland Animal Science Precinct (QASP) in Queensland
- Field visit to the Mulloon Institute Home Farm, Australian Centre for Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and CSIRO in Canberra
- Attending the Crawford Conference in Canberra

Course Schedule

- Pre-course workshop: Bogor 17–19 June 2025
- In-Australia course: Brisbane and Canberra 4–15 August 2025
- Post-course workshop: Jakarta 18–19 November 2025
- Mentoring: Online webinars on 29 July, 22 September and 27 October 2025

Course Participants

The course was attended by 25 participants from various early to mid-level positions across the private sector, central, local and national government institutions in Indonesia. The group comprised 15 females and 10 males and ranged in age from 24 to 55 years old.



Pre-course Workshop

The pre-course workshop, held on 17–19 June 2025 at the Luminor Hotel Padjajaran Bogor, Indonesia, introduced participants to the core themes of CSA and provided space for identifying and shaping their Award Project topics. The pre-course workshop served as an important forum for gathering participants' learning needs and requests. Through discussions and feedback, participants highlighted areas where additional technical guidance, exposure to practical innovations, and clearer methodological support would help strengthen their project ideas

In-Australia Program

The in-Australia course (4–15 August 2025) integrated theoretical foundations in CSA, systems thinking, and policy analysis with practical demonstrations, institutional visits, and field-based learning in both Brisbane and Canberra. This structure created a balanced and immersive learning environment that strengthened participants' technical understanding, analytical capacity, and exposure to real-world CSA innovations. Site Visits included Malgowie Farm and Queensland Mulloon Farm, as well as ACIAR and CSIRO in Canberra, and a Networking Dinner at Old Parliament House in Canberra.

Post-course Workshop

The post-course workshop, held on 18–19 November 2025 at Mercure Jakarta, marked the final stage of the course and served as an important platform for consolidating learning, presenting the Award Project outcomes, and supporting participants in planning the next steps of their implementation journey. The workshop brought participants together after their in-Australia experience to reflect on the knowledge gained, revisit their Award Project objectives, and articulate the strategies required to continue progressing their initiatives within their respective institutions. A notable strength of the post-course workshop was its focus on alumni engagement and professional networks.



Workshopping at the University of Queensland, St Lucia Campus, Brisbane, Australia



Welcome to Country, Networking Dinner, Old Parliament House, Canberra



Participants at the Malgowie Farm, Queensland, Australia

Award Project Highlights

As part of the short course, participants developed and implemented Award Projects which applied learnings from the course. Some highlights from successful projects included:

- Group 1: Topic: Guideline for adopting climate-smart irrigation: Benchmarking Australia's Best Practices
 - o Objective: Aims to develop a comprehensive Guideline for Adopting Climate-Smart Irrigation that addresses Indonesia's growing water stress in major river basins by benchmarking Australia's best irrigation practices.
 - o Implementation: Guidelines already drafted, peer-reviewed, and disseminated through multiple high-level channels. The team has presented the guideline at a Side Event on INPRES 2/2025 Monitoring & Evaluation, reaching 85 participants across central, regional, and local government. It has also been incorporated into training materials for an irrigation asset management workshop involving 20 O&M officers in Lampung Tengah.
- Group 5: Topic: Climate Smart Field School (CSFS) for CSA Adoption in Rainfed Rice Farming: A Case Study from Bangka Island.
 - o Objective: aims to develop a participatory CSFS model designed to strengthen rainfed rice farmers' knowledge and awareness of climate-smart agriculture practices in Bangka Barat. It seeks to create a practical, locally adapted CSA guideline for rainfed rice farming, integrate systems-thinking approaches into farmer learning, and provide a replicable field-based platform that accelerates CSA adoption.
 - o Implementation: Meetings conducted across multiple stages, including discussions, workshops, field observations, and participatory learning activities involving farmers in Bukit Terak Village. The team has developed and disseminated a CSA guideline, created WhatsApp learning groups for continuous engagement, and documented each phase of implementation. Farmer participation has been strong, and early feedback indicates increased awareness and improved understanding of CSA concepts and practices.



Post Course Workshop, Jakarta

Testimonials

'The highlights of the in-Australia course were the experiences that masterfully blended academic theory with real-world application in agriculture.'

Participant, Climate Smart Agriculture for Healthy and Sustainable Food Production Short Course

'I got new experience, new connection, new input, new knowledge - it was great.'

Participant, Climate Smart Agriculture for Healthy and Sustainable Food Production Short Course

'In the interactive sessions, we were equipped with numerous practical tools and methodologies that I can directly apply to my work, ensuring the lessons from this impactful journey will translate into tangible outcomes upon my return to Indonesia.'

Participant, Climate Smart Agriculture for Healthy and Sustainable Food Production Short Course

'This course was uniquely effective in bridging the critical gap between academic research, policy and real-world application, providing exposure to international best practice that is vital for innovation. Continuing such programs is a strategic investment in developing human capital capable of tackling future challenges and strengthening the collaborative professional ties between Australia and Indonesia.'

Participant, Climate Smart Agriculture for Healthy and Sustainable Food Production Short Course

For further info about this program, please contact:

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