



Committee tables report on overseas development

The House of Representatives Agriculture Committee today released its report into the Australian Centre for International Research (ACIAR) Annual Report 2011-12. The Committee's report considered a recently released independent review into ACIAR; the newly established Australian International Food Security Centre; and the domestic benefits arising from ACIAR's work.

The Committee's findings included that:

- The Australian Government respond publicly to the recent independent review of ACIAR, prioritising issues relating whole-of-government responses to overseas development assistance and the ongoing evaluation of ACIAR's activities.
- The Australian International Food Security Centre, run by ACIAR, will allow Australia to take a leading role in improving global food security measures for communities in the Asia Pacific and Africa.
- The Australian Government should continue to evaluate and apply results and lessons from ACIAR's work domestically. In addition, ACIAR's work should be better communicated to the Australian public, scientific and political communities — as this would increase awareness of the agency's good projects and lead to further collaborative opportunities.

Committee Chair, Dick Adams MP suggested that ACIARs mandate to work with communities and small landholders in the Asia Pacific and Africa provided Australian experts with the opportunity to solve some challenging international issues.

"ACIARs expertise in agricultural innovation places us at the forefront of the fight against global poverty and food security and these efforts bring home real benefits to Australia as well" he said.

Further information about the Inquiry is available on the Committee's website at:

www.aph.gov.au/arff

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, the Hon Dick Adams MP, on (03) 6398 1115 or 0418 132 828 or email D.Adams.MP@aph.gov.au

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