



ACIAR
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Australian Government
Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research

FARMERS — WITHOUT — BORDERS

For local farmers and their
global communities

Who is ACIAR?

As the Australian Government's specialist international agricultural research for development agency, ACIAR brokers and invests in research partnerships between Australian scientists and their counterparts in developing countries. Their mission is to achieve more productive and sustainable agricultural systems for the benefit of developing countries and Australia, through international agricultural research partnerships.

Since 1982, ACIAR has supported research projects in four regions—eastern and southern Africa, east Asia, south and west Asia, and Papua New Guinea and the Pacific.

What is Farmers Without Borders?

In a new initiative by ACIAR, the Farmers Without Borders Program places farmer volunteers from Australia in overseas projects with their partner organisations.

Volunteers will work with international farmers, producer groups, rural businesses and ACIAR partner organisations to develop local capacity, increase agricultural productivity, improve access to markets and address environmental and land care management challenges in agriculture.

What sort of projects are on the program?

ACIAR have managed more than 600 diverse research projects in around 36 countries. These projects focus on cropping, agribusiness, horticulture, forestry, livestock, fisheries, water and climate, social sciences, and soil and land management to meet specific development goals.

Farmers Without Borders volunteers may be needed help deliver outcomes through extension services and training, technical skills, farm management expertise, general problem solving, marketing management etc.

What does a volunteer experience look like?

Volunteer in-country placements are typically 3-6 weeks in length, with all logistical arrangements managed and funded. Prior to departure, volunteers will attend workshops where they will receive training and be briefed on their assignment goals and what to expect.

While in-country, volunteers will be supported by ACIAR network and host organization staff to help meet their objectives. It is expected that on return volunteers will share their achievements and learnings from the experience.

Why Farmers?

Australian farmers have a long history of implementing science based improvements in their farm operations. This has required the development of skills to problem solve issues as new innovations are applied. This provides them with ready-made experience and skill to assist farmers in developing countries at their stage of farm productivity improvement





ACIAR looks to a world where poverty has been reduced and the livelihoods of many improved through more productive and sustainable agriculture emerging from collaborative international research.



What skills do you need?

We are looking for individuals, partners or groups who have a genuine interest in sharing their knowledge, experience and technical skills to develop others.

Farmer volunteers do not need any particular qualifications but require the confidence to step outside their comfort zone and create community-generated change in an unfamiliar and challenging environment. Great volunteers will be able to think on their feet, solve problems, work collaboratively and have a respect for other cultures.

How do you get involved?

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, get in touch with the program managers at ask@mecardo.com.au or call 1300 987 742

