

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Tasmania's chance to help shape international development priorities

The University of Tasmania, via the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA), will host this week a high-level delegation which is setting Australia's priorities for international agricultural research.

The delegation from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) will tour the state meeting government representatives, industry leaders and agricultural researchers.

The visit is indicative of Tasmania's standing as an international research and education hub. It will create new opportunities for our agricultural industries and Tasmania's research and educational sectors.

ACIAR will fund \$125 million of agricultural research during 2012-13 across South-East Asia, South Asia, the Pacific (including Papua New Guinea) and Africa.

The delegation will include the CEO of ACIAR, Dr Nick Austin, and the heads of agricultural research institutions in the Asia-Pacific region.

The international members of the delegation include Jia Jingdun, Director General of the Rural Technology Development Centre in the Ministry of Science and Technology in Beijing and Dr Hasil Sembiring, Director of the Indonesian Centre for Food Crops Research and Development, Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development in Jakarta.

They will visit field sites in Tasmania associated with ACIAR projects on **Wednesday and Thursday (17 and 18 October)**. The northern and north-west sites on Wednesday's itinerary include fresh vegetable supplier Harvest Moon's Cressy operation; a farm at Westbury supplying Tasmanian Alkaloids, Australia's largest manufacturer of active pharmaceutical ingredients; Buz Green's private research facility Serve-Ag at Devonport and the Ashgrove Farm Cheese Factory at Elizabeth Town. In the Midlands on Thursday they will visit leading wool producers John and Alan Cameron at Ross and Gerard and Andrew McShane at Jericho, before a series of presentations in Hobart by TIA researchers.

"We are delighted to host such an eminent group of visitors," TIA's Director and Head of School, Professor Holger Meinke, said.

“This visit demonstrates that Tasmanian agricultural researchers are playing a vital role in setting the global agenda in development research,” Prof Meinke said. “This has significant benefits for Tasmania, including insight into rapidly growing Asian markets and equipping our industries with the knowledge and technical capability needed to service them.”

TIA is a co-venture between UTAS and the State Government.

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