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INDONESIA AUSTRALIA RED MEAT & CATTLE PARTNERSHIP

Increasing Productivity, Trade and Investment
in the Red Meat and Cattle Sector



Monthly Update

March 2023

Government Interest in SISKa at an All-time High



SISKA Supporting Program (SSP) continues to facilitate excellent government interest in SISKa - the integrated cattle and palm oil production model. On March 18, the Minister of Agriculture, Syahrul Yasin Limpo, together with the Director General of Plantation, the Director General of Livestock and Animal Health, the Director General of Agricultural Infrastructure and Facilities, and the Governor of South Kalimantan, visited Buana Karya Bhakti (BKB), a SSP supported SISKa operation in

Tanah Bumbu in South Kalimantan. The aim of this high-level government visit was to hold an annual celebration of "calves 'harvest' celebration" event and launched the South Kalimantan Provincial Government SISKa KU INTIP program that promotes a partnership between smallholder cattle farmers and plantation companies – an initiative that also receives technical assistance from SSP.

The Minister of Agriculture expressed his admiration for the SISKa KU INTIP program. "*This is a gift from Allah. It remains for us, the government, local leaders, and the farmer-breeder community to continue this struggle. In essence, good agriculture, such as SISKa KU INTIP, will improve the people's economy. I hope BKB can become a leading example of a palm oil company*

The Regent of Tanah Bumbu, Zairullah Azhar, expressed his pride in the progress of oil palm-cow integration in Tanah Bumbu. *"Today I feel very proud and very grateful. God willing, we will soon follow up on what the Minister of Agriculture requested for the development of cattle here".*

H Sahbirin Noor, Governor of South Kalimantan, expressed optimism that SISKU KU INTIP will allow South Kalimantan to be a reliable source of beef for the new national capital, *"South Kalimantan is the closest neighbour of the new national capital, so we can support its food security by providing beef from SISKU KU INTIP sites "*.

SSP will continue to support this important South Kalimantan Provincial Government initiative that aims to improve and expand the management of smallholder cattle under palm throughout the province.

In March, the SSP also continued to facilitate SISKU expansion of across Riau, South Kalimantan, West Kalimantan, and East Kalimantan. Ongoing discussions continued with 37 smallholder farmers groups, with 5 actively implementing the SISKU model across 10, 000 hectares and 750 cattle. If the 37 groups come on board this will increase by 102,500 hectares and approximately 5,500 cattle.

The SSP also commenced the establishment of a SISKU Center of Collaborative Research and Dissemination which will have the involvement of prominent research bodies such as IPB University (Tropical Animal Research Center) and the Indonesian Research Agency (BRIN - Oil Palm, Livestock, Sustainable Production and Circular Economy Research Centers). The Center will immediately focus on the development of a National SISKU Development Master Plan in collaboration with Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) and a Bali Cattle Improvement Program in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture.

Supporting Cattle Corporation Village Program (SC2VP)

The core focus for the SC2VP project team during March was to improve the low body condition scores of cattle in five MoA's CCV locations. The team provided supplementary feed and practical training in cattle feeding, and support to plant high quality forages. Ongoing support will be provided to ensure the maintenance of good cattle condition across all sites.

The project team also facilitated a series of field schools on cattle handling and animal welfare in collaboration with the Forum Animal Welfare Officer (FAWO) Strengthening project. The training served an important role, as most CCV farmers, prior to the course, had limited knowledge and skills on animal welfare, including low stress cattle handling. Two additional field schools on cattle health and reproduction were also delivered in two CCV sites and one on utilizing cattle waste for compost in two other sites. Turning cattle waste into fertilizer presents a valuable way for CCV farmers to increase their cash flow, a critical component of a successful commercial cattle operation.

Skills Development Program

Business Management Training for Small Scale Commercial Livestock Business



On 15-19 March 2023, the Partnership and Universitas Gadjah Mada delivered the 5th batch of Livestock Business Management training course. 30 small-medium scale livestock business owners from across Java and Sumatra gained a valuable understanding of how to run a profit-oriented cattle business, via theoretical sessions and site visits to two successful medium scale commercial farms in East Java.

Forum Animal Welfare Officer Forum Support Project

The FAWO Supporting Project continued to strengthen FAWO institutional capacities, that in turn has strengthened the FAWO's ability to deliver on its mission to *'Improve the knowledge and awareness of animal welfare in the Indonesia livestock sector.'* Although the project only started in March 2022 it is already delivering positive outcomes, namely a significant increase in Animal Welfare activities throughout Indonesia. In March, this included the delivery of animal welfare training in Tangerang to 41 participants from ESCAS and non ESCAS supply chains. The training was facilitated by FAWO members who have passed the Meat and Livestock Association's (MLA) *LEP Animal Welfare Training of Trainer* program, with support from IPB University experts. The FAWO also continued to promote Animal Welfare through various social media platforms including a podcast on the Australian Livestock Export Business.

To hear the podcast please click in the following link.
https://open.spotify.com/episode/1ppCk4FeBfIVd8bchpOZWT?si=kwOKQHYCTmOj_7BbjRJKuw

In collaboration with SC2VP Project, FAWO trainers also delivered Animal Welfare and Cattle Handling training at five CCV locations that built much needed farmer cattle handling skills.

To follow project updates, visit: <https://www.instagram.com/forum.awo.indonesia/>

Capacity Building Project to Central Lombok 1000 Cattle Village Program



March marked the completion of the Central Lombok 1000 Desa Sapi Capacity Building Project. The project, although only one year duration, made strong progress against its goals. A small team of advisers from Mataram University worked closely with a four member team of local agriculture extension officers from DINAS to build CCV farmer capacities based on local resources and local wisdom, and the utilization of simple but proven innovations from past projects. The engagement of the local DINAS agriculture extension officers was key to maximizing project sustainability and ongoing problems, such as lack of cattle feed and cash flow, were collaboratively resolved with the farmers. The implementation team used an approach that built farmer confidence to solve their own problems by drawing on local resources, with support from Dinas, as required.

A further key to the project's success was the expansion of high quality and affordable cattle feed

and now provides an additional cash flow to the farmers see https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QzyBA_zqmU9KVdcJqweCvKuvhSbUEr79/view?usp=sharing

It is likely that the Lombok project offers important lessons for other government of Indonesia cattle production programs.

Upcoming Events

- MLA RMCP Animal Welfare and Health Workshop Medan
- MLA RMCP Necropsy training South Kalimantan
- TOT SISKA Facilitator in South Kalimantan and East Kalimantan
- Industry Gathering (RMCP-MLA Joint Program)

To stay updated on the latest news and activities please visit the Partnership website (<http://redmeatcattlepartnership.org>) and follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) (@IAredmeatcattle) and [Instagram](#) (@IA.redmeatcattle).

Contact

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