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**INDONESIA AUSTRALIA
RED MEAT & CATTLE
PARTNERSHIP**
Increasing Productivity, Trade and Investment
in the Red Meat and Cattle Sector



Monthly Update

July 2023

Resolving Important Technical Questions through SISKA Research

Integrated Cattle and Oil Palm Plantation Production (SISKA), a cattle breeding model, involves smallholder farmers and palm oil firms collaborating to manage cattle production within palm oil estates. The Siska Support Program (SSP) is funding research that is driving SISKA's continued rapid growth throughout Indonesia. As SISKA is a relatively new cattle breeding model, this research is critical to industry growth.

In June, the SSP supported the Association of SISKA Operators and Observers (GAPENSISKA) to hold two seminars that communicated research findings – one on SISKA cattle breed selection and one on SISKA animal health and cattle reproduction. A total of 292 participants (170 female) attended online. The key message from the seminar was the importance of using research to develop highly practical technical knowledge on breeder selection, animal health and reproduction management. To date, SSP has supported the delivery of ten on-line seminars (1738 participants, 980 female) that have informed a wide audience on SISKA's commercial potential and its technical requirements.

In June SSP also supported GAPENSISKA to hold an international SISKA seminar on the lesson learnt from integrated cattle and oil palm production in Malaysia. Presentations were delivered by staff from the University of Putra Malaysia, the Philippines Livestock Research and Development Centre, CENTRAS, IPB University, and GAPKI South Kalimantan. The hybrid on-line and in person seminar attracted 455 participants (217 female) and included a field visit to the BKB plantation, and produced a list of recommendations for future SISKA research.

Besides facilitating research, the SSP continued to support the startup of 46 SISKA commercial partnerships, or clusters, in South Kalimantan, West Kalimantan, East Kalimantan and Riau. Currently 1280 small-holder farmers are managing 5,750 cattle across 112,000 ha of oil palm estates. Some are already conducting rotational grazing in oil palm estates using electric fences, a key SISKA technical requirement. Project support also included focus group discussions in the four provinces on SISKA technical issues, capacity building on electric fence use, and short-term field school programs on livestock management.



Interns and PT. BKB Workers visited SISKA nucleus plasma site in South Kalimantan.

In July, the Bhakti Surya SISKA Training Centre (BSTC), also supported by the SSP, commenced 3 months internships for two students (1 Diploma and 1 PhD candidate) from the Oil Palm Polytechnic School of Citra Widya Edukasi and from the University of Hasanuddin Makassar. Both interns are working within BKB SISKA operations and are also conducting research as part of their studies. A student from Wageningen University, Netherlands, also completed his three month internship where he conducted research on the effects of extensive grazing on the diversity of vegetation under palm trees.

Design Workshop builds ‘fit for purpose’ Training Module

The Partnership will soon deliver the sixth Small Scale Commercial Livestock Business Training program in Makassar. The training aims to improve commercial cattle production skills and knowledge of small – medium sized cattle breeders in eastern Indonesia. Small – medium sized cattle breeders manage between 10 and 100 cattle. These business owners, who are often young and tech savvy, are keen to innovate and grow their business and, as a result, offer great potential for industry expansion.

The sixth course will select small-scale business owners from Kalimantan and Sulawesi, two provinces which have yet to receive this training, and which offer strong industry growth potential. The training, to be delivered in Makassar on 24-29 July 2023, will be delivered by the Faculty of Animal Science UGM and Hasanuddin University (UNHAS). The collaboration between UGM, an experienced training provider, and UNHAS, aims to improve UNHAS's training delivery skills and experience, supporting an important Partnership goal of strengthening regional university training capacities.

As a first step, both groups led and participated in a training design workshop in Makassar. A selection of small-scale business owners from the South Sulawesi area provided the course designers with feedback on their specific needs. Experts from both universities also identified the most relevant topics and delivery modalities based on the local context, and business owner feedback. The technical teams also conducted a site visit to three farms in South Sulawesi to gain perspective on real conditions and business management needs from the business owners. As a result of the workshop, the final course design now closely aligns with the unique learning needs of business owners from Kalimantan and Sulawesi.



In June, the Partnership also conducted a second Pregnancy Test Training in 2023 for Paramedic Veterinarians in collaboration with BBIB Singosari, a government owned training facility and one of the biggest artificial insemination centers in Indonesia. This training was identified by the Ministry of Agriculture as an important way to improve the technical skills of paramedics' veterinarians and to support the MoA's long term goal of increasing Indonesia's cattle population. By the end of the training 31 paramedic veterinarians were able to deliver effective and accurate pregnancy testing in their breeding operations.

Forum Animal Welfare Officer Support Project

The Partnership continues to deliver important initiatives that are strengthening animal welfare practices in the Indonesian livestock sector. This included training and seminar programs on animal welfare and traceability through the Forum Animal Welfare (FAWO) project. The seminar drew more than 100 participants from the feedlot, abattoir, exporter, and animal medicines and equipment sector. The training increased the knowledge of animal welfare principles and traceability among 39 ESCAS facility personnel from the Bogor area and also included a GEDSI (Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion) module, that generated much discussion and class feedback.

Ongoing efforts to promote animal welfare in Indonesia also included frequent updates and posts on social media, newsletters, and a podcast with industry representatives including MLA, Gapuspindo, and exporters. This month also saw the production of a podcast on Halal slaughtering, which will be aired soon. In collaboration with Meat and Livestock Australia, the FAWO is also completing production of seven animal welfare and traceability training videos that address current industry needs.

Northern Territory Indonesia 360 Project (NTI 360)

The NTI 360 project, managed by the Northern Territory Cattleman's Association (NTCA), is similar to the Partnership funded NTCA Indonesia Australia Pastoral Study Program (NIAPP) but includes new biosecurity and animal health components in response to the LSD and FMD outbreaks currently impacting Indonesia. The NTI 360 project team is now in Indonesia interviewing over 100 potential participants from 16 animal science faculties across Indonesia. 20 will be selected to participate in the two-month visit to North Australia. All will be immersed in the Australian cattle sector, including work experience on cattle stations and training by key industry leaders and senior staff. Participants will obtain firsthand experience of Australia's biosecurity measures that they will be able to pass on to industry members in Indonesia. The 20 selected students will depart for Australia in mid-August 2023 after attending a pre departure program in Indonesia. More updates to follow in future monthly reports.

- Necropsy Training Program in Collaboration with MLA: July- August 2023
- Small Scale Commercial Livestock Training Batch 6 - Makassar, 24-29 July 2023
- Small Scale Commercial Livestock Training for eastern Indonesia (Bali, NTB, & NTT) -August 2023
- International Seminar on Semen Production and Testing - August 2023

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

The Indonesia Australia Partnership on Food Security in the Red Meat and Cattle Sector is a Heads of Government initiative funded by the Australian Government. The secretariat and policy lead is the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment in Australia and the Indonesia Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) in Indonesia.

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