

Research Directions

Office of Research Services

Livestock Disease Surveillance

Dr Gavin Ramsay and Luciano Mesiti, School of Natural Sciences, have attracted significant funding to UWS for their role in a major 3 year research collaboration to investigate the development of a surveillance system to monitor and control livestock diseases such as classical swine fever (CSF), avian influenza (bird flu), and foot and mouth disease (FMD) in Indonesia.



Outbreaks of livestock disease pandemics in Indonesia have had significant impacts on animal productivity, and have consequently lead to drastic measures to eradicate the animals affected by these diseases, with catastrophic effects on the livestock industry. This project focuses on three important livestock diseases. Classical swine fever is widespread in many parts of Indonesia and has had a significant impact on productivity and economic loss to small holder livestock producers. Hyperpathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), known as bird flu, has also caused human infections, leading to death in some cases. However, Indonesia has been successful in eradicating foot and mouth disease (FMD), so a major part of this project will focus on systems that will allow the country to maintain FMD-free status, by heightened surveillance to minimise risks from, predominantly, illegal movement of livestock and livestock products into Indonesia.

Founded on early detection principles, surveillance systems will be developed through risk assessments of greater risk areas and procedures, and targeted surveillance of these areas. Education and training tools will also be developed for use by livestock small-holders, the general public, animal health workers, and laboratory staff in Indonesia.

The project is being funded and directed by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and the Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development. In addition to Dr Ramsay, the investigation team includes prominent Indonesian-based researchers, laboratory staff and animal health specialists, and Australian-based investigating scientists from Murdoch University, ACIAR, Department of Agriculture WA, NSW Department of Primary Industries, and Australian Animal Health Laboratory, Victoria.

Project Title: *The Development of a National Surveillance System for Classical Swine Fever, Avian Influenza, and Foot and Mouth Disease in Indonesia.*

Total funding to UWS has been set at: \$196,062.
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ACIAR website at <http://www.aciar.gov.au>