

Title Integrating tropical passionfruit production through market-driven adaptive research-a novel project approach!

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Abstract

The Indonesian Directorate General of Horticulture has recently identified commodities of significant regional importance, such as passionfruit in South Sulawesi. Through the Australia-Indonesia Partnership (AIP) and the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research initiative - Smallholder Agribusiness Development (SADI), the Support for Market-driven Adaptive Research (SMAR) component of SADI is focused on agricultural R and D that is market and client-driven and effectively transfers knowledge to end-users, such as smallholders and agribusinesses within the supply chain. Integrated tropical passion fruit production systems in South Sulawesi, has a project focus on how the South Sulawesi passionfruit industry can be intensified to ensure scale and continuity of fruit supply with the possibility of including new higher juice-yield varieties and resolving possible crop pathogen constraints, such as nematodes and root fungal diseases. We report on the outcomes of key objectives of the project notably the pathogen survey of production areas, the introduction and evaluation of new passion fruit germplasm and the implementation of “best practice” blocks in traditional highland production areas and in the lowlands around Makasar, which represents a new production environment.