Research Report for Project on “Enhancing Community-Based Commercial Forestry in Indonesia (ACIAR FST/2015/040)”

Report of a Study Tour to Victoria – Australia: Some Key Lessons Expressed by the Participants

2020
Report of a Study Tour to Victoria – Australia: Some Key Lessons Expressed by the Participants

(MTG and F2FM Approaches Serve & Operate in Diversity)

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Foreword

The second phase of the CBCF Project ‘Enhancing community-based commercial forestry Indonesia’ [FST/2015/040] has facilitated learning at the farm level at all project sites: Pati, Gunungkidul, Lampung, Bulukumba and Gorontalo. Farmers learnt through a series of Master TreeGrower (MTG) training courses conducted at these project sites, and even have changed their trees and farm management practices. A complement to this farmer learning approach, a Farmer to Farmer Mentoring (F2FM) trial was conducted in three project sites: Gunungkidul, Pati and Bulukumba. The evaluation of the F2FM trial confirmed the effectiveness of peer mentoring to facilitate farmers’ learning and changing farmers’ practices of tree and farm management.

As part of its comprehensive approach to promote learning, a study tour to Victoria was conducted by the project during the 15th-22nd September 2019. The main objective of the study tour was to facilitate farmers and local partners to see and learn how the MTG and F2FM (Peer Group Mentoring or PGM) initiatives have been implemented in Australia, especially in the Otway Ranges region. A total of 11 participants from Indonesia joined the study tour, including farmers, local partners and government staff.

This report presents a summary of the study tour by the study tour participants, especially prepared by Devi, Kadir, Sugeng, Silvi, and Muktasam. Some comments and statements made by other participants have also been included to finalise this report. It is expected that other members of the project team and even those beyond the project may learn and gain insights from the study tour notes and experiences presented in this report.

The Study Tour Team,

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Abdul Kadir Wakka– FOERDIA Makassar
Devi Silvia -Trees4Trees
Sugeng Teguh Pribadi - Pati
Silvi Nur Oktalina – UGM
# Glossary

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<thead>
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBCF</td>
<td>Community-Based Commercial Forestry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F2FM</td>
<td>Farmer to Farmer Mentoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR</td>
<td>Hutan Rakyat (Community Forest on private land)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HTR</td>
<td>Community Planted Forest – on state land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTG</td>
<td>Master TreeGrower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OAN</td>
<td>Otway Agroforestry Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGM</td>
<td>Peer Group Mentoring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Abstract

Smallholder tree growers’ poor management practices have been well understood in Indonesia, and this led to low productivity and income. Studies found that poor management practices are largely due to the lack of tree growers’ knowledge, skills, attitudes and aspiration on forest and or agroforestry management practices. Farmers do not do anything to their trees once they have planted them in their properties, such as no pruning and thinning. The lack, or absence of effective extension services does not help. Recognising this, the CBCF project has promoted innovative approaches to farmer learning: first the Master TreeGrower (MTG), and second Farmer to Farmer Mentoring (F2FM). The effectiveness of these approaches has been confirmed. As an integrated approach to strengthen the existing MTG and F2FM performance, a study tour was designed and conducted, where 11 key persons from the 3 project sites visited farmers, farms, and industries in Victoria between the 15th and 23rd of September 2019. The study tour facilitated participants’ learning on a wide range of topics, such as how MTG training courses and F2FM are implemented to support diverse Australian tree growers, not only in terms of land size or farming scale, but also diversity on farming objectives, species involved, and farming issues. The participants also learnt about value added activities and the methods and strategies to running effective farm tours as it was performed by Rowan Reid (Bambra Agroforestry Farm) and the Stewart family (Yan Yan Gurt West Farm). This report provides a comprehensive review of the lesson learnt from the study tour with an expectation that the other members of the CBCF teams, as well as those beyond the project, could learn from the study tour results.

1. Introduction

A series of MTG training courses have been conducted in Indonesia through CBCF phase 1 and 2, from 2014 to 2019. A total of 17 MTG courses were conducted in the seven project locations (Sumbawa, Konawe, Gunungkidul, Pati, Bulukumba, Lampung, Gorontal) involving 400 - 500 farmers (both male and female), field extension agents, and other governmental staff. The MTG training courses have proved effective in promoting the farmers’ learning and forest management practices.

As a complement to the MTG training courses, a Farmer to Farmer Mentoring (F2FM) project was trialled in 3 sites, namely Bulukumba, Pati and Gunungkidul. The monitoring and evaluation of these trials also confirmed its effectiveness in promoting farmer learning and even in changing farmer forest management practices.

As part of an integrated approach to mentors and partners’ capacity building to further support the project performance a study tour to Victoria, Australia was designed and conducted. The main objective of the study tour was to let the farmers and the project partners learn more about the MTG and F2FM, and to see how these approaches help farm forest management.

2. The Study Tour: Date, Participants & Visited Farmers/Persons

The study tour was conducted on the 15th-22nd September 2019 involving 11 participants - 3 farmers from Gunungkidul, 1 farmer from Pati, 1 farmer from Bulukumba, and local partners (Kadir, Silvi, Devi, Misbawati, Muktasam). All the participants have been active and supportive of the CBCF community forestry project in Indonesia. The study tour was designed and conducted to allow participants to learn more about how community and farm-based forestry has developed and been supported in Australia. The main focus of the tour was to see how the Master TreeGrower program and farmer-to-farmer mentoring are delivered and implemented by the Australian Agroforestry Foundation and the Otway
Agroforestry Network and to see the results of these approaches in helping Australian farmers manage their trees and farms.

Table 1. Study Tour Participants’ Profiles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address and Profession</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Ir. Muktasam, M. Agr.Sc., Ph.D.</td>
<td>Mataram University, MTG &amp; F2FM Monitoring and Evaluation - Indonesian Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Ir. Hj. Misbawati, MM.</td>
<td>Bulukumba District Government (Head of Bulukumba Environmental Office)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Abdul Rahing, SP.</td>
<td>F2FM Mentor, TreeGrower &amp; Ex-District Forestry officer, Bulukumba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Abd Kadir Wakka</td>
<td>FOERDIA Makasar; MTG Lead Facilitator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) Devi Silvia</td>
<td>Trees4Trees, Farmer, Pati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) Sugeng Teguh Pribadi</td>
<td>MTG Facilitator, Extension Staff at Central Java Forestry Office - Pati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) Jakpar</td>
<td>F2FM Mentor, Farmer, Pati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8) Silvi Oktalina</td>
<td>UGM, MTG Lead Facilitator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9) Eni Wursiyati</td>
<td>F2FM Mentor, Farmer, Jepitu Village - Gunungkidul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(10) Jaelanto</td>
<td>F2FM Mentor, Farmer, Jepitu Village - Gunungkidul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(11) Sukaja</td>
<td>Contact Farmer, Jepitu Village - Gunungkidul</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The study tour allowed participants to visit farmers, farms, industry, native forest, a national park, and other interesting locations that helped the participants discuss, observe, and get the real experiences on Australian forest management, and how the MTG and F2FM or PGM approaches play their roles. The key people visited in the study tour were Rowan Reid, Mike Robinson-Koss and his wife Wendy, Andrew and Hugh Stewart, Ian Campbell, Claire and James Dennis, David Curry, Gib Wettenhall and Gayl Morrow, Peta (Ballarat Wood Gallery) and Lachlan Park (builder/wood worker). The farmers represented both small farms (such as Mike and Wendy with 18 ha land) and large farms (such as Claire and James with 1800 ha land) and included farmers who have different objectives ranging from the production of high quality tree products, addressing land erosion, promoting farm biodiversity, and protecting farm stock.

Table 2. Australian Farmers and Key Persons Visited, and the Learning Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address and Profession</th>
<th>Learning Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Digby Race</td>
<td>Project Leader</td>
<td>Agroforestry practices; MTG and PGM; Farm management on private and public land; Government policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Rowan Reid</td>
<td>MTG originator, farm forester (42 ha agroforestry farm), author</td>
<td>Agroforestry practices; MTG and PGM; Farm management and farm tour; Government Policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Hugh Stewart</td>
<td>Market analyst; farm forester; Older brother of Andrew Stewart</td>
<td>Agroforestry management; Banksias and wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Andrew Stewart</td>
<td>The owner of Yan Yan Girt West Farm (230 ha); Mentor and MTG facilitator under OAN</td>
<td>Sustainable and integrated farm management; MTG and PGM; Ecotourism in practice - farm tour; Growing trees and shrub for wildlife and biodiversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) Ian Campbell</td>
<td>Farmer and MTG alumni; Managing Black Angus for breeding; Practicing agrosilvopasture (200 ha)</td>
<td>Tree and management; Tree for Erosion Control; Partnership for pulp production; Solar panel and irrigation system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) Mike &amp; Wendy</td>
<td>Farmer (18 ha); Nursery Business; Mentor and MTG Facilitator</td>
<td>Nursery Business and Management; Mentoring &amp; MTG approaches to farmer learning; Agrosilvopasture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) David Curry</td>
<td>Farmer (48 ha); Mentor Coordinator</td>
<td>Tree management; Trees for Erosion Control and high-quality timber; PGM and criteria for mentor selection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8) Claire and James Dennis</td>
<td>Farmers (1800 ha); Claire is a MTG coordinator</td>
<td>Farm management – producing sheep and crops; MTG in Otway Rangers;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9) Gib Wettenhall &amp; Gayl Morrow</td>
<td>Journalist; Farm forester – native forest management (14.2 ha)</td>
<td>Native forest management; Roles of Melbourne University through MTG to forest management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(10) Peta</td>
<td>Ballarat Furniture Company – timber processing industry</td>
<td>Furniture business; main products; sources of its raw materials</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. **Lessons Learnt**

3.1. **Farms and Farmers’ Diversity**

The study tour facilitated participants to learn that MTG and PGM approaches encourage and support *diversity*, as they are summarised in the following four points:

1. The diversity of **farm scale**, from small-scale such as it found at Gib and Gayl’s native forest (14.2 ha), and at Mike and Wendy’s farm (18 ha) to large-scale farming systems that represented by Claire and James (1800 ha), while the other farmers are managing farming system with the scales in between such as Rowan, Andrew, Ian, and David – Table 3;

2. Diversity of **farm management objectives** such as conservation, timber and cattle/calve production, lamb and wool, shelter and protection, flowers and fruits, biodiversity, wildlife, food production (wheat, canola, shiitakemushrooms), and others. Table 3 summarise the core business of the farmers visited in the study tour;

3. Diversity of **species** - native and exotic trees, beef and dairy cattle, sheep for lamb and wool, crops (wheat, canola, etc.), wildlife (birds, koala, kangaroo, and others), and fruits and flowers; and

4. Diversity of **farming issues** such as land degradation (soil erosion and water quality), the risk of bushfire, biodiversity, aging farmers and generational transfer, and issues of labour costs. As a result, farmers use different approaches to address these different issues.

A common practice found in the study tour was that all farmers use machinery such as demonstrated by Rowan, Ian, Claire, Mike, and Andrew. It is a common practice that a farm is managed by 1 to 3 family members – the couple and their sons or daughters. At Rowan’s farm the participants learned that he has his own sawmill, tractor, drying facilities, pruning and thinning tools and equipment.
Table 3. Farmers’ Farm Scale and Core Business

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Farm size (ha)</th>
<th>Core business</th>
<th>Lessons shared</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Rowan Reid</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>Agrosilvpasture (tree species &amp; livestock), farm tour</td>
<td>Integrated farm management; roles of trees and agroforestry system on land and landscape management; agroforestry management – pruning, thinning, equipment and tools; MTG and PGM; Farm tour facilitation; Tree planting and protection; Timber processing and drying; wildlife and biodiversity conservation; NTFP management – tree species for food flavour &amp; shiitake mushroom production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Andrew Stewart, Hugh Stewart, Kristyand Hannah</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>Agrosilvpasture (tree species, livestock, shrubs/orchids), farm tour</td>
<td>Integrated farm management; roles of trees and agroforestry system on land/ecosystem/biodiversity management; Introducing NTFP such as shrubs – orchids and fruits into agroforestry system; Agroforestry and household food security and income; Farm tour facilitation; trees and farm management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Ian Campbell</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Agrosilvpasture (tree species, trees for pulp through partnership; black angus breeding; fruits and vegetable)</td>
<td>Tree and management; Different tree species for Erosion Control – creek and paddock erosion control; Partnership for pulp production; Solar panel and irrigation system; cattle management – black angus for breeding (2 bulls for 120 cows)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Mike &amp; Wendy</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Nursery industry, integrated farming (agroforestry)</td>
<td>Nursery Business and Management (seeds collecting, sorting and storage; germination techniques; seedling process and production); producing food, fruits and chicken at back yard as an integrated farming system and management; Mentoring &amp; MTG approaches to farmer learning; Agrosilvo pasture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) David Curry</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>Agrosilvpasture (tree species, livestock/cattle, vegetables)</td>
<td>Trees and farm management; Trees for erosion control and high-quality timber; Silvicultural management for timber production; Trial for California redwood; PGM and criteria for mentor selection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) Claire and James Dennis</td>
<td>1800</td>
<td>Agrosilvpasture (Sheep for wool and lamb; pasture; trees for shelter)</td>
<td>Farm management – producing sheep (for wool and meat) and crops; MTG in Otway Rangers; Planting trees for livestock shelter (no pruning and thinning); Farming history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) Gib Wettenhall &amp; Gayl Morrow</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>Native forest management – producing timber for construction</td>
<td>Native forest management; Roles of Melbourne University through MTG to forest management; Roles of thinning on forest/trees/biodiversity performance; traditional techniques for building/house construction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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3.2. Farm Management

The study tour participants learnt that every farm is managed for its own objectives and issues or in other words “farm management is dependent on its objectives and issues”. Rowan and Andrew’s farms were in a bad condition when they started in early 1987 – few trees and many land degradation issues. With a clear management objective, they started to plant tree species, undertook better silvicultural management (for Andrew’s farm, *a whole farm plan was developed in 1991*), and as a result, their farms are now better and have become models for agroforestry practices in the Otway Ranges.

The study tour participants learnt from Rowan about forest management, how “yellow clay soil erosion” could be solved by planting *Californian Redwood*, how *eucalyptus species could be grown for biodiversity and timber*, and how *English Oak* has a higher wood density when grown quickly and can be useful for Shiitake mushroom production; and opportunities for growing shrubs under the trees for economic return such as 3 species for 3 native food...
flavours: *native pepper, river mint and lemon myrtle*. From Rowan, the participants also learnt about *Californian Redwood* trials by showing the demonstration plot. This trial linked to a similar Redwood trial on David Curry's farm.

Due to its performance and proper documentation of its management, Rowan's farm has become an importance site for tours for Australian farmers – Figure 1.

![Figure 1. Farm Tour at Bambra Agroforestry Farm (21 April 2017)](image)

Visits to other farmers and farms such as Andrew Stewart (230 ha), Ian Campbell (200 ha), Claire and James (1800 ha), Mike and Wendy Robinson-Koss (18 ha), David Curry (48 ha), and Gib and Gayl (14.2 ha) also highlighted that they are doing proper farm management practices to achieve their own specific goals. Even though their core businesses are different, they are growing trees to support their specific needs. Andrew's *Yan YanGurt West Farm* demonstrates an integrated farm development approach for sustainable farm management. On the basis of his whole farm management plan developed in 1991, Andrew and his family started to grow different species of trees and shrubs to address land erosion, salinity waterlogging, wildlife, and ecological decline. As a result, the family has planted more than 40,000 tree and shrub species, and are now producing various agroforestry products such as *timber, food, flowers, livestock (cattle, sheep for wool and lamb, etc.),* and others. Andrew's family and farm has been running farm tours for the last 20 years where people learn about agroforestry management for food security, livestock production, addressing land degradation, and other purposes.

**Ian Campbell**'s 200 ha property is managed mainly for *Black Angus* cattle production for beef production. He has 120 cows and 2 bulls grazing on the property. As a member of the *Otway Agroforestry Network* and the local *Landcare Group* Ian also involved in MTG courses and tree planting activities. He planted trees along the creek within his farm to address land erosion, and he also planted trees such as eucalyptus species to address issues of “too much water on the property” (too wet). Ian also planted trees to provide shelter for his cattle and produce timber for the pulp industry. He was in partnership with a pulp company for the first 14-year rotation growing blue gum trees and is now expecting to harvest his second trees in about 2 years’ time, and then he may let the third coppice to grow for another 15 years to produce timber for high quality pulp and paper. He did not do any pruning for this timber production.

**Claire and James Dennis** are managing an 1800 ha family farm which focused on sheep for lamb and wool production (about 9000 sheep at the time of visit – consist of cross breed and merinos), and also for crops such as wheat. With 3 children, the couple are supported by their eldest son who is running the business. Claire and James stated that “some works are contracted, we cannot do all the work”. Therefore, they contracted crop specialist to do cropping and also occasionally employed veterinarian for the sheep production. Claire explained that the property naturally had no trees and it was grass land on a volcanic rock.
They are planting **trees for shelter** to protect their crops, animals, and the family from heat and cool weather and wind – this is the main reason for planting trees. Due to this, Claire and James do not do silvicultural management practices such as pruning and thinning to their trees.

**Mike and Wendy Robinson-Koss** shared lessons on optimum land use and management to meet their needs such as by growing trees for timber, food, shelter, conservation, protection, wildlife, and others. Mike also produces 4 different species of apples from a single apple tree. Mike and Wendy shared how to be a good mentor by having a good understanding of other farmers’ characteristics such as their land and soil types, tree species, and others. The participants also learnt about seedling management and business – from collecting seeds using different cotton bags, storing seeds, planting with some treatments, germination, and planting the seedling into pots, and watering control. Mike and Wendy have managed their seedling business for 25 years on this 18 ha of land. As a mentor, Mike highlighted the importance of willingness to share knowledge and skills with others without wondering that the others will become his competitors in the future.

**David Curry** shared his experience in addressing land erosion on his 48 ha farm. When he purchased the farm there were exotic *Willow trees* (*Salix*) growing along the creek. David also shared how he cleared the Willow and replanted with native trees species such as *Eucalypts*, *Acacia* and *Casuarina*. He planted *River Sheoak* (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*) which has an extensive root system, and *Blackwood* (*Acacia melanoxylon*) which has a good root system to stop the soil from moving down to the creek. He also planted native shrubs and trees at the creek bank and drops pruned branches into the creek to stop the erosion. David also shared the ring *bark* technique for thinning that allow the stems dry standing and produce good quality firewood.

David and Mike also shared with the participants that mentoring programs and activities could be free of charge and paid by the government and private sectors. When the mentors are helping the surrounding farmers, then the farmers do not need to pay for the services, but when the mentors working for government programs through the Otway Agroforestry Network (OAN), the mentors are paid from government funds.
**Gib Wettenhall and Gayl Morrow** helped the participants learn about small scale native forest management (attended MTG course in 1994; managing 35 acres or 14.175 ha). Gib and Gayl's property has been the first stand the last native forest that existed and was managed at the altitude of 700 m above sea level – as he claimed. It is the upper catchment of the Murray River. According to Gib, the forest was cleared during the gold rush in the 18th century, 4 main tree species: *Eucalyptus obliqua*, *Eucalyptus radiata* and *Eucalyptus rubida*, blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*). Gib has thinned the regrowth and used the timber for his own needs for construction.

It was about 1000 stems per ha with no grass and sunlight, the diameter was less low. The stocking is now about 500 stems per ha, and they intend to cut it down further to about 250 stems per ha. After thinning, there is enough space for other species such as grass, native bushes and flowering plants, and kangaroo. His participation in the MTG course has helped him in managing the native forest. The Victorian government strictly applies regulations to stop the cutting of native forest for commercial purposes and it led to decreasing numbers of sawmill from 50 to 1 unit. Melbourne University led by Rowan contributed to his native forest management.

![](image)

**Figure 3.** Gib & Gayl's Native Forest at Mollongghip, Victoria

### 3.3. Roles of MTG and PGM in Farm Management – Operating & Serving in the Diversity

The study tour participants learnt from the original work of Rowan, Mike, Andrew and Hugh Stewart that the MTG and PGM contributes significantly to the development and the existing performance of farm management in the Otway Ranges. All visited farmers participated in the MTG courses and learned farm management. For Gib and Gayl, the MTG training has helped them understand the nature of native forest and they applied the knowledge and skills gained from it. **Kristy and Hannah Stewart** – the fifth generation of **Yan Yan Gurt West Farm** also stated that Rowan has contributed to their existing agroforestry sustainable practices. The farm has been 20 years facilitating other farmers to learn in running farm tour programs. All the Otway farmers we met have been involved in running MTG courses and PGM programs. The participants learnt not only the contents of the MTG course, but also the process how it is conducted such as – class session, field observation, and practices. The MTG facilitators such as **Rowan, Mike** and **Andrew** have their own “teaching aids such as examples of timber... tools and others”. As a mentor, Mike explained that he has been working with his neighbours for free services and for other farmers through projects supported by the government. Mike has also been involved as an MTG facilitator and experience in Africa and other countries to run MTG course with Rowan Reid. Mike is more than happy to share his knowledge, skills and experiences with other farmers and he is not afraid of other farmers become his business competitors. Rowan explained and highlighted that MTG is not about training, although it does include some training. MTG is not a matter of what Government and
Industry needs, but the needs of the people. MTG facilitates the process to understand the needs of the government and industries, but the MTG focuses on how growing and managing trees can help meet the community’s needs.

Due to its success in promoting “sustainable farming” in the Otway Ranges, the MTG and PGM programs have been conducted all over Australia, but also in Asia Pacific regions and African countries. Learning from Claire as an MTG Course Coordinator, the MTG and PGM could perform well due to its management and good support. Claire explained that the Otway MTG training course is conducted in 8 sessions with the first 4 sessions usually conducted at Rowan, Andrew and other key persons’ farms in the network. Then, the final 4 sessions are conducted at the MTG participants’ properties. In all sessions the course is organised into two forms of learning, the morning session discussed about the concept and theories and afternoon session is on field work. The courses comply with participants’ conditions and conducted once a week. The MTG and PGM programs support and get funding from government and industries, and these programs belong to the Otway Agroforestry Network.

David as a mentor coordinator under the Otway Agroforestry Network also shared the lessons on the effective mentoring programs under the OAN Australia. The key criteria mentioned by David to be an effective mentor should be:

1. Having land and experiences in growing trees.
2. From local community
3. Having good communication skills
4. Being willing to share their experience to benefit others, and
5. Experience in attending MTG course

There is a “confidence” among “individuals” and “the communities” as they have been involved in “MTG trainings” and “Peer Mentoring”, that they can address some issues they faced, and they can achieve their goals in farming systems. Lessons learned on MTG courses in Australia are: the need for real examples to “show” the people the best management practices, and different farmers sharing their knowledge. Lessons learnt on F2FM and what can be done to improve the future F2FM in Indonesia: The importance of understanding the 5 criteria to select the right mentors.

Figure 4. Andrew’s Yan YanGurt West Farm
Under the support of the government and industries, the Otway Agroforestry Network (OAN) through its MTG and PGM Programs facilitated this diversity of farms and farmers to meet their objectives. Various trainings and mentoring works have been promoted in the Otway region. The success of MTG and PGM under the OAN has been attributed to its participatory mode in approaching farmers, working in the diversity, roles of facilitation, demonstration – real examples, showing the issues and success and not to teach, learning by doing, farm tours, farm visit by the mentors, knowing the local conditions well, doing innovative trials (Rowan, Mike, David, and others), and the social responsibility of the mentors such as Mike – willingness to share his knowledge and skills. The mentors have developed their capacity in technical knowledge (have good experience), communication skills, experience in attending MTG course, have their own land and practicing farms management, and living at the same area with farmers where they help.

3.4. Value Added Activities

The participants learnt value added and income generated activities by growing trees from Rowan’s Bambra Agroforestry, Yan Yan Gurt West Farm, and the Ballarat Furniture Company. These three sites provided examples how growing trees and adding values to the tree growers. The participants learned from Rowan that Shiitake mushrooms can be produced from the English Oak logs. One log can continue to produce shiitake mushroom every 4–6 months and the log can be used for up to 3 years until the sapwood consumed.

Yan Yan Gurt West Farm has facilitated another farmers’ learning through Farm Tours for the last 20 years. At this farm, the participants learnt that once the farm was well established (following its management plan developed in 1991), it could be used as a site for farm tours. The farm has been the place where other farmers and people come to learn about agroforestry management for food security, livestock production, addressing land degradation, biodiversity, and other purposes.

The visit to the Ballarat Furniture Company and the meeting with Peta (Manager/Owner) at the furniture show room provided the participants about the value adding activities. By producing the three dominant products such as (1) Dining tables – the most popular product, (2) Coffee table and TV desks – the company is good in this products, and (3) Bedroom furniture using used timber from demolished buildings, the industry has been running for 20 years and employed 6 persons in its workshop to serve the customers’ needs for contemporary furniture – most customers are over 40-years-old. The major sources of its wood are from and within Australia while the rest are from USA and Canada (account fort 20% of the wood used in this factory), and none from Indonesia. Most of its products go straight to the household customers – it is high-value household furniture. Even though it has modern machinery, the work mostly still undertaken by hand (manual) or hand made by skilled crafts/wood workers.
Shiitake mushroom at Rowan’s Farm
Farm tour at Yan Yangurt West Farm
Ballarat Contemporary Furniture

Figure 5. Value Added Activities from Growing Trees

4. Future MTG and F2FM

4.1. Working Beyond the Trees

On the basis of these results, the MTG and F2FM in Indonesia which have been effective in promoting small-farmers’ learning and farm management practices – limit to timber production, may need to consider those farms and farmers’ diversity which is also common in Indonesia, especially at those 5 CBCF sites and provinces. The process and the contents of MTG course and F2FM should be designed and developed to meet the diversity, and not only to limit its role in producing good quality timber, but also in producing other high-value crops, animal/livestock, promoting conservation and wildlife protection – following the farmers’ needs and objectives.

4.2. Operating and Serving the Diversity

In line with the local communities’ characteristics, and understanding the diversity of farmers’ needs and objectives, the Indonesian MTG and F2FM should serve these natures. The MTG and F2FM programs should pay attention to the farmers’ needs, objectives, and farming characteristics. This is what Claire explained as the second 4 sessions in the MTG courses conducted by the OAN, where the MTG participants move from one farm to another and understand the diversity. This may in line with Rowan’s statement that “MTG or F2FM is not a training and not for the government and industry, but that training is just one of the activities in the course”.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1. Conclusions

The study tour facilitated participants to learn more about MTG and F2FM. Both approaches operate and support the diversities of farming – on farm scale, farm management objectives, species of trees/crops/animals, and farming issues. Under the support of the government and industries, the Otway Agroforestry Network (OAN) through its MTG and F2FM Programs facilitate farmers to meet their own land management objectives.

The success of MTG and F2FM has been due to learning by doing approaches taken by the facilitators and mentors. Both models have developed farmer capacity in technical knowledge, communication skills, and facilitated farmers for practicing better tree and farm management as results of these approaches.

5.2. Recommendations

The MTG and F2FM in Indonesia have been effective in promoting small-farmers’ learning and farm management practices in timber production. However, the programs may need to take...
into account the diversity of farms and farmers’ which are also common in Indonesia, especially at those 5 CBCF sites and provinces. The process and the contents of MTG course and F2FM should be designed and developed to meet this diversity – following the farmers’ needs and objectives.

***
Appendices

1. Day One, Sunday: 15th September 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 15th</td>
<td>Departed from Soekamo Hatta Airport Jakarta at about 2:11 am with Garuda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2019</td>
<td>Indonesian Flight GA716 to Melbourne and arrived at about 11:30 am at</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Melbourne International Airport.Check in at Victoria Hotel – Melbourne.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>After getting clear orientation by Digby &amp; Rowan, and then the study tour</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>participants walked to Southbank Food Court for lunch. The participants then</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>walked and tour to Melbourne Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Aboriginal</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Galleries and ended up with dinner at Southbank Food Court.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stay overnight at Melbourne Victoria Hotel</td>
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1.1. Arrival and Study Tour Orientation

The study tour participants arrived at Melbourne on the 15th September 2019, and met Mr. Digby and Mr. Rowan at the airport, and then travelled to Melbourne City, and checked in at the Victoria Hotel – Melbourne. Once the participants got their rooms, they got study tour information and orientation and welcome speech from Mr. Digby and Mr. Rowan. The participants then walked to the Southbank Food Court for lunch and got the feeling of Melbourne City. As part of the whole study tour programs, the participants visited (1) Melbourne Botanical Garden and (2) Melbourne Aboriginal Art Gallery - 90 Bourke St, Melbourne VIC 3000, Australia. Both places are located at the left and right sides of Yara River – at the hearth of Melbourne City that also in a walking distance from the Victoria Hotel.

1.2. Visit to Melbourne Botanical Garden and Aboriginal Art Gallery

Lessons learned from visiting Melbourne Botanical Gardens and Melbourne Aboriginal Art Gallery are:

(1) Local Government doing something to maintain the public space and facilities such as this botanical garden where some tree species and wildlife are managed well; and

(2) The importance of preserving local community's practices and cultures as it is shown from the whole original and authentic arts and painting collections at the gallery.
2. **Day Two, Monday: 16th September 2019**

The second day of the study tour, Monday 16th September, the participants travel to Bambra Agroforestry Farm in the morning and joined the Bambra Agroforestry Farm Tour led by Rowan. After completing the field tour, the participants went back to the in-door presentation where Rowan, Mike and Andrew Stewart presented the review of MTG and PGM Approaches to Farmer Learning. The participants then checked in at the Countryside Cottages in the afternoon. Welcome Party and meeting Dr. Nora Devoe (ACIAR's Forestry Program Manager) in the evening at Rowan’s house.

### 2.1. Bambra Agroforestry Farm Tour

The farm tour at Rowan's Bamba Agroforestry Farm followed the following route:

1. An introduction to Bamba Agroforestry Farm - by Mr. Rowan Reid. He explained the history of the land back to 1960s and 1970s when the property was in a bad condition with limited trees, and highly eroded land. The family then started to establish and growing trees to improve the land that lead to the existing condition and performance – to become a learning centre for best agroforestry practices.

2. Following his explanation of the property, the participants were directed to visit timber sawmill and processing (using a small sawmill cost at about 250 millions) and timber drying area/complex. Rowan demonstrated how he and Australian farmers operate the machine and explained that farmers mostly need to work themselves as they have...
machines and equipments, while for many small Australian farmers it was too difficult and expensive to get paid labour for farm work.

(3) Timber drying plan was another point that was demonstrated and explained by Rowan – how it works, for how long, and what would be the quality. With this equipment, the timber is drying slowly for good quality, easier to be managed, more practical, and controlled temperature – Figure 7.

(4) Mr. Rowan facilitated the participants to move from one spot of trees to another and explained about the trees and their management – species, wood quality, and required management such as pruning and thinning. The participants learnt not only about the tree species and their management, but also how Rowan facilitated the learning through “Farm Tour”. Rowan also demonstrated how he used the pruning gauge, and how to prune, and what are the results. Through the tour, Rowan also showed the participants the weaknesses of some tree species in addressing soil erosion such as eucalyptus species for “Yellow Clay”. At this farm tour, the participants also learnt about the characteristics of poplar tree and its use (quite light – not heavy, but has more use), the tree species for shiitake mushroom (even though it lost its leaf, but still able to grow fast), and tree species or shrub or herbs that can be used for cooking – as they produce flavour and taste like chilli, mint and lemon grass. These tree species can give some profits if farmers planted them in their land.

2.2. Review of MTG and Peer Group Mentoring Approaches to Farmer Learning

Straight after the farm tour, Mr. Rowan, Mike Robinson-Koss and Andrew Stewart facilitated and shared with the participants the following points:

(1) The long history of Bambra Agroforestry Farm, changes from eroded land to more productive and profitable agroforestry system. It is now become the location for other farmers learning.

(2) Master TreeGrower training courses from the beginning until now, and the emergence of Peer Group Mentoring.

(3) They also shared their experiences on facilitating MTG training courses and of being a mentor.
3. Day Three, Tuesday: 17th September 2019

Three main visits were conducted on the third day of the study tour, namely:

3.1. Great Ocean Road and Wildlife Tour

It was a great chance to take the trip along the Great Ocean Road (GOR), the southern part of Victoria. The participants had a good chance to see government’s policy, programs and activities in for example coastal and landscape management. The Government has had a good regulation on waste management where the local government protecting the beaches from waste and rubbish and reminding what the people can and can’t do at the beach. On the hills along the Great Ocean Road the participants could observe how the government managing the public goods by covering the hill surface with plastic and or iron nets to stop the stone from falling down to the road that may cause accidents.

Traveling to the west along the GOR has also allowed participants to visit and observe how the Australian Government protects the wildlife such as koalas, cockatoos, and parrot. Penalties are applied to those break the rules on wildlife protection.

3.2. Forest Walk and Forest Tourism Management

The study tour participants had also chance to observe how the Australian government managing public goods such as the national park and rainforest. The participants took a forest walked and went into Otway Fly Treetop Adventures.

3.3. Visiting Rainforest and Redwoods

Lessons learned for today are:

(1) Sustainable national park management
(2) Coastal and waste management
(3) Learnt on forest fire experienced in the region in 2015, and what to do with eucalyptus tree species. Rowan also explained a funny thing where the urban communities provide

Figure 7. Bambra Agroforestry Farm Tour
seedlings due their lack of understanding of how the forest recovers from fire naturally.
The roles of local government to protect areas or forest that prone to forest fire.

(4) The participants learned that the government pay attention to the wild life such as Koala, parrot and Cockatoos.

(5) The participants also learnt that the cut trees and its rooted system may still have some role in supporting the growth and development of other surrounding trees as their root system are linkage each other's.

(6) Stop at the mountain ash and redwood forest. Participants stopped and got off the car to have a look at old mountain ash tree and Californian Redwood / Coast Redwood (Sequoia sempervirens). It is a conservation area and become a water catchment area – a clean water gets into river while the Californian redwood leaf falling on the ground and form a good forest cover or mulch.

(7) Forest walked and got into the tower – provided some inspiration on the roles of policies to promote ecotourism

Figure 8. Tour to Great Ocean Road and Wildlife
About 30 minutes up a meandering, gumtree lined road from Apollo Bay, the participants arrived at the Otway Fly Treetop Adventures. At Otway Fly Treetop Adventures the participants walked about 1.9 km, including the 600-metre-long steel structure that takes study tour participants up into the treetops at a gradual incline. It gives the participants a view into the branches of the gum trees and down into the tops of the tree ferns. Glance outward and see the forest as the birds must. The walk rises to 30 metres above the ground but for an even more spectacular view climb the spiral tower that reaches 47 metres and look down on the rainforest below.
4. Day Four, Wednesday: 18th September 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday 18th September 2019</th>
<th>Pk Rowan Bambra</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More tour and lessons from Pk Rowan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm tour at Yan Yan Gurt West farm</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm tour to Ian Farm for Black Angus Cattle and Blue Gum</td>
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The third day of the study tour has the following activities:

4.1. Learning More with Rowan on Tree Farm Management and Shiitake Mushroom Production

Joint the presentation, discussion and field practices at Rowan’s Farm up to lunch time. At Rowan place, the team learned the following subjects:

(1) Growing Shiitake *mushrooms* (*Lentinus edodes*) using *English Oak* (*Quercus robur*) log. The log that is good for shiitake mushroom production is the one that has “a wider sapwood” as it contains carbohydrate that is used by the trees to grow during the winter. Carbohydrate will be transformed into glucose that is useful for leaf growth. By this understanding, the English Oak trees are cut during this time to get the log with high carbohydrate which is good for shiitake mushroom production. The log is drilled in zigzag pattern and then put the mycelliumin. The log then placed in the water tub for 2 days, and place it on the tray, wait for another 4 days to allow the mushroom to grow. The harvesting time may up to 3 months. After 3 months, the log then is soaked again in the water tub for another 2 days and place it on the tray and after 4 days the shiitake mushroom could be harvested for another 3 months, and this could last for 4 years when the sapwood is run-out.

(2) Class presentation on timber management, doing pruning on California Redwood where Rowan also demonstrated the different tree performance due to pruning and thinning, and also different used of pruning tools such as different pruning knife, ladder, pruning gauge. Rowan also showed the participants the different growing level of every tree, showing the grass condition under the more density trees and low-density trees. This trial link to the trial that is going on at David Curry’s Trial for California Redwood.
4.2. Joint a Farm Tour at Yan Yan Gurt West Farm

Attending a filed visit to Yan Yan Gurt West Farm – with other conference participant, from class presentation by Cristine and Hannah, Rowan, and then followed by field visit to Yan Yan Gurt West Farm looking at tree growing and orchids, biodiversity and integrated farm development approach.

Figure 11. Andrew’s Yan Yan Gurt West Farm
4.3. Meeting, Discussion and Tour at Ian’s Farm

Visit and discussion with Ian, the owner of 200 ha farm land where the family managing Black Angus Cattle for both breeding and fattening, blue gum plantation, doing thing to address soil erosion, belong to Land Care Group and Otway Agroforestry Network.

Several key lessons learned during this day fourth are:

(1) Log could be used to promote income through Shiitake Mushroom cultivation. Drilling in zigzag, put in the mushroom cultivation room using plastic net, put the log into water tub for 2 days, then wait for 4 days to let the mushroom grow and develop, and then harvest, and then re-watering, and then production again – lasting for few years or about 4 years.

(2) Refreshing of the tree management – by doing and showing various pruning techniques and techniques from lower to higher trees at the California Redwood trees – it was a demonstration plot.

(3) Family farm management for future – legacy at Yan Yan Gurt West Farm show how farm can be managed well for environment, biodiversity, and income – ecotourism.

(4) Farmers are the one to make their own decisions on what to grow and how to grow trees on their farms – as it is done by Andrew and Ian (growing trees and orchids, doing pruning or self-pruning, more on cattle and lamb and not on timber and wool).

(5) Roles of land care groups, and Otway Agroforestry Network, and government in promoting changes and addressing issues on land erosion, and pollutions control by growing trees and solar water pump.

(6) Farmer and private company partnership for timber plantation, rotation for 15 year for 3 times production of blue gum tress for high quality pulp/paper

5. Day Five, Thursday: 19th September 2019

| Thursday 19th September 2019 | Farm visits to (1) Claire and James Dennis – 1800 ha property, (2) Nursery industry – Otway Greening (Mike RK), (3) David Curry’s farm discussion on the roles of the Otway Agroforestry Network (OAN) on Peer Group Mentors and its roles in land conservation |

The visits were conducted to 3 farmers, namely:

(1) Claire and James Dennis’s family farm who managing 1800 ha land that focused their business on lamb and wool production, and crops such as wheat. With 3 children, the
couple are supported by their eldest child in running the business. They also contracted crop specialist to do cropping and also occasionally employed veterinarian. They also planted trees for shelter to protect their crops and animals from heat and cool weather and wind. Claire managed 9000 sheep for lamb and wool production. The price of lamb was about AUD.120 per head – in September 2019.

(2) The second visit was conducted to Mike Edwards whom is doing nursery business with his wife Wendy. He has managed the business for 25 years in his 18 ha of land. He is also a professional mentor for the Otway Agroforestry Network.

(3) The third visit was conducted to David who is managing 48 ha land with timber as his core business. He showed the participants how he addressed erosion issues that happened to his property by planting different species of trees. He is also doing a second plot of “Californian Redwood” to see its ability in conservation – addressing erosion and its profitability.

5.1. Visiting Claire and James Dennis’ Farm

Claire and James managing an 1800 ha property. Even though most of the works are done by this couple, Claire and James employ agronomist and veterinarian to support their farming and livestock business through contracts.

At the moment, Claire and James’ business is mostly focused on sheep for wool and for lamb, but they also grow crops such as wheat. While driving along the property, Claire explained about her farm that originally has no trees, and naturally it was a grass land on volcanic rock. Claire said that the main reason for planting trees is for shelter for crops, animal and the family. Claire pointed out from the car while driving and said, “There is a creek over here and only have fresh water wet land and swap...have the water during the winter and spring time.”

Claire explained that her son also helps them in managing the farms (quite most wet land), and some works are contracted works. She stated “we can not do all the works”.

During the discussion, James explained about his total numbers of sheep that they have about “cross bread 15.000, and nearly the same number of merinos and probably about 1000 young......and in total about 9.000sheep – for both wool and lamb.

![Figure 13. Visiting Claire and James's Farm](image)

Claire explained that as an MTG coordinator, the MTG course is managed in 8 sessions where the first 4 main sessions is conducted at Rowan, Yan Yan Gurt West Farm and others, while the other 4 sessions are conducted at the participants’ farms – to understand some different need for trees and crops.
5.2. Visiting Mike and Wendy Robinson-Koss’s Farm

Mike and Wendy managed a seedling business and 18 ha farming land. This couple have been running the seedling business for 25 years and are also growing some trees for timber, conservation and foods. At the visit, Mike and his wife Wendy show the participants on the following points:

(1) Seedling business, from collecting seeds using different cotton bags, sortation, planting with some treatments, germination, and planting the seedling into polybags. He has used central watering tools and control.

(2) Mike also growing some fruits, food crops, and orchids in his backyard for his own consumption. We also learned how Mike producing 4 different species of apple from an apple tree.

(3) As a mentor, Mike explained that he has been working with his neighbours for free services and for other farmers through projects supported by the government. Mike has also involved as an MTG facilitator and experienced to Africa and other countries to run MTG courses with Rowan Reid.

(4) Mike is more than happy to share his knowledge, skills and experiences to other farmers and he is not afraid of other farmers become his business competitors.

![Figure 14. Mike and Wendy Robinson-Koss’s Farm](image)

5.3. Visiting David Curry’s Farm

David Curry is an agroforestry farmer who is managing 48 ha farming land. His father was a forestry entomologist – specialise insect, was born in (South) Africa. David is a member of the Otway Agroforestry Network, and he is the Mentor Coordinator. David explained that the land was originally managed as a dairy farm, highly eroded with no trees. The idea when he purchased the land was to address the land erosion and how to grow timber for commercial purposes. On his 48 ha land he grows trees and managing grass with few cattle. David showed the participants how he addresses issues of land erosion and land conservation. The all 3 blocks of his land have the problems of “moving down” due to the lack of trees to protect the land. At David’s farm the study tour participants learnt the following points:

(1) Certain tree species have been planted to stop the erosion at the creek – using river oaks, but it did not work well, and then he took the trees out and changes with other tree species;

(2) Different tree species have different root system and contribute differently in addressing soil erosion. David planted 3 rows of three different tree species to stop the erosions with additional native shrubs. At the first row he planted Eucalypts due to its characteristic in absorb more water, the second row planted River Sheoak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*) that has an extensive root system, and the third row planted with...
Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) to stop the eroded soil. David also grows indigenous shrub species at the creek, and put the pruning waste into the creek;

(3) Learning on proper management of trees for timber production. David and Rowan showed the participant the “bark marking technique” as a thinning technique that allow the stem not to fall and rot on the ground (with the conventional thinning, once the stem is cut, then it falls down on the ground and decays making it unsuitable for firewood). As a result, the stem become a good quality firewood;

(4) As a mentor who helps other farmers, David is doing a trial for Californian redwood. This trial is also related to Rowan’s trial so prove the quality and its roles in land conservation; and

(5) David shared with the participants how the OAN recruited mentors using the 5 criteria such as that a mentor should has his or her own land, practicing tree and farm management himself, from and living in the same community, have good communication skills, and have been trained in the MTG training course.

![Figure 15. David Curry’s Farm](image)

The key lessons learned from these 3 visits are as follows:

(1) Learnt more on MTG and F2FM from the 3 farmers, where Claire is the MTG course coordinator, Mike as nursery business, and David as a mentor coordinator under the Oat Way Agroforestry Network. Claire explained that the MTG training course is conducted in 8 sessions where the first 4 sessions usually conducted at Rowan, Andrew (Yan Yan Gurt West Farm), and other members’ property, and the other 4 sessions are conducted at the MTG participants’ property. In all session the course is organised into two form of learning, the morning session discussed about the concept and theories and afternoon session is on field work. The course complies with participants conditions and conducted in once a week.

(2) Claire is a member of the Otway Agroforestry Network and she is a coordinator of MTG course, Mike is a mentor with high commitment to help other farmers in his surrounding area and even to other farmers living far from his place. He is doing the mentoring roles for both paid and unpaid works.

(3) All farmers visited in this tour are doing land conservation by growing trees, biodiversity, and producing seedlings.

(4) Different farmers have different core businesses, where Claire and James focused on lamb and wool production and crop as well (wheat), Mike on nursery business, and David on timber production. At David, the team learnt how to address erosion issues by
growing different tree species such as eucalyptus (ability to absorb water), California redwood with good rooting system, and Pinus with its ability to keep the eroded soil.

(5) The mentors and the MTG courses have been done through an organisation such as Oat Way Agroforestry Network, where there are coordinators for MTG course and mentor work. The organisation applies for funding to the government as well as private sectors to do capacity building for the farmers in its area. At the OAN, the member pays fee AUD. 66.00 per year.

(6) All farmers consider growing trees as shelter, conservation, profits, and others.

6. Day Six, Friday: 20th September 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday 20th September 2019</th>
<th>Ballarat (mosque at 116 Ellsworth St E, Canadian VIC, 3350)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Travel to Ballarat and arrived at Abu Bakr As-Siddig Mosque for Jum'at pray (11:30 – 1:00), then visited Ballarat Furniture Company (see <a href="https://www.ballaratfurniturecompany.com.au/index.html">https://www.ballaratfurniturecompany.com.au/index.html</a>). Lunch at Chinese Restaurant, and travel to Ballarat Zoo up to 03.00 pm, and check in at Ballarat Mercure Hotel</td>
<td>Ballarat (mosque at 116 Ellsworth St E, Canadian VIC, 3350)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wrap-up session at Mercure Hotel – Ballarat</td>
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6.1. Visit to Ballarat Furniture Company

Started from Bambra area to Ballarat to visit the **Ballarat Furniture Company** and met **Peta** (Manager/Owner) at the furniture show room. The furniture is made from “used wood and timber” to create contemporary furniture which has high and valuable prices. Major sources of its wood are from outside and within Australia. There are some from USA and Canada that account about 20% of the wood used in this factory. Most of its products go straight to the household customers – it is high-value household furniture.

The furniture company employs 6 persons in its workshop, and they work for only one product/job at a time. 50% used timbers – from building demolitions. Another 50% from grown timber from Tasmania, West Australia and others. Most customers want the products that strong and hard, and no needs for more works. Some sources from USA and Canada.

Even though it has modern machinery, the work mostly still manual by hand or **handmade**. No timbers are imported from Indonesia. It has been 20 years and it’s enough to keep the 6 employee busiest.

The three dominant products from this furniture company are: (1) **Dining tables** – the most popular product, (2) **Coffee table and TV desks** – the company is good in these products, and (3) **Bedroom furniture’s**. The industry does not work well for small furniture’s such as accessories boxes. The customers of this industry are mostly those people over 40 years plus of age and have preference on contemporary furniture – see Figure 12.
6.2. Wrap-Up Session at Mercure Hotel, Ballarat

A wrap-up session was conducted at the meeting room of Mercure Hotel – Ballarat, 5.00 – 6.00 pm. The 3 main points discussed in this session are as follows:

(1) The word “Diversity” could be used to represent the whole study tour topics to represent the diversity in (i) farming system – food crops, cattle, sheep & tree production, (ii) farm management objectives – conservation, production/profits, shelter, and soil/land protection, and wild life/biodiversity, (iii) scale – small scale such as Mike and Wendy, and large farming system such as Claire and James, (iv) species of crops, tress and others – natives and exotics, and (iv) issues such as land, sheep, cattle........trees for shelter, wind breaking, etc.

(2) There is a “Confidence” among “Individuals” and “the communities” as they have been involved in “MTG trainings” and “Peer Mentoring”, that they can address some issues they faced, and they can achieve their goals in farming system. Lessons learned on MTG course in Australia are: the need for real examples to “show” the people for the best management practices, not just timber, and different farmers sharing their knowledge. Lessons learnt on F2FM and what can be done to improve the future F2FM in Indonesia: The importance of understanding the 5 criteria to select the right mentors, the work of mentors by “showing” and not teaching, knowing local conditions, and using good experiences.

Rowan explained that with the diversity of many things between Australia and Indonesia, he highlighted two things:

(1) MTG is not about the training, but in it there is a training component.
MTG is not a matter of what Government and Industry needs, but the needs of the people. MTG facilitate the process to understand the needs of the government and industries, but the MTG facilitates how the local communities meet their needs.

Prepared a report and submitted by the end of September – 3 pages please. The following participants should write the report: Muktasam, Kadir, Devi, Silvi, Sugeng, Eni – in Bahasa and submitted to Muktasam.
7. Day Seven, Saturday: 21st September 2019

| Saturday 21st September 2019 | Visit to Gib Wettenhall & Gayl Morrow’s Native forest to learn native forest management, timber harvesting and use (Gib Wettenhall) – 09.00 – 11.00 am, and then to Victoria Market – Melbourne (lunch and dinner at Melbourne City). |

7.1. Visit to Private Owned Native Forest – Gib Wettenhall and Gayl Morrow

Visit to Gib\(^2\) helped the participants learn about the private native forest management (Joint the MTG course in 1994; managing 35 acres or 14.175 ha). Gib & Gayl’s property has been the first and the final native forest that exist and managed at the altitude of 700 m above sea level. It is the upper stream of Murray River. According to Gib, the forest was cleared during the gold rush in 18th century and there 3 main tree species native vegetations such as *Eucalyptus radiata* (the main species), blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), white gum and other tree species regrowth naturally with high dense population. Gib did thinning to reduce the numbers of the trees and use the timber for his own needs to construction. According to him, his participation in the MTG course has helped him in managing the native forest – as he applied thinning in his forest.

The Australian government is strictly applied regulation to stop the cutting of native forest for commercial purposes, and it is also applied to Gib and Gayl’s native forest. In summary, this visit allows the participants to learn the following points:

1. Native forest management in Australia – the forest was very dense, and no grass, no sun or sky. And learned from the MTG and measured the trees, and it was 22.0 cm, and then I have to clear in all direction 5 m. Once I did it, then the grass grows again, and wildlife come back, native orchids grow. At the beginning it was about 1000 stems per ha, and now about 500 stems per ha, and it is likely to cut it down up 250 stems per ha. the owner may need to do silvicultural management such as thinning and pruning and may harvest it for a certain number of trees, but not for commercial purposes.

2. There is also blackwood timber and also growing naturally, and it’s like a natural *weed*, native bushes and flowering plants, many kangaroo in this forest.

3. Melbourne University contributed to the management of this native forest – according to Pak Gib.

4. The forest has been harvested for 3 times, but now it becomes hard. To cut private own native forest, the owners need to get government permit (if you want to cut for commercial or to make money) and mostly for personal use such as construction and firewood. “You can do for non-commercial thinning”.

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\(^2\)Stay at 110 km from Melbourne city. Gib is an award-winning author and has written a series of books on cultural landscapes and Indigenous history. He is the editor of Australian Forest Grower magazine and the treasurer of Ballarat Region Treegrowers. He is the publications officer for central Victoria’s 300km long Great Dividing Trail and president of the Mollongghip Community Hall in the rural settlement where he lives. A lawyer and journalist by training, Gib has previously acted as news editor of The Melbourne Times, managed co-operative programs for the Ministry of Housing and was business manager for the Commission for the Future.’ (https://wettenhall.org.au/about/the-team/)
(5) Most sawmill got log from native forest, but due to limited permit to cut native forest, most sawmill have been closed (from 50 sawmill and to just 1).

(6) Gib tried to harvest 40 m³ timber, and it was hard to sell it as the people got cheaper timber from the government's forests, and he tried to split into 20 m³ and used it for house construction – “for the skeleton, and floor...all mismatched...all useful timber”.

(7) In a long time ago...this area here was a volcano...and created fertile land. All the forest was above the larva.

(8) Gib is one of the MTG participants and learned forest management from the MTG training course facilitated by the Otway Agroforestry Network.

Figure 17. Native Forest Management at Gib and Gayl's Forest

7.2. Visit to Victoria Market – City Tour

3 Mollongghip is a small Victorian Rural Location within the local government area of Hepburn, it is located approximately 90kms from the capital Melbourne covering an area of 22.625 square kilometres. Mollongghip has a recorded population of 89 residents and is within the Australian Eastern Daylight Time zone Australia/Melbourne.
8. **Day Eight, Sunday: 22nd September 2019**

| Sunday 22nd September 2019 | Departed from Victoria Hotel at 09.00 am to Melbourne International Airport. Departed from Melbourne International Airport 1:30 pm with Garuda Flight GA 717 to Jakarta and arrived at Soekarno Hatta Airport at 05.45 pm. All study tour participants checked in at Ibis Hotel around the airport. |

9. **Day Nine, 23rd September 2019**

| Monday 23rd September 2019 | All study tour participants checked in at Ibis Hotel–Bandara except Jakarta Makassar Team who took the flight to Makassar at about 10.00 pm, while Pk Rahing just stop-over in Jakarta for two days to visit his family. The team took the flight on the 25th early morning to Semarang, Yogyakarta dan Lombok |

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