

**Interview by Jemma Purdey with Mansur, Mataram, UNRAM, 6 August 2014**

**PhD, Agricultural Science, Adelaide University, 1983-88**



[00:01:53]	Originally from a remote village, called Rinsing, in southeast Lombok. His father was an Islamic leader, educated in Mecca, and was the first village head. He died in 1984. Pak Mansur's mother was illiterate, had no education, but could read the Koran perfectly. Pak Mansur was born in 1951, went to primary school in the village, to Selong for two years of high school and then Mataram to finish high school. In 1967 he went to what was the only senior high school on the island at that time and finished in 1970. Then did a bachelor degree at the University of Mataram (Unram) from 1971 to 1974. In 1975 he went to Gajah Mada University (UGM) to do an engineering degree, finished in 1978 and came home to Lombok.	Family background; childhood; education
[00:04:27]	Did agronomy at Unram and soil science at UGM, graduating cum laude. His father sold a piece of land to put him through his second degree. Had 24 brothers and sisters from different mothers, he was the fifth. The first brother went to Syarif Hidayatullah in Jakarta and became an Islamic teacher. Pak Mansur's parents wanted him to follow but his brother disagreed and so his father decided he would go to state school.	Undergraduate education; family
[00:08:56]	The second brother didn't want to go to school but ended up becoming a schoolteacher. The third child was a girl and got married when she was very young. The fourth, also a girl, died as a child. The oldest was from one mother, the next eight children were from the second wife, then six from the third wife and so on. There were 27 children but three died. Pak Mansur's father was very strict.	Family and education
[00:11:17]	After coming home from Jogja, Pak Mansur worked for three years, teaching and doing research	Early career; leadership; Australian scholarship

	<p>in the faculty of agriculture at the Unram. He became the vice dean of student affairs. In 1981 he got a scholarship to the Philippines to do a master's but on going to Jakarta to get his travel documents someone at the Ministry of Education insisted he should go back to Mataram and apply to go to Australia. In 1982 AIDAB sent him to Jakarta to do an English course with the British Council.</p>	<p>AIDAB; pre-departure training</p>
[00:15:17]	<p>Pak Mansur had decided to study in the Philippines because his professor had encouraged him to study overseas and that came up and he got it. After doing the English course he came home but didn't get an acceptance letter until March 1983. At Easter he went to Sydney and did an English course for two months. It was a good time with other international students, lived in a boarding house in Piermont with two other Indonesian students: Kusmayanto Kadiman the former Minister for Research and Technology and [? Bahri Umar Srinagar], now a professor at Atma Jaya in Jakarta.</p>	<p>Opportunities to study overseas; Arriving in Australia; English language preparation</p>
[00:18:03]	<p>Arrived in Sydney during the Easter holidays, everything was closed and he didn't have warm enough clothes for the cold weather. Went to Adelaide Uni in July 1983. (It was still the Colombo Plan but organised by AIDAB.) It was hard at first, no family. He was married and had had three children by this time, the eldest was five, the second had died when he was a baby and the third was less than one year old. Had to attend lectures and seminars for a year, qualification period, and write a report for each seminar. And it was winter. He and a friend boarded with an old lady, Mrs Gladys, in Unley. The house was an old, stone house, very cold. They cooked chops and rice for themselves.</p>	<p>Arriving in Australia; Adelaide University; Family; Studying in Australia; Living in Australia; climate; boarding; food</p>
[00:22:28]	<p>It was very difficult, sitting with young undergraduates in lectures in English, and he decided to go home to Indonesia. But his Professor, Malcolm Oades, and AIDAB supervisor didn't want him to go and tried to accommodate him, told him to take a break from the lectures. Their consideration made him change his mind, so he stayed and continued classes.</p>	<p>Studying in Australia; challenges; supervisor</p>
[00:27:10]	<p>A visiting fellow from Aberdeen in the UK came and invited Pak Mansur to work with him. Within two months they produced a paper and that gave him confidence. The research project was about non-wetting sands, water-repellant soil. He worked on the project for a year. Then Dr Max Tate, an agricultural biochemist, offered to be his supervisor</p>	<p>Studying in Australia; research collaboration; other scholarship opportunities</p>

	and Professor Oades arranged a scholarship, through the Australian Wool Corporation, for Pak Mansur to do a PhD instead of the MA.	
[00:33:40]	Pak Mansur's wife arrived in December 1983 with their two daughters. Their second son was born in September 1984 in the Queen Victoria Hospital. The PhD was also about non-wetting sand, which affected the wool industry because if grass won't grow there's nothing for the sheep to eat. The department bought a very sophisticated machine for the project and the wool corporation supplied Pak Mansur with whatever he needed. He did field work in Murray Bridge and the Eyre Peninsula. Submitted his thesis in July 1988 and went home. Had not been back during the five years he was in Australia.	Family living in Australia; Research topic; fieldwork experience
[00:36:57]	The elder daughter went to school in Australia from Year 1 to Year 5. A few years ago Pak Mansur and his daughter were invited to speak at the Australian Embassy. She speaks English well and is a psychologist now. The younger daughter is doing her doctorate in pharmacy in Surabaya and the son is doing engineering, also in Surabaya. None of the children have been back to Australia.	Returning to Indonesia; Family; Ongoing connections with Australia
[00:40:55]	On returning from Australia Pak Mansur resumed lecturing at Unram. In 1989 he started an Australian project. In 1992 became Dean of Agricultural Science. In 1994 became Vice Rector of academics and in 2001 became Rector. He was the second staff member with a PhD and the first from an Australian university. The Indonesia–Australia Eastern Universities Project (IAEUP) provided small grants to develop basic sciences, agricultural science and English language with three universities: Udayana, Mataram and Nusa Tenggara in Kupang. Five other universities (Brawijaya, Gaja Mada, ITB (Bandung Institute of Technology), IPB (Bogor Agricultural University) and Hasanuddin) provide resources such as advisers and internships. The project ran from 1992 to 1997. Australian universities were indirectly involved if staff could come to Indonesia as short-term advisors.	Returning to Indonesia; Collaboration with Australian researchers; Leadership; Networks – national and international
[00:45:57]	The Australian project also provided funds for equipment. As the only Australian alumnus at Unram, Pak Mansur was the logical person to lead the project. The project was extended for three years with Indonesian government funding. Part of the project was to encourage staff to study in Australia and become skilled at a higher level. The project focussed on the faculties of agriculture,	

	animal science, basic science and English because they were areas that had been identified as weak but with potential to be improved.	
[00:50:35]	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) funded three big projects from 1999 to 2005 in the areas of climate, soil management and combined climate and soil management La Trobe University and the Queensland Department of Primary Industry. One of Pak Mansur's classmates, Blair McKenzie, from Adelaide was a lecturer at La Trobe and they developed the project together by email and applied to ACIAR for funding. The project contributed to Unram's Research Centre for Water Resources and Agroclimate being set up.	Research collaboration with Australia; Connections with Australia
[00:54:37]	Pak Mansur is still collaborating with the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and with Indonesian government departments as well as universities. While the project was running Indonesian members visited Australia every year to present their findings and the project was emulated in other countries. Field sites were in Central Lombok. The water conserving agrometer practices they developed are now internationally recognised. In 2010 the Australian Embassy invited Pak Mansur to nominate for an alumnus award. He nominated for the education section and was one of three finalists.	Collaborations with Australia – government and universities; Alumni network
[00:59:00]	The Embassy send email newsletters. Pak Mansur met Don Aspinall at Adelaide and tutored his son, Ed, for his HSC Indonesian. In Adelaide, Pak Mansur was a board member of the Australian Indonesian Association (AIA). They organised Independence Day celebrations. There was a good Indonesian community in Adelaide. The Indonesian Students Association of Australia (PIIA) was established in 1986 and Pak Mansur was the first President of the Adelaide branch. He was also a member of COP (Committee of Presidents), a group of presidents of international student associations who met together.	Alumni network; Friendships; Indonesian community in Adelaide; Living in Adelaide
[01:03:23]	Moved three times, from Parkside to Unley and back to Parkside. The children made friends, his oldest daughter is still in touch with Australian friends. There were some social problems in the area after a lot of Vietnamese migrants moved in. And political tensions sometimes but as president of the PPIA and a member of AIA and COP he could work with the Indonesian consulate and improve communication.	Living in Adelaide; Ongoing connections with Australia; Networks in Adelaide

[01:06:22]	Pak Mansur has visited Adelaide many times, visiting friends. [Discussion about mutual friend at Flinders University, Anton Lucas.]	Ongoing connections; Friendships with Australians
[01:09:51]	END	