

FINAL REPORT

Objective of the visit

1. To attend the 21st International Congress of Entomology Conference and present a paper on beneficial insects conservation and development of IPM in cotton in Australia.
2. To interact and have discussion with scientists working in the same area of research to gain further knowledge in the area of beneficial insect conservation and IPM.

Background of the visit

The cotton industry is a significant production of export income for Australia, but the industry currently relies heavily on synthetic insecticides to sustain production. Over-reliance on insecticides and associated resistance in *Helicoverpa* spp., disruption of beneficial insects and environmental consequences threatens the sustainability of the cotton industry. Currently there is a strong push by the industry to adopt integrated pest management (IPM) program to reduce synthetic insecticide use. The International Congress of Entomology Conference is a gathering of Entomologists around the world for symposia in all the research areas in entomology. It is held every four years and serve as a forum where entomologists interact with each other and have discussions in topics in all specialist areas in entomology. Renowned entomologists who are world leaders in their areas of specialisation are invited by the organisers of the congress to lecture on selected topics in entomology in plenary sessions. Plenary lectures are usually followed with detail discussions to enable participants to learn more about their area of research. It is therefore crucial, depending on availability of funding, that entomologist attend the congress to upgrade their research knowledge and interact with colleagues working the same area of research.