

Feed the Future: Innovation Lab for Integrated Pest Management Trip Report

Country(s) Visited: South Africa

Dates of Travel: 28th August 2016 - 10th September 2016

Travelers' Names and Affiliations: Winnie Nunda, Invasive species assistant CABI.

Purpose of Trip: Attend a short course training on biological control of weeds in Rhodes University and practical training in biological control of *Parthenium hysterophorus* at ARC-PPRI

Sites Visited: Rhodes University- Grahamstown, ARC-PPRI Weed Division Cedara-Pietermaritzburg

Description of Activities/Observations:

The primary objective of the trip was to attend a short course on weed biological control and to visit biocontrol field research facilities to gain essential skills in invasive species management, especially that of *Parthenium hysterophorus*. The week long short course at Rhodes University comprised of structured lectures and classroom activities by distinguished weed science experts from South Africa, coupled with field trips for hands on learning experiences on weed identification and impacts of control (See <https://www.ru.ac.za/biologicalcontrolresearchgroup/weedshortcourses/courseschedule/>). The course ended with a seminar presentation of a mini-project designed during the course work period as well as a research write-up submitted to the institution. The coursework provided me with an opportunity to receive valuable knowledge on weed ecology, biological control principles and policies/regulations, understanding agent biology, host specificity testing and mass rearing techniques. This training provided me with valuable insights into IAS management – an extremely valuable capacity development exercise. The experience gained will help me in my capacity within CABI, and the project, to assist in offering guidance and advice to partners we are involved with in implementing project activities and meeting our targets.

At the ARC-PPRI research station at Cedara, I received hands on training on processes involved with obtaining biological control agents from source countries, host range testing, mass rearing, pre- and post-release evaluations and other activities associated with biological control. The research experts, such as Lorraine Strathie, offered training on plant production in nurseries for rearing of CBC agents, host range testing and field release techniques including monitoring for establishment of released agents especially for *Parthenium hysterophorus*. This was

very vital exposure on my part as I will be involved with setting up of the mass rearing unit for the *P. hysterophorus* biocontrol agents in Tanzania and Uganda

The mixture of training methods offered during the trip such as the simplified lectures from weed science experts, field trips to release sites and various research stations was well received. I highly appreciated the practical, hands-on sessions and networking opportunities with other participants.

Training Activities Conducted:

Program type (workshop, seminar, field day, short course, etc.)	Date	Number of Participants		Training Provider (US university, host country institution, etc.)	Training Objective
		Me n	Wome n		
5 day Short Course	29/08/16 -2/09/16	13	10	Rhodes University	Gain knowledge on fundamental principles governing biological control of invasive alien plants
Field/ research station visit	5/09/16- 9/09/16	2	1	ARC-PPRI- Cedara	Mass rearing of agents, host range testing, release of agents, etc. with a focus on <i>P.</i> <i>hysterophorus</i>

Suggestions, Recommendations, and/or Follow-up Items:

List of Contacts Made:

Name	Title/Organization	Contact Info (address, phone, email)
Lorraine Strathie	Project manager ARC-PPRI	StrathieL@arc.agric.za
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