

John Allwright Fellowship Workshop

*'...the interconnection that lies between us'*

The 'spirit' of the ACIAR John Allwright Fellowship, September 2014



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## The ACIAR John Allwright Fellows

September 2014



## Foreword

In the September 2014 ACIAR meeting of the ACIAR John Allwright Fellows yet again a warm and stimulating ‘spirit’ arose, as the Fellows worked together, laughed together, and learned about each other’s lives and ACIAR research projects. As they shared their insights both in the workshop itself and in their free living time together, they expressed their delight and surprise at meeting each other and the ACIAR staff. This ‘spirit’ of sharing their own professional and personal expertise as they learned about the work and the lives of their colleagues in other ACIAR projects across the developing world was again an unexpected outcome of the Canberra workshop for the Fellows. The importance of the relationships that flow from these networks came to be seen as the ‘spirit’ that underpins all ACIAR’s collaborative work to bring food and well-being to communities across the world.

As presenters in ACIAR JAF workshop meetings, we have again had our own spirits lifted by our meetings with the ACIAR JAF students and staff, both in person and in writing. We would like to thank the 2014 Fellows for sharing their ideas about the ACIAR workshop with us and with the ACIAR community. In the thoughts of the ACIAR Fellows collected here we can see again a deep appreciation of how agricultural research contributes to real-world outcomes, and the special ‘spirit’ of collegial relationships that ACIAR makes possible.

Kate Cadman and Margaret Cargill

November 2014



***‘eagerness and determination... open-handed, unselfish assistance’***

***by Dexter***

The one week meeting of JAF scholars in Canberra I could say was one of the most memorable experiences in our stay in Australia as a student. The whole session was full of ideas that are very helpful and useful on how to successfully accomplish our degree. The network that has been created between participants will be the medium of exchanging knowledge that will be valuable in improving our research, hence helping to develop our countries particularly in the aspect of agriculture. The eagerness and determination of each JAF scholar to uplift and improve the agricultural status in our own countries and the open-handed, unselfish assistance and training provided by the ACIAR and Australian government is I think the true spirit of JAF.

***‘... closer, warmer ... relationships’***

***by Don***

The writing class was an unforgettable experience, not only through academic writing skills and peer relationship building. It occurred at an appropriate time for me personally because I had just finished my on-farm feeding trial and started to write my first scientific journal paper and literature review. My venerable professors, Margaret and Kate, provided essential and useful scientific writing skills for the students

with their professional attitude and enthusiasms. Apart from valuable lessons in the class, I had a great opportunity to meet and exchange culture, opinions and knowledge with the other participants who came



from other countries. We could join together conveniently and easily because most of us lived in the same apartments during the course. Furthermore, ACIAR project managers and the participants had a great chance to become more familiar to each other, to express their plan and strategies and to build closer, warmer current relationships. These knowledges and relationships are especially useful for me not only at this time but also for the rest of my life.

*'a rare opportunity...'*

*by Dorjee*

September 22, 2014 could not have been more auspicious and befitting for twenty two women and men from twelve countries for a weeklong congregation in Canberra, Australia's national capital. These women and men were the future agricultural research leaders and professionals, who would serve Mr. John Allwright's fellow farmers in their respective countries.

The weeklong workshop for the new John Allwright Fellowship awardees was more than just to build the research capabilities of these fellows. It provided a rare opportunity of knowing 12 ACIAR beneficiary countries and the key people who have been involved in these projects.



Day one provided a perfect platform for knowing more about ACIAR's current status quo and its vision to help transform agriculture in developing countries. For me, the highlight of the day was the

presentation of a fellow final year PhD student from Pakistan, Mr Muhammad Sohail Mazhar. His PhD journey was both mesmerizing and inspiring and yet at the end of his presentation, I was still trying to fathom how he could balance his time between family, studies and work.

The real business started from day two onwards with the scientific writing and presentation workshop by Dr Margaret Cargill and Dr Kate Cadman. All the sessions on these topics were well structured and the practical sessions helped me gain insights into scientific writing, particularly the western research system of investigating a research problem and thinking critically. The preparation of academic presentation on my research topic guided by Dr Kate helped me to define and refine my research questions. In particular, the 'stages' of introducing an argument on a research question were illuminating: Stage 1 (providing the importance of a problem to be reported); Stage 2 (laying the foundation of information already known); Stage 3 (defining a gap, an unsolved problem or research niche for the present study); Stage 4 (the purpose or objectives of the research study or its principal argument); Stage 5 (optional statements that give a value for carrying out the study), and; Stage 6 (a map of how the rest of the article or chapter is organised). These stages clearly complement my current research proposal, and comments by ACIAR officials and colleagues were also very useful in improving it.

The presence of Sharon in the entire workshop was reassuring of the care ACIAR has for its awardees. The hospitality, food and social gathering were excellent. All these experiences were made possible by the Australian government and the people of Australia. I remain ever grateful to Australia, for me one of the greatest nations on earth.

## ***‘... we can change the world from our tiny step’***

***by Dwiko***

It has been two weeks since attending the JAF meeting in Canberra. I am still remembering almost the whole step by step process from when Sharon first contacted me about the JAF meeting and the opportunity to meet Margaret and Kate and the other fellows from different countries. I was sure that even though I had attended many academic writing trainings before, there would be something different in this meeting. Yes, I met two inspiring lectures and especially for me, Kate provided me with social science research ideas in which I was still poor. So, the spirit of thorough understanding of the world and trans-disciplinary collaborative research between natural and social sciences was indeed manifested in this meeting.



Learning about ACIAR’s role in developing more sustainable agricultural development across the world is somehow inspiring me that we can change the world from our tiny step in our PhD journey. Yes, I was also not alone, and felt that the PhD journey is part of our

life; someone has successfully accomplished it, balancing life, family, and PhD. So why can’t I do so? This one-week-JAF meeting is one of my milestones to enter the scientific world as a researcher.

## ***‘a whole new experience... so much in just one week’***

***by Emma***

The one week workshop was such a wonderful experience for me. I not only learnt a lot of new things in the writing workshop but I also had the opportunity to meet wonderful people and make friends. It was great to see that after my presentation on Friday the JAF gentlemen made a real effort to help me and give me valuable hints on how to present well. I also learnt a lot from my discussions with the other participants. Being a Christian, it was a whole new experience to be sharing a room with a Muslim lady, and in addition I got to eat Halal food for the whole week. I am so glad to be able to experience so much in just one week.



## *'a fantastic day for me... to share the experience'*

*by Hieu*

In this paper I am interested in writing about what I could learn, and my reflection of the 2014 training workshop for students receiving scholarships from the John Allwright Fellowship (JAF) program of ACIAR. On the first day, in order to get to know each other in the introduction day of the John Allwright Fellowship meeting, I had good time to talk to the manager of my project in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam. Then I learned experience from previous students about studying and living in Australia. On this day, I also learned methods of writing a thesis from a lecturer in the Australian National University.

On the second day, this was a fantastic day for me because I met two excellent lecturers, Dr Kate Cadman and Dr Margaret Cargill, coming from the University of Adelaide. The first day of scientific writing and presentation, the two lecturers created an exciting class for us including getting to know the background information of all my friends in class, and we also learned how to select appropriate articles for writing and publishing. In addition, the lecturers helped us recognize the differences of different forms of article. Several parts of an article were focused on to teach us to recognize research problems, questions, and objectives. On the second day of training, we learned several skills, such as how to construct research questions and objectives, and we practised these skills based on the background information and data collected on the first day of training. On the final day of the scientific writing and presentation workshop, although I

have already learned presentation skills several times, this training has been still useful for me because I had a very good opportunity to share the experience of presentation with my friends. Several skills of presentation included good preparation, clear contents, making eye contact, good listening, good communication, and confidence. On the presentation day, this is a good day for me to share many main points of my thesis proposal. Moreover, I had a good time to learn from the questions and comments from the audience, especially ACIAR staff, who have good experiences in agricultural development in developing countries.

For the general reflection, I think that besides learning techniques and skills of writing and presentation, I also learned skills of English such as pronunciation and grammar. Additionally, I not only learned from our lecturers in this training course but also shared experiences with my friends, who come from many different countries and backgrounds. Due to this meeting, we also created new networks for exchanging information, and may be working together in the future. Besides my friends in this training course, I also had a good chance to meet and talk to the ACIAR staffs, whom I have never met before. Although the training workshop was organized in a short time, I think that all the techniques and skills I learned from this training workshop might very useful for me in developing my PhD thesis proposal, the PhD thesis itself, and my job. Therefore, I would like to send my thanks to my two lecturers, Dr Kate Cadman and Dr Margaret Cargill. And last but not least, I have special thanks to ACIAR, especially to Ms Sharon Harvey, who organized the fantastic training workshop for us.







***‘a chance to harvest... experience, perspective and knowledge’***

***by Hiswati***

I found that this week workshop was valuable for better understanding the expectation of research output in the western world, apart from easy-to-remember tips and the structures of different sections of a thesis. I am particularly grateful for being in Kate’s class, intensive guidance and exploring the different aspects, perspectives and approaches in doing research. Also, for having some time to make sure our presentation is delivered successfully, I think it’s thoughtful as we had different levels of limitation in expressing our thoughts and how to put them into structured words.



Although all of us were at different stages of our study, I think this workshop will be most beneficial for the second year students, as we

mostly had a rough idea of the research topic and how to conduct the project, so finding fine tunes to make it more logical and convincing.

To Kate, thank you so much for the support and thinking of other research with a similar approach (I keep going back and forth, checking the structure and the approach). You made me feel better alongside my ‘hard’ science peers. I wish you both a happy and healthy life, so more and more students will have a chance to harvest your experience, perspective and knowledge.



## '... still learning how to be a transformer'

by Khairul

To imitate something in Australia may be to give offence, but here I am going to do imitating and speak off others' words. "I want to change the world" – for transforming hunger into food security, sadness to peace and every negation into positivity. Though I have not known yet how absurd or real is my thinking, but that thinking very much seemed to be true when I got the news of my John Allwright Fellowship. I am now in the sophomore year of my PhD research course and can see where I am lagging behind as a clarion-caller for changing the world. But I am still learning how to be a transformer. To be the right one to



make positive changes in the world, I need to know the exact how-to to move forward my dream and to make it come true.

Learning by doing is a very effective process to acquire the things you want most strongly. The week I had from September 22 to September 27, 2014 was a detour, a lever to expedite my on-going learning

towards fulfillment and making others informed. I have learnt a plethora of critical science thinkings, of critical science reading and of

science writing. I can not ignore knowledge about science thinking, reading and writing.



I would like to thank ACIAR, Dr. Margaret Cargill and Dr. Kate Cadman for their efforts to explore my inadequacy and to accelerate the impulse I am always feeling from inside to carry forward change. The spirit and content of the arrangements was fabulous, and it is noteworthy that it was more than enough to supplement my knowledge and to be of synergistic use for the people of our own country, for Australia, and for the world. I, from my side, can swear to say, I will prove it.

Thanks again ACIAR, and all the people behind the vibrant campus of ACIAR, Dr. Nick Austin, Dr. Evan Christen, Ms Sharon Harvey, Dr. Dave, Dr. Kate and Dr. Margaret for all the supports and arrangements during the week.

**‘... both punched my mind!’**

**by Khamtan**

The JAF workshop which was organised by ACIAR in Canberra on 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014 produced fantastic advantages to JAF participants through learning from two excellent social scientists from the University of Adelaide and brought clear benefits among JAF’s scholars and ACIAR staff through the sharing of their experiences and their researches.

I personally greatly appreciate to be offered the chance to attend this workshop because I have now extended my previous thought and knowledge by sharing ideas and discussing issues, and I have developed my research proposal to be more comprehensive and explicitly described. There are three main points I gained from this workshop as following:

First, building a networking culture among JAF scholars and ACIAR staff is vital, and this week offered such a great way to be able to communicate and get to know each other well.

Another important thing is the opportunity that the workshop allowed all participants to share their ideas, their research proposals, research progress and students’ experience of doing a PhD. These all contribute a positive value to my current research in how I could be developed and learn from others.

Honestly, one thing that was also well recognized from this workshop

was the way of teaching and the materials provided by Dr. Kate and Dr. Margaret, the Social Scientists from the University of Adelaide. I really want to say this word – that both punched my mind! Because I could not even be sleepy while I was attending the class, which ran from morning until evening every day. They always expressed things very explicitly and clearly, making it vital to be aware of them and to follow all their sentences, which has helped to improve my current research.





## *'a sound introduction...'*

*by Mesfin*

First and foremost I would like to thank ACIAR for the invitation to the JAF meeting in Canberra. This meeting gave me a sound introduction to many of the key skills I need to perform well in my university studies. It helped me to develop my skills for most aspects of academic writing as well as for seminars, presentations and group work. On top of this, I had an opportunity to meet ACIAR staff, my ACIAR program manager and the JAF fellows, which created a foundation for future networking to advance my academic and professional career. For me, this type of gathering will also be very important if it is organized in the mid/late stage of our PhD study time as it is most importantly related to writing papers for journals and thesis writing skills.



## *'... came to know many things which I did not know before'*

*by Muneer*

First of all I would like to thank ACIAR for giving me a great opportunity to visit Canberra and to meet with ACIAR staff and with fellow students. Secondly, the workshops were really informative for my future research. I really came to know many things which I did not know before - these workshops will definitely help me in my PhD studies. In addition, the presentation skills workshop was really useful for my future studies. And lastly, for me all the other facilities which were provided for us during the week were highly appreciated.





***‘that special spice... that I want to bring home’***

***by Nascimento***

*There is an African saying that “When you spend all your life eating only your mother’s food, you learn to believe that it is the best food in the world, until the day you go out with an open mind and taste other people’s food.” The 2014 JAF Meeting in Canberra felt like the neighbours’ food and I loved it.*

I was invited to the 2013 JAF meeting but I missed it because it clashed with the start of the cropping season and I had to go back to Mozambique for my field work the week before. This year, despite having committed to Sharon in March that I would work out my schedule to make it to the 2014 JAF meeting, it took me a lot of exercise to squeeze the meeting into my schedule. After all the trouble I went through to make it to this meeting, I have to confess that the

22<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September 2014 week was one of the best weeks I have spent in Australia since the start of my PhD. The idea of gathering a small group of people in the same place and letting them interact with each other was unique and I have to congratulate ACIAR and specially Sharon for this initiative.

The good thing about the Canberra workshop is that it differed from the environments you get at conferences where there are plenty of people and we don’t get enough time to really talk to each other and forge the kind of relationships we started in Canberra. The JAF meeting was a unique opportunity for learning about what is happening around the world through the research of fellow JAF students and I am already plotting ways to collaborate with most of them, because most of the things they are doing can be useful in Mozambique: from the research in drought tolerant rice that Rithika (from India) is doing, to the research in wood science that Tan (from Laos) and Ratih (from Indonesia) are engaged in. The proximity we had with each other in Canberra was so unique that I found myself, an Agronomist, talking to Dexter, a marine biologist from the Philippines, about bringing him to study corals in Mozambique. There is wide room for collaboration which opened from this meeting and it would be silly not to explore it. The networking opportunity opened up by this meeting is that special spice that my mother always missed that makes the neighbours’ food different and so tasty that I want to bring the spice home and negotiate with my mom how we can start using it as well. This is how the Canberra workshop made me feel. For me the JAF meeting in Canberra opened a wide range of collaboration possibilities and I will do my best to capitalize on this opened door and to go through it.

## *'... how to make our story come 'alive'... and laugh a lot'*

*by Ratih*

Hi. My name is Ratih Damayanti. I am a PhD candidate in Wood Science at the University of Melbourne, Australia. In September 2014, I turned to the third year in my study. Then, on 23-26 September 2014 I attended a Scientific Writing and Presentation Workshop in Canberra, sponsored by ACIAR, the organisation giving me my scholarship for postgraduate study.

It was a very interesting and important workshop. Dr Margaret and Dr Kate facilitated it, and I do like the way they teach - very interactive, and so complementing each other. They gave us step by step techniques on how to report our research, both in writing and orally.



The workshop certainly does improve my skill in writing articles for publication because they taught from the very early stages: from drawing up a title to writing the result. They gave tips on how to make our story come 'alive'. They touched on trivial but important problems such as tenses and words choice to adjust sentence strength. Besides that, they were always concerned with our pronunciation. And there were some new things, but essential for me, that is: the 'take home message', and the quote 'Grammar is method'. This was so proved that it became really important. However, I especially liked the introduction session which made me laugh a lot. Students who are beginning their writing stage like me do need this workshop.





## *'... a window of opportunity'*

*by Ravinesh*

I would like to thank ACIAR for hosting a week-long JAF meeting in Canberra. We had a fabulous time meeting the other JAF colleagues from all over the world. In my experience, such a meeting creates an opportunity to meet people and experience different research disciplines and have an opportunity to share our own research with the ACIAR staff and our JAF colleagues. For the first time we also get to meet the ACIAR staff in person, whom we liaise with throughout our candidature and even before we arrived in Australia.



This gathering has also given us a window of opportunity to increase our networking with JAF researchers for the future. One of the setbacks of having such a gathering is that this meeting takes place only once, that is, at the beginning of the candidature.

This means that researchers present their research but do not have the opportunity to present their findings to the ACIAR staff and fellow colleagues after the completion of the study. I think having a second gathering would allow us to seek funding for future research through donors, and apply the principal findings from our research in our home countries. This would be a real bonus.



## **‘the right time for plantation to show our capabilities’**

**by Ritika**

Whenever I thought about the ACIAR meeting, a smile always parked on my lips and my heart filled with mixed feelings, starting bad, on that first day 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2014. I was excited to start my day early in the morning but God wants me to become tranquil by not putting everything in the right place. I missed my one and only one ‘Princess’ bus because it came three minutes earlier than the usual time, so my entrance became a hammer of disturbance on the introductory regime of all the early gate crackers called the “2014 JAF fellows”. But my feelings grow and grow:

I feel “proud” as, after meeting with the ACIAR officials, I realize the real worth of my trophy that I have received from ACIAR, and a strong bonding arises just because of the same university name.



I feel “awesome” after meeting with my class colleagues – Kate, Margaret, Sharon Harvey, Vu Dinh Huong, Nguyen Viet Don, Lemuel Preciados, Nascimento Nhantumbo, Risa Antari, Ravinesh Ram, Nguyen Dinh Quang Duy, Emma Kiup, Mesfin Dejene Ejigu, Khamtan Phonetip, Ratih Damayanti, Dexter Dela Cruz, Le Thanh Son, Nguyen Thai Thinh, Khairul Alam, Muneer Rehman, Dwiko Permadi, Hiswaty Hafid, Tshering Dorjii and Dorjii – as they all are from different lines of thinking but as I got chance to know more about them and their culture, I was shown the interconnection that lies between us at some point though with no visual distinctions. I learned to find the importance of saying ‘no’ otherwise it will be taken as consent: *qui tacet consentire*. It was all full of knowledge, given by these inducers of critical thinking, bringing confidence and a secret key for our success in future.



I feel “happy” to get my new name, “Tik Tak”, usually given by my best buddies. And now all because of Mr Le, we have a book called *JAF 2014 Spirits* enriched with unnoticed moments. We are like tulip flowers planted in Canberra 2014 and, as in the form of floriade, we got the right time for plantation to show our capabilities.

*'... always exciting ... very enriching'*

*by Tshering*

The annual John Allwright Fellowship (JAF) awardees' workshop was organized by ACIAR in Canberra from September 22 to 26, 2014. The main objectives of the workshop were firstly to orient the JAF awardees with ACIAR's mandate and activities, secondly to enhance the scientific writing and oral presentation skills of the JAF fellows, and thirdly to report the JAF fellows' research progress to date to the ACIAR staff. I had attended the JAF workshop in 2012 and it was very enriching. However, I was not able to fully apply the knowledge and skills that I had gained during the workshop as I did not have much data to work on. Now, that I have lots of data, I thought it would be a good idea to attend the JAF workshop again to refresh and further improve my scientific writing and presentation skills. In addition, I thought it would be a nice opportunity for networking with other JAF fellows. I then requested ACIAR if I could attend the workshop again and fortunately, I was invited.

The first day of any events is always exciting and JAF workshop for 2014 was no exception. I was excited to meet the other fellow JAF awardees and ACIAR staff. The other exciting thing was ACIAR

provided us some money to cover our expenses during the workshop and that I thought was very generous of ACIAR despite arranging everything for us. The day began with a talk by the CEO of ACIAR and it was very interesting and informative. It broadly touched on ACIAR's mandate, current activities and future plans. The CEO also mentioned about ACIAR's expectations of the JAF awardees; I wondered whether I could live up to these expectations.

The remaining part of the workshop was largely focussed on scientific writing and making oral presentations. Different methods of scientific writings were presented with examples. Some of the common mistakes made in scientific writing were highlighted, for example grammatical mistakes.

The tips on how to look for key information in journal articles were very useful. I thought this could help me find the key information in articles without having to read the entire journal article.

However, some more practical exercise on this would have been especially useful. With regard to making oral presentations, group work was carried out to find what made a good or bad presentation. Among all, a concise title, clear research objectives, brief materials and methods, clear results and a very strong take home message were identified as the main components of a good presentation. Based on these criteria, presentations were made to be presented to the ACIAR staff on the last day of the workshop.





On the presentation day, everyone was slightly nervous. However, I felt a little confident probably because I had done some presentations in the past. I began my presentation with confidence and I was conscious of what I was talking about. However, I got too engrossed with my presentation and I failed to notice the warning from the time keeper. No sooner had I finished presenting my third last slide, when the time keeper announced that my presentation time was up. I felt so embarrassed and didn't know what to do. Before I realised it, I was already negotiating with the time keeper to have another two more minutes to finish my slides. Although I continued with my presentation, I had to rush and was not able to convey my take home messages clearly. From this, I have learned: (i) not to be endeavour to live up to ACIAR's expectations.

over confident and ambitious to present everything in a short period of time; (ii) to prepare well before making any presentation; and (iii) to be mindful of the allocated time for the presentation. Feedbacks were provided to all the presenters and one of the feedbacks that I received, which I will never forget, was "When time is up, don't continue to present... immediately move to your take home message". Overall, the workshop was very enriching and a good learning experience. With the knowledge and experience that I have gained from the workshop, I can endeavour to live up to ACIAR's expectations.

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## List of contributors (in alphabetical order of the Fellow's chosen workshop name)

- Dexter** – Mr Dexter Dela Cruz is from the Philippines. He is studying for a PhD at Southern Cross University on coral reef restoration using mass larval reseedling.
- Don** – Mr Nguyen Viet Don is from Vietnam. He is studying for a Masters degree at the University of Tasmania on the comparative effects of flaxseed and canola oil supplements on the growth rate, fatty acid composition and meat quality of prime lambs.
- Dorjee** – Mr Dorjee is from Bhutan. He is studying at the University of Canberra for a PhD on the effectiveness of biosecurity measures to detect major threats to agriculture in the developing world, using Bhutan as a case study.
- Dwiko** – Mr Dwiko Budi Permadi is from Indonesia. He is studying for a PhD degree at the University of Western Australia conducting a socio-economic analysis of smallholders' adoption of forestry options in emerging forest transitions in Indonesia.
- Emma** – Ms Emma Kiup is from Papua New Guinea. She is studying for a Masters degree at James Cook University (Townsville Campus) on maximizing nutrient use and soil fertility in smallholder coffee and food garden systems in Papua New Guinea.
- Hieu** – Mr Hua Hong Hieu is from Vietnam. He is studying for a PhD degree at the Australian National University conducting an investigation of the potential of agricultural cooperative and farmer groups to promote effective adaptation to climate change in the Mekong Delta.
- Hiswati** – Ms Hiswaty Hafid is from Indonesia. She is studying for a PhD degree at the University of Sydney on governing sustainability and the restructuring of the Indonesian cocoa industry.
- Khairul** – Mr Md. Khairul Alam is from Bangladesh. He is studying for a PhD degree at Murdoch University on the assessment of soil carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation potential under conservation agriculture (CA) practices.
- Khamtan** – Mr Khamtan Phonetip is from Lao PDR. He is studying for a PhD degree at the University of Melbourne investigating an optimal design and drying method for plantation *E. Camaldulensis* using a solar kiln suitable to Laos' climatic conditions.
- Mesfin** – Mr Mesfin Dejene Ejigu is from Ethiopia. He is studying for a PhD at the University of Queensland on crop residues in small-holder crop-livestock systems and the availability, use, and variability of maize and legume genotypes for ruminants.
- Muneer** – Mr Muneer Rehman is from Pakistan. He is studying for a PhD degree at Curtin University on the regulation of citrus coloring by different plant growth regulators.
- Nascimento** – Mr Nascimento Nhantumbo is from Mozambique. He is studying for a PhD at the University of Queensland on crop residue management strategies for the nitrogen constrained, maize-based cropping systems of central Mozambique.

**Ratih** – Ms Ratih Damayanti is from Indonesia. She is studying for a PhD at the University of Melbourne on the wood quality of young fast grown plantation teak (*Tectona grandis* Linn. F) for high value products and related measures of crystallinity as a non-destructive indicator of wood properties.

**Ravinesh** – Mr Ravinesh Ram is from Fiji. He is studying for a PhD degree at James Cook University on the influence of processing techniques on the quality and nutritional composition of tropical sea cucumbers.

**Ritika** – Ms Ritika Chowdary is from India. She is studying for a PhD at the University of Sydney on the adaptation of wheat to earlier sowing in India to increase water use efficiency and yield.

**Tshering** – Mr Tshering Dorji is from Bhutan. He is studying for a PhD degree at the University of Sydney assessing the impacts of land use and land cover on soil organic carbon in relation to other environmental factors in montane ecosystems in Bhutan

## Thanks

And finally, '**Mr Photo**' – we would like to thank our photographer, Mr Le Thanh Son from Vietnam, who is studying for a PhD at the University of Newcastle on grafting to improve bitter melon production and quality.



