

K 2001.

Travel

23 MAR 2001

**Part 1 – Summary Project Details**

Application Financial Year: 2000/2001  
CRDC Project Number: ~~CSP85C~~ CSPI3IC.  
Travel Start Date: 11 Jan 20001 Cease Date: 17 Jan 2001  
Travel Destination: The IX<sup>th</sup> Plant and Animal Genome Conference in San Diego California USA  
CRDC Project Title: Development of genome specific markers for the Australian C, G, and K genomes and continuing development of intergenomic germplasm

**Part 2 – Project Contact Details**

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## Purpose of Travel

I was invited to present a summary of the research completed under CRDC grant CSP85C and continuing under CSP120C in the cotton workshop during the IX Plant and Animal genome conference (Jan 17-18 2001) in San Diego California. I also was asked, as one of the two Australian representatives to the steering committee of the International Cotton Genome Initiative (ICGI), to lead a discussion of this new initiative at the end of the Cotton Workshop at the conference. The International Cotton Genome Initiative arose from a cotton marker workshop organized by Greg Constable, funded by CRDC and CSD, and held at CSIRO Plant Industry March 2000. Additionally I presented a poster describing the first genetic linkage map of an Australian cotton species, and I was co-author on a second poster arising from a collaboration with US cotton researchers that developed out of the ICGI.

## Outcomes and Highlights

The invited presentation went very well, and I received some positive feedback. The poster was also successful. I provided 100 A4 copies of the poster for distribution and by the end of the meeting all of them were gone.

During the meeting I also met with my collaborators (Saha and two of his post-doctoral fellows) at Mississippi State University. We presented a joint poster at this meeting as well as the Beltwide meetings the previous week. Dr. Saha's group and our group are jointly working on mapping codominant markers in the CSIRO G genome mapping population. Dr. Saha brought me up to date on their progress and together we mapped out a plan for the following year. The codominant markers that Dr. Saha is mapping will contribute to the development of the G genome map.

A key outcome was the discussion of the ICGI at the end of the cotton workshop. CSIRO Plant Industry feel that this initiative is an important and productive development in cotton genomics research. The ICGI widens the scope of our international collaborations and allows CSIRO Plant Industry to participate in directing the focus of cotton genomics research on an international level. A wide range of researchers and industry representatives participated. The level of enthusiasm for this initiative is clearly increasing. The discussion at the workshop focused on the need to bring all the interested parties together in a workshop specifically designed to transform the ICGI into a more formal and well-organized entity. Previous discussions have only occurred in the context of other meetings and competing interests have made it difficult to make progress. In the subsequent months, this organizational workshop has become a reality. June 5-7 the ICGI steering committee has invited key cotton genomics researchers and government and industrial parties with a clear interest in cotton genomics to a workshop hosted by CIRAD in Montpellier France. Industry and U. S. government partners have promised US\$32,000 to fund the travel of researchers. A letter more fully describing the ICGI, the purpose of the June Montpellier workshop, and inviting the CRDC to participate has been sent directly to Ralph Schulze.