

Dear Col. King,

I would just like to update you on my progress since receiving the Henman Award through the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester in 2010. The Award allowed me to travel to the International Rice research Institute in the Philippines to undertake a study course, and then onto CSIRO in Canberra, Australia for a 12 week placement at the High Resolution Plant Phenomics Centre. I was able to carry out a trial investigating the genetic base of the early vigour trait in triticale, and explore the potential of such for breeding in wheat.

After a very successful project and placement, I produced my honours thesis around increasing food security through the potential of study of plant phenomics, and the wheat/triticale trial carried out. I attained a very good result for my thesis, and overall degree at Cirencester. My success was intrinsically connected with the opportunities and study I was able to carry out overseas as a result of the Henman Award.



(IRRI, 2010)

It has shaped my career and bought invaluable opportunity for me to progress in the field of crop sciences. Through gaining first class honours, I was granted a full merit scholarship to undertake a PhD through the Australian National University, widely renowned as Australia's best for scientific research. Further funding has come from a scholarship from IRRI, certainly a result of my attendance at the course there back in 2010, and connections I was able to make in the Philippines and at CSIRO. My research is to take place back at the High Resolution Plant Phenomics Centre in Canberra, and focuses on discovery of genes underpinning the distribution of photosynthetic apparatus in rice.

An initial passion to increase worldwide food security through crop science has triggered a series of study and research opportunities, that with hard work and further dedication with surely see a promising career in this field for me. I have now been in Australia for 3 weeks, and only two weeks into my PhD program, I am certain it will be a challenging and successful time.

I hope it is clear that throughout my academic career so far, generous funding has enabled me to pursue an area I am highly passionate about, and ultimately secure a successful international career in crop research. It is possible to say that The Henman Award kick started the whole process, for which I am extremely grateful. I wish for the effect that it has had on my career to be an inspiration and portrayal of the success the award can have in the lives of students.

With Kind Thanks,

Katherine Meacham. Katmeach1@aol.co.uk November 2011

