

Mr Asad Shabbir has been awarded the 2010 CAWS Student Weed Scientist Award to attend 17th Australasian weeds conference to be held at Christchurch from 26th -30th September 2010. Mr Shabbir is an international student from Pakistan undertaking his PhD at Tropical & Sub-Tropical Weed Research Unit (TSWRU), School of Land, Crop & Food Sciences, The University of Queensland (UQ) Australia under Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Merit Scholarship for high technology. Mr Shabbir is now on study leave from his parent organization, University of the Punjab, Lahore where he was working as lecturer at Institute of Plant Pathology before joining UQ. Within his program, He is actively involved in weed management research. Within TSWRU, He is network coordinator of the International Parthenium Weed Network (IPaWN) which now has more than 120 members from 25 different countries worldwide. Moreover, He is also one of the editors of the International Parthenium Weed Newsletter, a biennial newsletter that goes out to more than 26 countries world-wide.

Within his PhD program, he is working on the integrated management of parthenium weed and looking for new strategies to complement the traditional biological control approaches. Within these new strategies he is looking at how competitive plants interact with the biological control agents to bring about better management both under glass house and field conditions. This interaction is studied under present and future climate scenarios. Other work is using climatic modeling to determine future spread of both parthenium weed and its biological control agents in both a current and a future climate scenario.

Mr Shabbir is a young weed scientist and interested to share his Australian experiences with weed scientists from the region and to discuss future safe weed research strategies with them. He is very happy and thankful to CAWS for the 2010 award. According to him, this grant will extend his opportunities to improve his professional development.

