

# Placements

## Toowoomba Industry Visit – Pacific Seeds (May 12–16)

by *Sadia Majeed*

As part of my PhD journey with the ARC Centre for Future Crops Development, I had the valuable opportunity to visit my industry partner, **Pacific Seeds**, located in Toowoomba, Central Queensland. This visit was a remarkable experience that provided me with **deep insights into real-world breeding programs and commercial canola development**.

Throughout the week, I observed **key steps in the breeding program** and took part in **hands-on activities** such as seed sorting, trait introgression planning, A/B conversions, and threshing – both manually and using a thresher machine. I also learned how to perform **controlled crosses** in canola, gaining practical insight into the precision and techniques involved in line development. I followed the entire process from seed sorting through to commercial packaging and storage in silos, which gave me a **clear view of the operational scale and post-harvest logistics of a commercial seed company**.

One of the highlights was **working with the NIR** (Near-Infrared Reflectance) system to assess seed quality traits including oil, protein, and glucosinolates. It was impressive to see how rapidly and accurately this technology supports data-driven breeding decisions.

At the Gatton canola field site, I observed clear differences between inbred and hybrid canola lines, which strongly demonstrated hybrid vigor during the early growth stages.

This visit helped me **connect my academic research with the practical needs of the seed industry** and gave me a clearer perspective on potential career pathways in applied crop science.



## Nufarm (previously Nuseed) - Horsham

by *Ebtihal Mohamed*



Thank you for supporting my trip to Nufarm's lab in Horsham for **analysing my seed samples!!**

On the photo, you can see **Tony Leonforte (Nufarm)** and me at the NIR lab. It was so kind of him to come to say Hi, have a chat and make sure that my work is going well!!

I am very grateful to the Training Centre for offering me such an extraordinary opportunity to engage with an amazing industry partner like Nufarm!!

**Thank you, Nufarm!!**





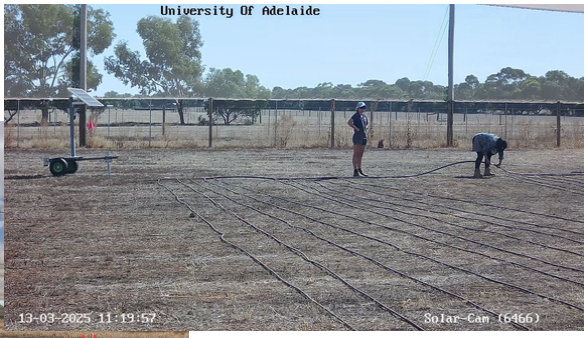
## Longreach summer nursery - Naracoorte

Over an 8-hour journey, **Alex** and **Ola** visited the **LongReach** Naracoorte summer nursery, where they have been bulking some of Alex's material so it can be grown in larger plots over the winter season. The central pivot irrigation system was absolutely essential, allowing them to bypass one of the driest summers on record and keep our projects on the right track.

# Update from the Field



Stu in the lab!



Monitoring areas free of plants



Setting up an irrigation system



Rainout shelter

### Post harvest monitoring 2023 & 2024 field sites

Recording, destroying and reporting any volunteers

2025 trials will include **GMO barley** for the first time at this site

Home > [GMO dealings](#) >

## DIR 212

Limited and controlled release of canola genetically modified for increased photosynthesis and photorespiration

We have just obtained our **first ever** DIR for limited release of GMO canola (photosynthesis and respiration). A great cross node collaboration.