

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ON *STYLOSANTHES*

This issue of Tropical Grasslands contains proceedings of a 2-day workshop on Stylosanthes held at the CSIRO Davies Laboratory, Townsville, Queensland in April 1996. The workshop was sponsored by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and the Meat Research Corporation.

This workshop outlines international research and development activities on *Stylosanthes*, the most important legume genus for tropical pastures. The workshop was organised around 3 themes: a review of progress on international collaboration in an ACIAR pilot project on anthracnose of *Stylosanthes*; development of *Stylosanthes* pasture technology, both nationally and internationally; and recognition, on the eve of his retirement, of the contribution made by Mr Les Edye to *Stylosanthes* development. It was combined with a Tropical Grassland Society field day comprising a visit to the 'Woodhouse' property with presentations from researchers and producer representatives and the launching of *Stylos for Better Beef*, a guide for graziers on stylo usage.

The workshop focused on 2 main themes: anthracnose protection; and management of stylo pastures in Australia and overseas, including commercial development of stylo pastures in northern Australia. It was attended by more than 50 delegates from 6 countries and there was an active participation and contribution from graziers, seed producers and merchants, researchers and extension personnel. As a result,

the proceedings provide a comprehensive coverage of the biology, epidemiology, genetics and molecular biology of the anthracnose disease, breeding approaches to plant improvement, cultivar development, ecology, animal production and commercial development of *Stylosanthes* pastures. For these topics, this timely workshop has summarised knowledge on *Stylosanthes* research and development beyond that of Stace and Edye (1984).

This issue of *Tropical Grasslands* should be useful to those who are interested in the improvement and utilisation of *Stylosanthes* as a pasture legume.

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