



SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT
**Fourth International Workshop of the IOBC Global Working Group
on Biological Control and Management of Parthenium Weed**

Venues: Jessore, Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Patuakhali and Dhaka
in Bangladesh

Dates: 2-5 March 2025



The International Organization for Biological Control (IOBC) and the USAID Bangladesh Mission supported Feed the Future Bangladesh Integrated Pest Management Activity (IPMA), managed by Virginia Tech, USA are jointly organizing the Fourth International Workshop of the IOBC Global Working Group on Biological Control and Management of Parthenium Weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) in Bangladesh from 2-5 March 2025. The event will review biological control and management of the weed regionally and globally, with an emphasis on accelerating research and development, as well as fostering international collaboration. Presentations on parthenium weed will include, but are not restricted to, the biology, ecology, distribution, and impact of the weed, biological as well as other control methods, and integrated management of this weed.

Programme of events:

Day & Date	Time	Programme	Accommodation
Saturday, 1 March 2025		Foreign delegates arrive in Dhaka.	Hotel Bengal Blueberry, Dhaka
Sunday, 2 March	Morning	Fly from Dhaka to Jessore. Meet at Jessore airport at 10am. Bus will take delegates to view parthenium infestations in fields.	
	Afternoon	Bus will take delegates to Barisal.	Overnight at Hotel Grand Park, Barisal
Monday, 3 March	Morning	Visit Patuakhali Science and Technology University by bus to observe <i>Zygogramma bicolorata</i> rearing.	
	Afternoon	Travel to Dhaka by bus.	Hotel Bengal Blueberry, Dhaka
Tuesday, 4 March	Morning	Inaugural session of Workshop.	Hotel Bengal Blueberry, Dhaka
	Afternoon	Presentations and discussions.	
Wednesday, 5 March	Morning	Continuation of presentations and discussions.	Hotel Bengal Blueberry, Dhaka
	Late afternoon	Conclusion of Workshop.	
	Evening	Departure of delegates.	

Workshop Venues:

- (i) Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Patuakhali, and
- (ii) Hotel Bengal Blueberry, Dhaka

Organizing committee:

Ms Lorraine Strathie (Researcher, Agricultural Research Council, South Africa)

Dr R. Muniappan (Director, IPM Innovation Lab, Virginia Tech, USA)

Mr Madhab Chandra Das (Country Program Manager, IPM Activity, Virginia Tech, Bangladesh)

Dr Mohasin Hossain Khan (Professor, Department of Entomology, Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Bangladesh)

Costs:

Registration Fees: None (sponsored by Feed the Future - Bangladesh IPM Activity)

Accommodation:

Accommodation at Hotel Bengal Blueberry, Dhaka (for 1, 3 – 5 March 2025):

Deluxe Single \$70.00 (Corporate offer)

Premium Double \$80.00 (Corporate offer)

Address: Plot 1/A, Road 90, Gulshan -2, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh

Cell: +88 01622-666615

Hotel phone: +88 02 5505 1630 – 33

Email: sales@bengalblueberry.com

Accommodation at Hotel Grand Park, Barisal (for 2 March 2025):

Deluxe Single	\$45.00 (Corporate offer)
Premium Double	\$62.00 (Corporate offer)

Address: Bell's Park, Band Road, Barisal 8200, Bangladesh
Phone: +880 1777 735173
Email: marketing@hotelgrandparkbarisal.com

Delegates should make their own accommodation bookings directly with these hotels.

Meals:

Breakfast – Complimentary at hotels

Lunch – for delegates' own cost, except on 4th and 5th March when the Feed the Future - Bangladesh IPM Activity will sponsor costs.

Dinner – for delegates' own cost.

Airport pickup and drop-off – Free (Hotel Bengal Blueberry will provide); delegates to contact Mr. Madhab Chandra Das, IPM Activity who will organise airport transfers to and from Hotel Bengal Blueberry.

Air ticket from Dhaka to Jessore by US Bangla Flight BS 121 at 9 am is \$40.00. Either buy it directly with the local airlines or contact Mr. Madhab Chandra Das, Bangladesh IPM Activity for assistance.

Bus trip from Jessore – Barisal – Dhaka: Free (sponsored by Feed the Future - Bangladesh IPM Activity)

Arrival & Departure information

- Delegates must arrange to arrive in Dhaka by no later than Saturday 1 March, 2025, and travel on US Bangla Flight BS 121 at 9 am on Sunday 2 March to arrive at Jessore airport to meet by 10 am on 2 March, and depart from Dhaka no earlier than the evening of Wednesday 5 March. Local participants can join the team either at Dhaka, Jessore or Patuakhali.
- International flights arrive at and depart from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Visas are necessary to visit Bangladesh for nationals of many countries, including Australia, USA and the UK. Visas for some countries can be obtained at the airport in Dhaka. However, for most countries visas must be obtained in your country of origin. Please check timeously with your travel agent.
- Transport between Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at Dhaka and Hotel Bengal Blueberry – delegates to send flight details to Mr Madhab Chandra Das, IPM Activity who will organize for transport between the airport and Hotel Bengal Blueberry for your arrival and departure.

Other Information

- Average temperatures in early March are mild, ranging from 15-30°C (60-85°F). Rains are rare during this period.
- Please consult your travel clinic if you wish to take prophylactics.
- The local currency is the Taka. One USD is currently equivalent to 119.5 Taka. Credit cards (Visa/Mastercard) are generally accepted in Dhaka and some ATMs can be used to draw cash internationally. Euro, USD and some other currencies are acceptable for exchange.
- Bangladesh is generally safe for visitors.

IOBC-Global grants for partial support of eligible candidates to attend Workshop

The International Organisation of Biological Control (IOBC) (website <https://www.iobc-global.org/index.html>) will provide funds to the Global Working Group on Biological Control and Management of Parthenium Weed to provide grants **to partially support students and early-career biological control researchers and practitioners** at this meeting, provided that they meet all of the eligibility criteria outlined below.

These grants may not be used to support established researchers, keynote speakers or for general expenses.

The grants provide partial support so successful candidates should ensure that they have the balance of funds available to fully cover their costs.

The grants are capped per eligible candidate, with the decision based on the number of eligible applicants meeting the criteria, and decided by the IOBC Working Group Convenors.

Only one grant per institute is permitted and representation from as many IOBC regional sections as possible must be covered, and funds divided equally with regards to gender.

Applicants must meet and provide proof for all eligibility criteria for consideration of partial support from the IOBC-Global grant.

Successful applicants who are awarded a grant must acknowledge the IOBC-Global in their presentations (and display IOBC logo), and will be required to provide proof of travel costs for the amount awarded for their allocated grant.

IOBC-Global Early Career Award eligibility criteria

- (i) The grantee has to be a paying member of IOBC (membership status will be confirmed with Treasurers of the respective Regional Sections).
- (ii) The grantee has to be of age 35 or under at the time of the workshop in early March 2025.
- (iii) The grantee has to be in a biocontrol career or study¹.
- (iv) The grantee has to present on biocontrol during the meeting (oral or poster acceptable, the grantee must present in person).
- (v) Successful grantees are required to write a short item for the IOBC-Global newsletter after the Workshop.



¹ IPM topics may be accepted if the IPM system has a strong biocontrol component. Applicants working on non-biocontrol components of IPM systems will be assessed on a case-by-case basis to decide if they qualify for the eligibility criteria. Eligibility is at the discretion of the Working Group convenor, but with justification provided to the Executive Committee of IOBC-Global. The Executive Committee of IOBC-Global have indicated their strong preference/ requirement to support biological control practitioners and presentations.

To find out about the benefits of becoming a member of IOBC please go to the membership page (<https://www.iobc-global.org/membership.html>) on the IOBC Global website. You can find information on how to become a member in your geographic region by clicking on your area in the Regional Sections tab.

Eligible candidates should submit their application for travel grant (partial sponsorship), and proofs of meeting all eligibility criteria, together with their abstract submission to Lorraine Strathie via e-mail StrathieL@arc.agric.za by 31 December 2024, for consideration.

Registration

To register, please send the following details in full to Mr. Madhab Chandra Das via e-mail: madhabcd@vt.edu by 31 December 2024.

 FEED THE FUTURE <small>The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative</small>	Registration for the Fourth International Workshop of the IOBC Global Working Group on Biological Control and Management of Parthenium Weed (Bangladesh, 2-5 March 2025)	
Registration and attendance details	Complete details below	Indicate relevant selections with an 'X'
Full name:		
Title:		
Institution:		
Address:		
E-mail:		
Telephone (work):		
Mobile phone:		
I shall attend in person:	Field visits and Presentations (2 to 5 March)	
I shall attend in person:	Presentations only (4 & 5 March)	
For in-person attendance:	I have sufficient funding and confirm my in-person attendance (not online).	
	I have partial funding only so my attendance in-person depends on my sourcing of additional funding.	
I shall attend:	Online only (4 & 5 March)	
I shall meet the team in:	Dhaka on 1 March, or	
	Jessore on 2 March, or	
	Patuakhali on 3 March, or	
	Dhaka on 4 March	
I would like to present:	Oral	
I would like to present:	Poster	
Special dietary preferences (in-person attendance only):	None / Vegetarian / Allergies (specify)	

Abstract submission for presentations:

Abstracts to be submitted to Lorraine Strathie via e-mail StrathieL@arc.agric.za by 31 December 2024.

Guidelines for Abstracts:

Indicate whether Oral or Poster presentation.

Text (body of abstract) should not exceed 250 words.

Figures, graphs, images, tables, diagrams and references should not be included.

Abstracts should provide background and objectives, methods, results, and conclusions.

Title should be concise and informative.

Provide names of all authors (First and Last names in full), with the presenting author's name underlined.

Corresponding author: Indicate using an asterisk * following the reference number and their e-mail address.

Contact details: Department, institution, postal address, city, postcode, state if relevant, country.

Use the international system of units (SI).

Use full scientific names for all organisms, and in italics. Common names can be indicated in parentheses.

The following template is to be used for submission of all oral and poster abstracts:

ORAL (OR POSTER) PRESENTATION

**Abstract Template for the Fourth International Workshop of the
IOBC Global Working Group on Biological Control and Management of Parthenium Weed: Title
should be concise and informative**

Lorraine W. Strathie^{1*} and Second I. Author²

¹Agricultural Research Council – Plant Health and Protection, P.O. Box 1055, Hilton, 3245, South Africa;

²University of KwaZulu-Natal, P.O. Box 1234, Pietermaritzburg, 3200, South Africa.

E-mail: StrathieL@arc.agric.za.

The abstract should be written in a single paragraph using a maximum of 250 words. Do not include figures, graphs, images, tables, diagrams or references. Abstracts should provide background and objectives, methods, results, and conclusions. Provide names of all authors (First and Last names in full), with the presenting author's name underlined and corresponding author indicated by an asterisk. Use the international system of units (SI). Use full scientific names for all organisms, and use italics. Common names can be indicated in parentheses.

Key words: Provide three to five keywords, in alphabetical order, for example: Biological control; evaluation; integrated management