

Note from the Managing Director

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was a key part of the research team that confirmed the process and efficacy of SIT on the False Codling Moth in 2005 to 2007. They worked alongside the United States Department of Agriculture and Citrus Research International on the project. All these years later it is great that they still support the future of SIT by sponsoring this technical exchange to the Canadian government run SIT programme for the Codling moth.

*Cheers,
Rob*

Our Visit to the OKSIR Facility, Canada

Knowledge sharing, collaboration, and continuous improvement are at the heart of innovation. These principles came to life during our recent technical visit to the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release (OKSIR) mass rearing facility in Osoyoos, Canada.

We are sincerely grateful to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for granting us the opportunity to visit the facility. Their support made this valuable technical exchange possible and created an excellent platform for international collaboration and knowledge sharing within the global mass rearing and SIT community.

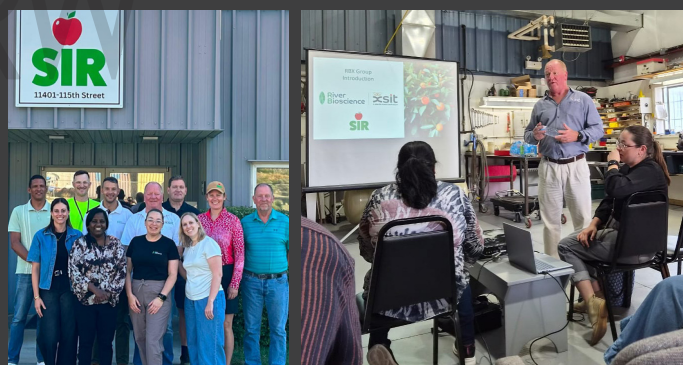
The visit provided a unique opportunity for our teams to connect with the dedicated professionals at OKSIR, who operate within the SIT industry on the other side of the world. Although separated by thousands of kilometres, it quickly became clear that we share many of the same goals, challenges, and a mutual passion for advancing sustainable pest management.

During our time at the OKSIR facility, we explored every stage of their mass rearing process, gaining valuable insight into their production systems, quality control measures, and operational practices. The visit was far more than simply an opportunity to observe; it was a true exchange of knowledge. Through open discussions, both teams shared experiences, compared different approaches, and exchanged practical ideas aimed at improving efficiency and production. It was rewarding to learn from their expertise while also sharing our own experiences and successes.

One of the highlights of the visit was spending time with the teams involved in insect sterilisation. We shared updates on the exciting progress being made in X-ray sterilisation technology research and discussed the ongoing use of cobalt irradiation sources. These conversations provided valuable perspectives on current research, technological developments, and future opportunities within the SIT industry.

Perhaps the greatest takeaway from the visit was the power of collaboration. Working alongside colleagues from another part of the world reinforced the importance of sharing knowledge and learning from one another. Each discussion sparked new ideas, challenged existing thinking, and inspired new opportunities for improvement.

We returned home with a wealth of practical ideas to trial and implement within our own facilities, while also leaving our colleagues at OKSIR with insights and approaches that may support their future developments. This mutual exchange of knowledge is what makes partnerships like these so valuable and ensures that we continue to grow together as an international SIT and mass rearing community.



As we begin putting these new ideas into practice, we look forward to strengthening the relationships built during this visit and continuing to collaborate with our colleagues at OKSIR. Together, we are helping drive innovation, improve mass rearing practices, and advance the future of the Sterile Insect Technique.

July Birthdays

Tahnee Bennett, Renshinne Malgas, Lee Boltman, Ronaldo Morris, Clarissa Mouton, Juanita Smith, Norman Ruiters, Ernest Adonis, Celia Nortje, Hendrik Syster, Carla Blofield, Melikhaya Rolo, Carol Titus, Rob Elfick, Kirstin Strydom, Sibongile Kganare, Mlungiseleli Lotwana, Khalipha Dambuza, Carla Burger, Hishaan Bhana, Nwabisa Mpangele, Nomfundo Mjongile, Lizzie Kellerman, Bradley Nelson, Nozithembiso Mpati, Lee-Marco Aford, Khaalid Beckett, Emeel Ruiters, Franco Pieters, Aiden Titus, Lungisa Qulu, Lesley Valentyn, Livona Ludick, Moliza-Marie Valentyn

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