

**SEARCH CRITERIA**

<b>Model</b>	Model B: programmed learning
<b>Industry</b>	Sugar
<b>Focus/Level</b>	Industry
<b>Delivery Mode of Learning</b>	Conferences, study tours, workshops, seminars
<b>Outcomes</b>	Capacity building within the sugar industry
<b>Special Interest Groups</b>	

**1. PROJECT TITLE:**

SRDC Travel and Learning Opportunity Projects

**2. FUNDERS:**

Partnership funding by SRDC and industry/research, development & extension /community/other sectors

**3. PROVIDERS:**

- Industry representatives (growers, harvesters, millers)
- Research, development and extension personnel

**4. KEY CONTACTS:**

Tracy Henderson  
SRDC  
Ph 07 3210 0495  
Email [srdc@srdc.gov.au](mailto:srdc@srdc.gov.au)

**5. INDUSTRY/ISSUE/GEOGRAPHY:**

Industry: Sugar

Issue: Building human capacity for change and innovation

Geography: Queensland, northern NSW and Ord

**6. PROJECT CONTEXT:**

SRDC Travel and Learning Opportunity Projects include attendance at conferences, study tours, conduct of workshops and seminars, invited speakers or facilitators for industry functions, or any other activity intended to build capacity for learning, change or innovation in sugar industry people.

**7. PROJECT NICHE (SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES):**

Details of the numerous SRDC Travel and Learning Opportunity Project titles and objectives are listed at [www.srdc.gov.au](http://www.srdc.gov.au). Details are also reported in SRDC Annual Reports.

**8. PHILOSOPHY/APPROACH:**

Experiential learning

Enhance people's capacity to learn and change, including through:

- an action learning approach to the acquisition of management skills
- close involvement in participative R&D
- collaborative industry and community partnerships

**9. RESOURCES, MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING STRUCTURES:**

- Total budget available from SRDC is <\$10,000 per project.
- Total funding allocated to Travel & Learning Opportunity Projects by SRDC is \$200,000 per annum
- Partnership funding is encouraged
- The projects are managed by a "Chief Investigator"
- Proposals are due to SRDC twice per annum.
- Assistance in project management is provided by SRDC

**10. PROCESS/METHODS USED:**

- Bus trips for people to travel & learn from other regions in the sugar industry, or from other agricultural industries
- Regions bring in "expertise" to address needs (eg. community engagement, grower groups)
- Travel to attend domestic and international conferences, workshops, and other events

**11. IMPACTS TO DATE (AND EVALUATION APPROACHES USED):**

Each Travel and Learning Opportunity Project provides to SRDC a "Final Report" detailing the aims, activities, learnings, outputs & outcomes. These reports are available from SRDC. A summary of each project is reported at [www.srdc.gov.au](http://www.srdc.gov.au).

Some projects employ rigorous evaluation techniques such as before/after survey of knowledge, expectations, aspirations. Other projects report on follow-on activities resulting from the Travel & Learning Opportunity Project. A diverse range of evaluation approaches are implemented within individual projects as appropriate.

To date, over 200 individuals from the Australian sugar industry have participated in a Travel and Learning Opportunity Project.

15 projects were completed in 2004/05, involving over 200 individuals.

**12. EFFECTIVENESS:**

Travel and Learning Opportunity Projects are effective in empowering individuals and groups to take the initiative to build capacity in areas of relevance to them.

As a result of a number projects, follow on activities and research projects have developed, demonstrating these projects are effective in building capacity.

**13. PROJECT DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE:**

Individual reports on completed Travel & Learning Opportunity Projects available at [www.srdc.gov.au](http://www.srdc.gov.au)

**14. ISSUES:**

A large number of small sized Travel & Learning Opportunity Projects have been funded and are expected to be funded in the future. An emerging issues is the need to extend the learnings of individual projects to a broader audience, and connect relevant people in the Australian sugar industry interested in building their capacity.

**15. COMMENTS/CONCLUSIONS:**

Travel and Learning Opportunity Projects are an important means of building human capacity for change, learning and innovation in the sugar industry.

**16. REVIEW METHODS:**

Individual projects are reviewed by SRDC when the Final Report is submitted to SRDC. A formal review of the SRDC investment in the Travel & Learning Opportunity Program is undertaken by SRDC Management annually.