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I was awarded a Nuffield Farming Scholarship in 1987 to study pigs, potatoes and mixed farming operations in North America. These days I farm with my sons – we have 2000ha of crops and grasslands in the UK, and 2300ha of grain crops in Australia.

This is my fourth CSC. It's a fantastic initiative that has been running for a number of years, but certainly wasn't around when I did my Scholarship. Seeing the energy of about 80 people from 11 different countries mixing and developing during the week is priceless. It is a huge hotbed exchange of ideas and enthusiasm. Seeing farming in another country – in this case Brazil - is also important. They are very much learning from one another, as well as what the host country has to offer. It is the start of what should be a very exciting journey for the Scholars.

Why was Brazil chosen to host the CSC?

We generally hold the CSC in existing Nuffield countries, but also in countries that want to join Nuffield to raise local awareness of the life-long learning network that Nuffield offers - Brazil is an emerging member country. We are delighted that Brazil has now formed their own association, and here this week we have agreed on a three-year roadmap for them to transit from being an associate to a full-member country.

What is the next for Nuffield Brazil?

The next step for the Nuffield Brazil is to establish their own organisation. They are raising funds locally and raising awareness of the Nuffield program. The program in the next three years will be run by Nuffield International but assuming they achieve the steps we have set and the most significant one is getting to three scholarships, then we hope by July 2020 Nuffield Brazil will be a full member country in their own right.

What would you tell people considering applying for a Nuffield Scholarship?

Simply, it is a life-changing experience. It is a fantastic way for somebody who has made their mark in life already to look at the next level. It enables you to step back from your own business and look at things objectively. It enables you to learn from other people in the program and to learn from overseas travels. It is a wonderful opportunity and anybody who is at all thinking about it should grasp it with both hands because it will be life-changing!

A Nuffield Scholarship is an intensive preparation for farmers and agri-professionals who are committed to life-long learning and to promoting excellence in all aspects of agricultural production, distribution, management and communication.