



SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE Final Report

Part 1 - Summary Details

Cotton Catchment Communities CRC Project Number: 5.10.10.49

**Project Title: Scientific Exchange: Rene Van der Sluijs - World Cotton
Research Conference 2011**

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Research Program: Product (Program 4)

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Part 3 - Travel Report

The points below are to be used as a guideline when completing your final report.

1. What were the:

a) Major findings, outcomes and highlights.

René van der Sluijs travelled to India in November 2011 to attend and present a paper at the Fifth World Cotton Research Conference (WCRC-5) in Mumbai. The WCRC-5 was attended by 654 researchers from over 30 countries. A total of 322 scientific papers were presented over the five days covering all facets of cotton technology, from breeding and agronomy to fibre quality and ginning. It was unfortunate that there were no papers presented on textile manufacturing, which was highlighted to the organisers during the conference by a number of delegates.

The conference was divided into five Plenary Sessions and 30 concurrent sessions. My focus was on the following sessions; Session 6 - Value Addition; Session 12 - Fibre Quality Testing; Session - 18, Value Addition and Textiles; Session 24 - Social Dynamics and Technology Transfer and Session - 30 Fibre Processing. All these sessions were well attended with some very good and some very poor presentations. The stand out presentations were 'The Use of Cotton By-Products and Fungal Mycelium in the Manufacture of Biodegradable Formed Packaging and Insulation Panels' by Greg Holt of USDA, as well as 'Cotton Stalk An Additional Raw Material to Board Industry' by R.M Gurjar of Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology – India. Both of these talks were about creating products using waste generated (gin trash and cotton stalks) by cotton production. My talk entitled 'The Effect of Quarantine Treatments on the Physical Properties of Cotton and its subsequent Textile Processing Performance' was the last presentation of the Fibre Processing Session and was well attended and received with a number of questions and comments from the audience. I was subsequently asked to make a presentation on this work at the forthcoming Bremen Cotton Conference in April 2012. A Commissioned Research Proposal was submitted to the CRDC to continue work in this area.

Summaries of all the sessions of the WCRC-5 will be published in the March edition of the ICAC Recorder. Abstracts and full papers will be made available at <http://icac.org/technical-information/wcrc-conferences>. Photos taken during the conference are available at <http://www.cicr.org.in/>.

As part of the conference a resolution was passed supporting the creation of a global network of cotton stakeholder organizations. The network will operate through nodes associated with cotton organizations and institutes to support globally accessible, stakeholder-supported specialist training

and collaborative research. Additionally the creation of an International Cotton Researchers Association was endorsed. This Association will work with the ICAC Secretariat to plan and promote the creation of the global cotton researcher's network and to manage the agendas of future World Cotton Research Conferences. The International Cotton Researchers Association will be a voluntary association open to cotton researchers of all disciplines and countries willing to contribute to the global unity among cotton researchers.

Following the conference 40 delegates embarked on a two day technical tour to cotton areas near Nagpur. During this tour we visited; Morarjee Textiles a major producer of premium cotton shirting fabric and high fashion printed fabric; Central Institute for Cotton Research, Ankur Seeds; Cotton Stalk Particle Board Unit (which provided insight into the talk given by R.M Gurjar) and Bajaj Steel Gin Manufacturing Unit (who produce gin accessories for Continental Eagle under licence).

2. **Detail the persons and institutions visited, giving full title, position details, location, duration of visit and purpose of visit to these people/places.**

Not applicable as travelled to attend conference and technical tour.

3. **a) Are there any potential areas worth following up as a result of the travel?**

During the conference met and had discussion with the following Cotton Incorporated employees; Kater Hake, Vice President of Agricultural and Environmental Research and Edward Barnes Director Agricultural and Environmental Research. Ed Barnes leads a number of projects in the Harvesting and Ginning sectors that have synergies with some of the work CSIRO and CRDC are currently conducting and proposing to do in the future. Ed is willing to share their experiences with us and has invited me to visit their facilities in North Carolina in 2012 to discuss possible collaborations. I also met and had brief discussions with Greg Holt from the USDA who is the Research Leader of the Cotton Production and Processing Research Unit in Lubbock. Greg and his team conduct gin research and it was felt that there are synergies between their and our work. I intend to visit them next year to conduct further discussions on possible collaborations.

- b) Any relevance or possible impact on the Australian Cotton Industry?**

A Trade Show was held concurrently with the Conference and one of the most interesting exhibitors was the Textile Committee stand, which was promoting a best practice scheme for ginning that has been in operation in India, for a number of years. This scheme entitled 'Assessment and Rating of Ginning and Pressing Factories' is very thorough and the auditors have

the intention of rating the >2000 gins in India. The idea being that it provides spinning mills confidence in the gins ability to provide quality lint and also gives recognition to the gins that have the technical knowhow and who upgrade/ modernise their plant. More information can be obtained on; <http://www.textilescommittee.gov.in/ginning-home.htm>.

The relevance of this to the Australian cotton industry is that we are not the only country implementing Best Management Practices (BMP). We are aware that the Brazilians started implementing a similar program in ginning in 2008. The fact that India are also in the process of implementing a very comprehensive program should spur the Australian cotton industry into putting more resources into BMP if it wants to use this in promoting Australian cotton as an alternative to organic cotton.

4. How do you intend to share the knowledge you have gained with other people in the cotton industry?

As well as this report, much of the knowledge gained will feed directly into active projects at CMSE, which will be disseminated through 'normal' channels.

5. Executive summary. Provide a one paragraph summary of the scientific exchange, suitable for posting on the Cotton CRC web site.

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