



**Australian Government**  
**Cotton Research and  
Development Corporation**

# TRAVEL & CONFERENCE REPORT

## *Part 1 - Summary Details*

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*Please use your TAB key to complete Parts 1 & 2.*

**CRDC Project Number:**

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**Project Title: Getting the best out of lime and gypsum to  
combat sodicity in the Lachlan and  
Macquarie Valleys.**

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**Project Commencement Date:** Mar07      **Project Completion Date:** Sep08

**Research Program:** - Please Select One -

## *Part 2 – Contact Details*

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**Administrator:** (Name & position of officer responsible for all  
correspondence).

**Organisation:** (Organisation administering the research project).

**Postal Address:**

**Ph:**                      **Fax:**                      **E-mail:**

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**Principal Researcher:** John McLean Bennett

**Organisation:** University of Sydney

**Postal Address:** FAFNR, J.R.A. McMillan Bld (A05), The University of  
Sydney, NSW 2006

**Ph:** 0293514843      **Fax:** 02 9351 2945      **E-mail:** j.bennett@usyd.edu.au

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**Supervisor:** Dr. Stephen Cattle

**Organisation:** University of Sydney

**Postal Address:** FAFNR, J.R.A. McMillan Bld (A05), The University of  
Sydney, NSW 2006

**Ph:** 02 9351 2944      **Fax:** 02 9351 2945      **E-mail:** [s.cattle@usyd.edu.au](mailto:s.cattle@usyd.edu.au)

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**Signature of Research Provider Representative:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Part 3 – Travel Report**

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*(Maximum two pages)*

### **1. A brief description of the purpose of the travel.**

To attend the 14<sup>th</sup> Australian Cotton Conference at the request of the CRDC & CCC CRC in order to learn about progression in the cotton industry, network with cotton industry groups, and convey my preliminary project findings to conference attendees.

### **2. What were the:**

#### **a) major findings and outcomes**

It is a little difficult to outline major findings and outcomes of a three day conference with many sessions; each on a pertinent aspect of the cotton industry at this particular period in time. However, sessions that created the most discussion involved climate change and the future direction of the cotton market. In the climate change session a general consensus was that seasons were going to become dryer and hotter. Scientists pointed out that cotton may become an opportunity crop with out secured water, but growers appeared more interested in short term adaptive research and development: Neither group were admitting defeat! As far as the cotton markets future, it would appear that there is a positive outlook, but that work needs to be done to secure a hold in the Asian markets. This led to a lengthy discussion, both in session and out, about how to do so.

#### **b) other highlights**

As a soil scientist researching soils in a cotton industry, the biggest highlight for me was finally having time to discuss the finer details of growing cotton. Also, I was able to discuss my topic of sodicity with various growers from around Australia. Both of these areas will be highly valuable in the final outcome of my research.

### **3. Detail the persons and institutions visited, giving full title, position details, location, duration of visit and purpose of visit to these people/places. (NB:- Please provide full names of institutions, not just acronyms.)**

Inctec-Pivot

Syngenta

Diesel Gas Technologies

CRC CCC

CRDC

John Deere

Excel Agriculture

Case IH

Queensland Cotton

Namoi Cotton

Other than this I attended at least two sessions a day.

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

There was nothing specific to my soil based project at the conference. So, I will not be following up anything directly. However, I have noted some of the areas that growers were most interested in, such as carbon accounting and climate change, and will use these as a background to my results presentation: How my results affect such areas.

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

The topics conveyed at the cotton conference were all pertinent to the cotton industry and I am sure there will be many outcomes and research extensions. In my view it was a highly valuable conference, even as a junior researcher in soil science.

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

The knowledge I have gained from the conference is best conveyed through my project. In that, I can use information on industry identified areas of interest, such as climate change and/or carbon accounting, as a background to the presentation of my results. Besides this, information learnt can be conveyed through word of mouth with the growers involved in the current project.