



Coordinated by the  
**AUSTRALIAN COTTON CRC**  
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**COTTON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION**



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## *SUMMARY OF MEETING*

### *Background*

"We spend far too much money on soils research." "We have too many projects on soils". These statements are often heard, but are they justified? The Workshop showed that there are clearly ongoing and new soil-related problems for the cotton industry. It is clear we need high calibre focussed research. The workshop reminded the participants of important soil problems, succinctly described them and came to a general consensus on some soil research priorities in relation to cotton. The Scoping Study (To Identify Key Areas Where Strategic Investigation, Research Or Education Is Required To Retain Or Improve Soil Productivity In Irrigation Areas For Murray Darling Basin Commission Strategic Investigations and Education Program Irrigation Issues Working Group Project New 2 by CSIRO Land and Water PMB 2, Glen Osmond, SA 5064) is not regarded by most cotton-soil researchers as a useful document. It provides little new insight into soil research problems in cotton-growing areas, therefore this workshop seemed more of more importance than ever.

Cotton-soil research started off principally with a production focus, but lately the focus has been shifting to environmental and sustainability issues.

**PRODUCTION** to maintain or improve production, e.g., structure, plant nutrition

**ENVIRONMENTAL** to minimise environmental impacts, e.g., salinity, soil quality

About thirty people attended the workshop. Unfortunately there was no grower (ACGRA) representative. Of the 57% left at the end everyone thought that the Workshop had been useful because new information was presented and new issues were raised.

The Workshop is summarised below.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY**

- Positive and open nature of discussion
- Recognition/concurrence/acceptance of deep drainage in cotton vertisols
- Structure – the quality of the Soilpak video
- Good explanation of greenhouse & biodiversity issues