

FINAL REPORT

Background

1. Outline the background to the project.

Sponsorship/funding of 14th Australian Cotton Conference – merging of both ACGRA and ACSA conferences.

Objectives

2. List the project objectives and the extent to which these have been achieved.

The objective was to run a successful conference whereby program content was beneficial to cotton growers and industry stakeholders.

Methods

3. Detail the methodology and justify the methodology used. Include any discoveries in methods that may benefit other related research.

Conference program of events that was deemed beneficial to cotton growers and industry stakeholders was developed and developed at conference (please see attached).

Results

4. Detail and discuss the results for each objective including the statistical analysis of the results.

896 Delegates in total

General Demographic Breakdown

Students	16
Sponsors	45
Speakers	33
Media	18
Growers	254
Exhibitors	115
General delegates	<u>415</u>
Total	896

Grower Demographic Breakdown

Greater Namoi region	51
Gwydir region	53
Macquarie/Southern NSW region	24
Darling Downs	73
SW Queensland region	17
Central Queensland	16
Burdekin region	2
Macintyre region	8
Other unspecified regions	<u>10</u>
	254

Historical Grower Demographic Information

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2000</u>
Darling Downs	73	67	93	67	101
Gwydir region	53	52	69	67	110
Macquarie/Southern region	24	55	53	77	92
Macintyre region	8	22	30	33	49
Central Queensland	16	27	55	34	29

SW Queensland region	17	32	33	45	28
Greater Namoi region	51	41	49	49	56
Other unspecified regions	12	9	14	11	18
Total	254	305	396	383	483
% of demographic attendance	28%	25%	26.8%	27.5%	30.5%

Outcomes

5. Describe how the project's outputs will contribute to the planned outcomes identified in the project application. Describe the planned outcomes achieved to date.

Cotton growers and industry stakeholders were provided with an opportunity to come together and share information on technology that is currently available and what will be available pending research outcomes.

6. Please describe any:-

- a) technical advances achieved (eg commercially significant developments, patents applied for or granted licenses, etc.);
- b) other information developed from research (eg discoveries in methodology, equipment design, etc.) and
- c) required changes to the Intellectual Property register.

Please refer to the attached program content to view those subjects that fall under the commercial developments and methodology criteria.

Conclusion

7. Provide an assessment of the likely impact of the results and conclusions of the research project for the cotton industry. What are the take home messages?

The organising committee of the 14th Australian Cotton Conference was very pleased with delegate attendance numbers.

Given that the industry continues to face many challenges, most critically water (or lack of) and alternative crop production (such as grain) it is vital that the cotton community has an opportunity to share information.

Extension Opportunities

8. Detail a plan for the activities or other steps that may be taken:

- a) to further develop or to exploit the project technology
- b) for the future presentation and dissemination of the project outcomes
- c) for future research.

A website was used as part of the whole conference experience. It is planned that this website will remain active through to the next conference making available many proceedings, presentations and video footage from the 14th Australian Cotton Conference.

9a. List the publications arising from the research project and/or publication plan.

Website conference proceedings. See below.

9b. Have you developed any online resources and what is the website address?

For the first time, a conference website was developed. This information will remain available to delegates for an indefinite period of time.

Please refer to www.australiancottonconference.com.au

Final Report Executive Summary

Tuesday, August 12

SESSION 1 NEW BEGINNINGS IN A CLIMATE OF CHANGE

Chaired by Mr Ben Stephens, ACGRA

New Beginnings in a Climate of Change

Mr Ben Stephens, ACGRA

New Beginnings & New Visions for Future Investment in R&D

Mr Mike Logan, CRDC

Preparing our Cotton Farms Now & for 2020

Mr John Hamparsum – Hamparsum Investments

Ms Juanita Hamparsum – Hamparsum Investments

The Global Food Crisis - A Turning Point for Agriculture

Mr Julian Cribb, Science Commentator

SESSION 2 PEOPLE FOR A NEW BEGINNING

Chaired by Ms Leith Bouilly, Cotton Research & Development Corporation

People for a New Beginning; Innovation it Relies on People

Dr Ian Plowman, Organisational Psychologist

Young Leaders on New Beginnings for the Cotton Industry

Ms Annabel Wiseman – Monsanto Australia Ltd

Mr Brendon Warnock – Narrabri Cotton Grower

Mr Dallas King – Balonne Agricultural Consultancy

Measuring Community Well Being in Cotton Communities

Dr Judith Stubbs, Judith Stubbs & Associates

Dr Roy Powell, Centre for Agricultural & Regional Economics

Session Forum

Facilitated by Dr Ian Plowman

SESSION 3 UNDERSTANDING CLIMATE CHANGE & CARBON EMISSIONS

Chaired by Mr Peter Graham of Cotton Seed Distributors Ltd

Climate Change and its Implications for Cotton Production

Dr Mark Howden, CSIRO

A Cotton Farm's Carbon and Greenhouse Footprint

Professor Peter Grace, Queensland University of Technology

Demystifying the Carbon Economy & its Implications for Agriculture

Mr Mick Keough, Australian Farm Institute

Cotton Farming Systems for a Changing Climate

Dr Greg Constable, CSIRO

Dr Michael Bange, CSIRO

Session Questions/Discussion

Wednesday, August 13

SESSION 4 ACSA TRADING & MARKETS

ACSA Welcome & Introduction

Mr Pete Johnson, Australian Cotton Shippers Association

Commodities, Interest Rates, AUD & Economic Outlook

Mr Tony Pearson, ANZ

Commodity Futures Outlook – Cotton's Potential

Mr Ed Jernigan, FC Stone Asia

Physical Price Outlook

Mr Rob Imray, FarMarCo Australia

Extreme Volatility in the Cotton Futures Market – Problems & Ramifications

Mr Adam Ford, New York Stock Exchange IntercontinentalExchange (ICE)

The Changing World Textile Market

Mr Leo Yung, Central Textiles (HK) Ltd

Session Questions/Discussion

SESSION 5 AUSTRALIAN COTTON – NEW BEGINNINGS FOR BMP

Chaired by Mr George Gallacher of Auscott Limited

New Beginnings for BMP

Ms Louise Adcock, Cotton Australia

Mr Stuart Higgins, BMP Program Committee

Australian Cotton – Getting a Tick of Approval Around the Globe

Mr Andrew Rouse, World Wildlife Fund-Australia

What We're Doing with Your BMP Cotton

Mr Arthur Spellson, Australian Cotton Shippers Association

What do Consumers want from Cotton?

Ms Claire Fitzpatrick, Council of Textile & Fashion Industries of Australia

Session Questions/Discussion

**SESSION 6A CROP PROTECTION & IMPORTANCE OF RESISTANCE
MANAGEMENT**

Chaired by Mr Andrew Parkes, TIMS Committee

The Changing Resistance Landscape for Crop Protection & Management for it

Dr Sharon Downes, CSIRO Entomology

Cotton Entomology Update & Secondary Pests

Professor Peter Gregg, Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

Managing Weed Resistance to Herbicides

Dr Jeff Werth, Queensland DPI

Dr David Thornby, Queensland DPI

Global Crop Protection – Biotechnology Outlook

Mr Rob Hall, Bayer CropScience

**Cotton Disease Trends & Research Update on Impacts of Soil Properties on
Fusarium Wilt**

Dr Stephen Allen, Cotton Seed Distributors Ltd/Cotton CRC

Session Questions/Discussion

SESSION 6B ACSA – DEFINING MARKETS

Chaired by Mr Phil Sloan, Cotton Australia

Winning Back Markets

Mr Takashi (Tom) Shimazaki, Toyoshima & Company

Defining Aussie Cotton – Mainstream or Niche?

Mr Bob Dall'Alba, Queensland Cotton

Role of Long Staple Upland & Pima Cotton – Opportunities for Medium & ELS Types

Dr Geoff Naylor, CSIRO/Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

The Technopak Report

Mr Richard Haire, Australian Cotton Industry Council

Session Questions/Discussion

SESSION 7A COTTON & GRAIN FARMING SYSTEMS FORUM

Chaired by Mr David Anthony, Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

Nutrition Forum

Efficiency & Optimization of Fertilisers

Dr Ian Rochester, CSIRO Plant Industry/Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

Novel Ideas for Nutrition

Mr Jono Phelps, Grower of the Year 2007

Mr Damien Erbacher, Dawson Valley Cotton Grower

Mr Rob Tuck, Macquarie Valley Cotton Grower

Irrigated Farming Systems Forum Cotton & Irrigated Wheat Crop Rotations

Ms Tracey Farrell, NSW DPI/Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

Irrigated Maize in Cotton Systems R & D

Mr James Holden, Pioneer Hi-Bred Australia

Session Questions/Discussion on Future Cropping Systems & R&D

Facilitated by Mr David Anthony

SESSION 7B ACSA – GETTING TO MARKET

Chaired by Phill Ryan, Australian Cotton Shippers Association

R&D POST FARM GATE – WHERE IS THE FUTURE?

Mr Bruce Finney, Cotton Research Development Corporation

Infrastructure Capacity Constraints & Competition

Mr Andrew Brinkworth, Port of Brisbane Corporation

Institutional Investment in Agriculture

Mr Anthony Abraham, Macquarie Capital Products

Cotton Industry Infrastructure Forum

Mr Bob Bell, Namoi Cotton Cooperative

Mr David Harris, Senath, Missouri (USA) Cotton Grower

Mr Hamish Millar, Emerald Cotton Grower

Mr Ian Rawlins, Australian Cotton Ginners Association

Mr Allan Woods, T & FS Woods

Mr Graeme Wood, AWH

Session Questions/Discussion

Thursday, August 14

SESSION 8 – GROWING COTTON’S FUTURE: PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR MANAGING YOUR WATER

Chaired by Ms Joanne Grainger, Cotton Australia

Cotton Australia Update

Ms Joanne Grainger, Cotton Australia

Health Impacts of Biotech Cotton

Ms Helen Dugdale, Cotton Research & Development Corporation

Commercial Trait Development for Drought Management & Water Use Efficiency

Dr John Purcell, Monsanto Ltd

Selecting Cotton Types for Hotter Temperatures

Ms Nicola Cottee, University of Sydney/Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

Irrigation Scheduling & Cotton Productivity During the Drought

Mr Stephen Yeates, CSIRO/Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

Responding to Drought - Industry Growth Regions

Expansion in Southern NSW and a Move North in the Burdekin

Mr Roger Commins, Whitton Cotton Grower

Mr Andrew Keeley, Burdekin Cotton Grower

Biosecurity in a Changing Climate - Critical for our Future

Mr Rodney Turner, Plant Health Australia

Session Questions/Discussion

SESSION 9A – GROWING COTTON IN A WATER SCARCE ENVIRONMENT

Chaired by Mr Adam Kay, Cotton Australia

The Australian Government: How it Can Work with Cotton for Mutual Benefits

Mr Richard McLoughlin, Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Furrow Irrigation Systems Comparisons & Lessons to Improve

Mr David Williams, NSW DPI/Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

Minimum Till, Minimum Water, Maximum Profit

Glenn Fresser & Shawn Fresser, Dalby Cotton Growers

Working with Regional Natural Resource Management Bodies to Improve Water Management

Dr Paula Jones, Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

Session Questions/Discussion

SESSION 9B – TRADE HANDS-ON

Advanced Nutrients In an unpredictable season it's vital that you know how to get the right nutrient in the right place at the right time

Case IH Inspect and learn how to operate Australia's first commercially released Case IH Module Express- it picks and packs a module in one continuous infield operation

Du Pont Learn how on-farm you can get the best out of the latest addition to Du Pont's product range for cotton

GPS-Ag Cutting fuel and input costs in tough times with GPS-Ag's precision equipment

Hardi What do the latest in high clearance, self-propelled sprayers from Hardi offer in terms of improved efficiencies and ease of operation?

John Deere Inspect the wrapped round modules built on-the-go by the JD 7760 Picker and learn more about the harvest efficiencies it delivers

Manitou

See how the JD round modules are handled infield and loaded for transport to the gin using Manitou rough terrain handling equipment

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm **CONCURRENT HANDS-ON RESEARCH SESSIONS**
ROOMS 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 & 8
SESSION 10A – HANDS-ON RESEARCH
14 topics over three round-robin sessions

Storage Management – Measurement, Remediation & Management - Mr Graham Harris

On-Farm Water Measuring & Monitoring - Ms Janelle Montgomery

Alternative Surface Irrigation Systems - Mr Michael Grabham

Drip Irrigation, Lateral Moves & Centre Pivot Systems - Mr Lance Pendergast

What is Your Greenhouse & Energy Footprint? - Mr Craig Ballie

Groundwater Management - Mr Bryce Kelly

Nitrogen Use Efficiency & Alternative Approaches - Ms Sally Ceeney

Emerging Pests - Ms Mary Whitehouse

Integrated Production with Conservation for IPM - Ms Ingrid Renkin

Crop Rotations - Ms Helen Dugdale

Fibre Quality - Mr Stuart Gordon

People for a new beginning - Meetings without Discussion - Dr Ian Plowman

Attracting & Retaining Staff - Mr Mark Hickman

Dryland Cotton Production - Mr Rob Everleigh

