



Australian Government
**Cotton Research and
Development Corporation**

TRAVEL & CONFERENCE REPORT

Part 1 - Summary Details

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

CRDC Project Number: UQ1201

Project Title: Validating Cotton Sustainability Claims –
Travel to Farms and Field Sites

Project Commencement Date: 01/07/11 **Project Completion Date:** 30/06/12

Select Research Program (from CRDC Strategic R&D Plan 2008-2013):

- Please Select One - 1 – Value Chain Strategy 1.1

Part 2 – Contact Details

Administrator: Ms Christina Jack

Organisation: GPEM - University of Queensland

Postal Address:
University of Queensland
Brisbane 4072

Ph: 07 336 56514 **Fax:** 07 336 56514 **E-mail:** c.jack@uq.edu.au

Principal Researcher: Mr François Visser.

Organisation: University of Queensland, School of Integrative Systems

Postal Address: Gatton Campus, Gatton, Qld, 4343

Ph: 07 5460 1495 **Fax:** 07 5460 1324 **E-mail:** f.visser@uqconnect.edu.au

Supervisor: Dr Paul Dargusch

Organisation: GPEM - University of Queensland

Postal Address:
University of Queensland
Brisbane 4072

Ph: **Fax:** **E-mail:** p.dargusch@uq.edu.au

Researcher 2 (Name & position of additional researcher or supervisor).

Organisation:

Postal Address:

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

Signature of Research Provider Representative: _____

Project Description

A brief description of the purpose of the travel.

The broader focus of the project is to look at mechanisms whereby the sustainability of Australian cotton can be determined and promoted through the textile supply chain. This specific research was undertaken to develop a robust methodology to determine the carbon footprint levels of Australian cotton in accordance with international requirements.

The project consisted of three tasks:

- a) The selection of a range of internationally accepted calculators suitable to cotton
- b) The collection of representative cotton farm data in Australia to populate the calculators with
- c) A comparative analysis of the results and a recommended methodology for future assessments for the textile supply chain

Funding was therefore requested to visit some suitable farms and industry experts to collect the data.

Travel Report

1. What were the:

a) major findings and outcomes

There is no single calculator that can generate an internationally accepted result. Due to differences in the structures and methodologies employed, there were a considerable variations in the results which make any meaningful comparisons impossible

b) other highlights

It is feasible to develop an internationally accepted methodology and calculator and for Australia to be the first exporter to quantify the carbon footprint levels of its cotton

2. 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.)

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------------|------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| Auscott Namoi | Narrabri | Martin Mead | Farm manager | 2 visits | Collection of data |
| Auscott Namoi | Narrabri | Bernie George | General manager | 2 visits | Discuss results |
| Mayfield Farm | Dalby | Glen Fresser | Owner | 3 visits | Collect data |
| Auscott Moree | Moree | Sean Boland | Farm manager | 2 visits | Collect data |
| Keytah | Moree | Nick Gillingham | Manager (To follow up) | | Collect data |
| CRDC | Narrabri | Bruce Pyke | Research manager | 2 visits | Seek advice |
| Cot Res Inst | Wee Waa | Nilantha/ Rochester | Researchers | 2 visits | Collect data |
| CRDC | Toowoomba | Dallas Gibb | Research | 4 visits | Discuss results |
| NCEA | Toowoomba | Craig Baillie | Researcher | 2 visits | Collect data |
| QUT | Brisbane | Prof Peter Grace | Research | 2 visits | Discuss results |
| Queensland Cotton | Brisbane | Phil Ryan | Export manager | 1 visit | Collect data |

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

The data and results generated make it possible to develop an appropriate carbon footprint methodology for Australia and the export market.

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

The development of such an international calculator can enable Australia to be the first cotton exporting country to quantify the carbon footprint levels of all cotton

shipped. This can lead to other advantages in the market place with the prevalent pressure on the sustainability levels of textile products for consumers.

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

The results will be presented at the Cotton Conference in August and be published as well.

| Item | Description | Amount excl GST | GST | Total |
|------|---|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Transport costs (5000 km @ \$0.70/km) | | | 3,500.00 |
| 2 | Accommodation costs (12 nights @ \$120/n) | | | 1,440.00 |
| 3 | Meals (for 24 days @ \$60/d) | | | 1,440.00 |
| | | | | 0.00 |
| | | | | 0.00 |
| | | | | 0.00 |
| | | | | 0.00 |
| | | | | 0.00 |
| | | | | 0.00 |
| | | | | 0.00 |
| | | | | 0.00 |
| | | | | 0.00 |
| | Estimated (including GST) | | TOTAL | 6,380.00 |
| | | | | (|

