



The University of Sydney

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Dr Balwant Singh

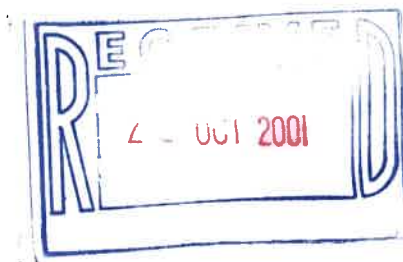
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Angela Wiseman
Program Manager
Cotton Research & Development Corporation
P.O. Box 282
Narrabri, NSW 2390



Dear Angela

Re: US59C Graphite Furnace atomic absorption spectrometer.

First of all I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Board of Directors of the CRDC for approving a funding of \$11,000 for the purchase of atomic absorption spectrometers (with flame and graphite furnace facilities). The instruments were purchased from Varian Australia last year for a price \$109,755.80 and CRDC's contribution has been highly valuable in getting our chemical analytical facilities up to date. The new instruments have been used for the analyses for a number of common elements including potassium, calcium, magnesium, sodium and several other elements for the research projects involving cotton industry.

Several CRDC, Cotton CRC and other project projects have benefited from the purchase of new instruments and a number of projects will rely on the new atomic absorption spectrometers in the coming years. I have listed some of the major projects, which are and will be heavily dependent on the new instruments:

1. "Potassium status and mineralogy of soil in relation to premature senescence in cotton in northern NSW". Sevag Bedrosian, B. Singh and Phil Wright.

2. "Dynamic modelling of soil physical-chemical processes as indicators of soil health in relation to land use in the cotton-growing region" Dr Odeh, I. and Professor Alex McBratney.
3. Several projects on soil salinity aspects of cotton soils (given in the table below), undertaken by Dr John Triantafilis and Professor Alex McBratney, are and will be heavily dependent on the new AASs for measuring the chemical properties of soils.

Projects in last year	Project	Location
"Understanding salinity threat in irrigated cotton areas of Macintyre River valley"	NHT – QLD992952	Toobeah
"Salinity risk assessment in irrigated farming systems across the lower Gwydir valley"	NHT - NW0523.00	Ashley
"Understand and manage causes of salinity in irrigated farming systems in the lower Macquarie valley"	NHT - CW0396.99	Trangie
"Understand and manage causes of salinity in irrigated farming systems in the lower Macquarie valley"	NHT – CW1058.98	Bourke
Projects over the next year		
"Understand the salinity threat in the irrigated cotton growing area in the upper Namoi valley"	NHT - NW9999.01	Gunnedah
"Assess relationships of irrigated farming to rising saline groundwater south-east of Warren"	NHT - CW0708.99	Warren

With regular service and normal usage instruments will last for ≥ 15 years subject to the availability of spare parts.

Once again I thank Mr Ralph Schulzé and rest of the committee for approving the funds.

Yours sincerely



Balwant Singh