

Cotton Innovation Network

Meeting Communique - 23 August 2017

The Cotton Innovation Network coordinates the cotton industry's RD&E activity and ensures a collaborative and cohesive approach to achieving our industry's long term goals.

Attendees: B Grey (Chair), C Rogan (Co-Chair), B Finney (CRDC), N Cottee (CA), T Parnell (DAWR), L Copeland (ACDA), M Bange & F Pettolino (CSIRO), M Hickman (QDAF), M Bullen (NSW DPI).

Key outcomes:

1. Information Sharing

Members shared industry and organisational information including:

- ACDA: i) 'Excellence in Research in Australia' – trialling of a new approach to research performance measures with inclusion of impact & engagement metrics. ii) Recent release of data set to quantify 'who does what research' in Australia with a positive finding for ag, vet & enviro sciences.
- DAWR: i) Round 3 Rural R&D for Profit projects announced, including CRDC supported projects. ii) Working on Monsanto's BG3 seed access issue in China.
- CA: i) Response to ABC's '4Corners' episode re Murray Darling Basin & irrigation issues. ii) Cotton Collective, Griffith – a mini-conference, very well received by all growers.
- CRDC: i) 2016-17 Annual Report – above budget investment in RD&E with 100 extra projects, \$36M in financial reserves provides a sound position for implementing a new 5-yr Strategic Plan, which is under development. ii) A new Board commences from 1 October 2017.
- CSIRO: i) Appointments of Digital Agronomist and GxMx E scientist ii) 'Future Science Platforms' enabling more fundamental research.
- NSW DPI: i) Developing future R&D framework – relationships + partnerships, non-traditional funding arrangements & optimising commercial returns. ii) 'The Gate' project to establish an incubation/acceleration space iii) Stable and strong budget position.
- QDAF: i) Whole-of-government 'Advancing Qld' planning process underway ii) Internal capability review and impact mapping underway with new metrics to guide investment decisions iii) Economic review of Paul Grundy & BG3 in Central Highlands – a \$17:\$1 rate of return. iv) Drs. Paul Grundy & Steve Yeates recognised with CSD Researcher of Year cotton awards

2. Strategic Discussion

- Guest speaker: Dr Guy Roth, Executive Officer, Water Use in Ag RD&E Strategy. Reported on developments in water use efficiency & productivity per unit of water used. The Smarter Irrigation for Profit project with dairy, cotton and sugar ends in 2018. The Strategy has extensively identified future R&D opportunities with collaboration on integrated irrigation systems a collective priority.
- Cotton RD&E Capability Vision: continued development of the tagline and underlying dimensions.
- Research & Innovation Committee: noted the Committee's positive feedback on cotton sector RD&E.

3. Upcoming Events

- Conference: Association of Australian Cotton Scientists, 5-7 September – Canberra
- Cotton Innovation Network meeting: 16 November 2017 – Canberra
- Cotton Innovation Network meeting: 28 February 2018 – Sydney

Further Cotton Innovation Network information is available at: www.crdc.com.au/cotton-innovation-network.

This Summary is for use within Network member organisations. We encourage Network members to include in their own communication documents any information of interest to their stakeholders.