

Cotton Innovation Network

Meeting Communique - 6 August 2019

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: C Rogan (Chair), B Grey (former Chair), I Taylor (CRDC), P Graham (CSD), A Kay & S Ceeney (Cotton Australia), F Pettolino & S Swain (CSIRO), T Dadswell (Department of Agriculture), N Macleod (QDAF), A Bowman (NSW DPI) L Copeland & J Pratley (ACDA)

Key outcomes:

1. Information Sharing

Members shared industry and organisational information including:

- Cotton Australia - Water: proactive and strategic response to debate. SataCrop: New crop mapping for various crops for spray drift messaging. Cotton Collective held at Griffith successful.
- CSD - Seed processing plant now fully operational. James Kahl re-elected as Chair and Tony Quigley, Vice Chair. Crop Management Tour attendance 580 to date. Cotton Collective showcasing partnerships & information. Dr Linda Smith (pathology) announced Researcher of the Year.
- CRDC – Allan Williams appointed as General Manager R&D. Business Strategy development with focus on R&D investment performance, enhanced capability for a digital future. Changes to RDC model report expected for consultation soon. CRDC and CA joint board meeting.
- CSIRO - Agriculture & Food undergoing program rearrangements with cotton breeding shifted into Traits, Cotton Management into Agriculture Systems. New Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning being developed & lead by Data 61.
- ACDA – Despite dry times job adverts in agriculture have increased over the last four years. International students having influence and change structure. NSW changing to a tri-mester.
- Department of Agriculture – Statutory Funding Agreements renegotiated to now 10 years with annual meetings. 78th ICAC Plenary Meeting: Brisbane, 2-5 Dec and tour 6-7 Dec 2019. www.icacaustralia2019.com.
- NSW DPI – Soil moisture and water for production and research is very short. Mealybug reported first time in southern region. CottonInfo technical leads updating extension resources. New DPI strategy implemented. NRM focus feeding into water and soils.
- QDAF - MDBA and Great Barrier Reef impacts for cotton. Great Barrier Reef nitrogen regulation. Innovative RD&E for IPM on Bermisia and Mealybug. Reniform nematode - further detections in Central Qld. Stewardship very important focus for Northern Qld. Biosecurity exercise 'blueprint' held in Toowoomba simulating a virus incursion.

2. Strategic Discussion:

- Liz Alexander elected as Vice Chair of Cotton Innovation Network
- Glyphosate and implications for Australian cotton production systems: written and presented by Ian Taylor.
- Cotton Australia's Strategy: Rebuilding trust and Strategic Pillars presented by Adam Kay
- Invited Guest – Tom Bishop University NSW.
- Digital Agriculture- Masters of Advanced Studies- Digital Agriculture.
- CIN members valued this meeting: being forward focus on strategic engagement, solidarity, collaboration, messaging the science, collaboration, succession planning and the value of each sector reports.

3. Upcoming Events

- Cotton Innovation Meetings: November 2019, Canberra; February 2020, Toowoomba.

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

Vision for Cotton RD&E Capability: Exceptional research capability – integral to the future of Australian cotton and society. This summary is for use within Network member organisations, please include any information of interest to stakeholders.



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