

# Cotton Innovation Network

## Meeting Communique - 24 February 2017

Attendees: C Rogan (Chair), B Grey (Co Chair), B Finney (CRDC), P Graham (CSD), A Kay (Cotton Australia), J Manners & M Peoples (CSIRO), S Standen (DAWR), G Fullelove (QDAF), A Bowman (NSW DPI).

### Key outcomes:

#### 1. Information Sharing

Members shared industry and organisational information including:

- NSW DPI – Bio-pesticides investment has been extensive with products now becoming available.
- CSD – 50 years old in April, site redevelopment on track for completion by mid 2018.
- CSIRO – spray drift impacted conventional variety trials at ACRI, Black Mountain nearing completion of redevelopment.
- DAWR – New legislation allows for levy payer database, RR&D for Profit round 4 announcements after June.
- QDAF – Emerald Ag College R&D area to expand, concern for potential spread of mealybug.
- CRDC – total cotton research portfolio now approx. \$100M per annum, collaboration with grains sector R&D continues to grow, commencement of Rural XO initiative.
- Cotton Australia- Cotton industry worth \$2.5B to Australian economy with 4.3M bales forecast this season. Water policy continues to be a key issue. Cotton Collective and trade show to be held in Griffith 26-27 July.

#### 2. Strategic Discussion

The Network considered short presentations on example innovation initiatives as part of a discussion about opportunities for collaboration in innovation.

- John Manners, CSIRO, presented an overview of the AgCatalyst event which attracted and built connections amongst the 633 attendees and teams participating in the AgData challenge, Next Big Thing Plenary and panels exploring the Big Picture.
- Guest Liza Noonan, CSIRO, presented about the ON-Prime program empowering research teams to achieve real world impact faster with teams going through pre-accelerator, accelerator, market and team development stages.
- Guest Tim Parsons, Pollenizer, presented on rural startups with global commercial opportunities being assisted through the Rural.XO initiative to develop and realise their business ideas.
- The Network discussed the Performance Review of the Australian Innovation, Science and Research System and agreed to make a submission highlighting the cotton sector.

The Network also received and considered presentations from guests:

- Tony May, Monsanto Australia on the prospective pipeline for technologies including Bollgard 4, Roundup Ready Xtend, NemaStrike seed treatment and Climate Corp products.
- Peter Fragiaco, NSW Department of Industry and Investment, on economic and regional development modelling. There was strong interest in undertaking an assessment of cotton industry growth.

The Network discussed next steps with the development and implementation of a vision for R&D capability. It was agreed to finalise the vision and progress a roadmap for future capability at the next meeting.

#### 3. Upcoming Events

- Cotton Innovation Network meeting – 24 May 2017, Brisbane
- Cotton Innovation Network meeting – 16 November 2017, Canberra