

Cotton Innovation Network

Meeting Communique - 24 May 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), P Graham (CSD), N Cottee (CA), T Parnell (DAWR), L Copeland, J Pratley (ACDA), J Manners, I Appelqvist (CSIRO), G Fullelove (QDAF), A Bowman (NSW DPI).

Key outcomes:

1. Information Sharing

Members shared industry and organisational information including:

- CRDC: Developing 2018-2023 Strategic R&D Plan with on-going stakeholder consultation; industry environmental scan is a foundational document. R&D Priority Forum with growers 31 May. Rural R&D for Profit Round 3 announced, with 2 successful joint projects announced to date.
- ACDA: Fundamental problem – research on-costs underfunded. Under-grad agricultural student numbers increasing, with declining PhD numbers. Since 2003, more women than men studying agriculture.
- DAWR: Seed cotton levy implemented 1st April, applies to year cotton is grown. 'Levy Taskforce' talking to RDCs and other stakeholders to improve the levy system. 'Regions 2030' regional policy announced.
- CSD: New worksite tracking well for April 2018 completion, June opening. Yields this year range 6 to 16 bales/Ha; now reviewing impact of planting dates. CottonInfo going well, with outcome-focus.
- QDAF: Qld cotton production 16-17 = \$870M farmgate + \$99M for ginning; 2nd largest broadacre crop after sugar. Qld government investing \$1.5M in cotton R&D. NQ field days well attended; rice/cotton. Large GRDC farming system trial site Darling Downs now includes cotton in the rotation.
- NSW DPI: Narrabri launch of SeroX biopesticide, a good acknowledgement of DPI, industry and commercial partnership. NSW Government focused on regional jobs and decentralisation
- CA: CGA R&D priorities: defoliation; sucking pests; RMP stewardship for BGIII; colour; telecommunications. National Residues Survey, re gin trash for livestock feed. Successful Fashion-to-Field Day on farm Narrabri, engaging brands. BCI Conference Berlin; 57,000 Pakistan farmers signed up for CA/DFAT Aid Program.
- CSIRO: Exec leadership invited to Myall Vale, visiting staff/facilities; refurbishment investment pushed further up agenda. 2 new research scientists appointed at Myall Vale – genetics & digital ag.

2. Strategic Discussion

- Guest speaker, Royce Bell, John Deere Tactical Segment Manager. 95 per cent of Australian JD round module pickers are equipped to capture information, but it's not being utilised to full potential, to improve productivity. Working to validate the value of data analytics to farmers.
- Reviewed the Industry Environmental Scan for gaps, clustering of top trends & ranking in 5/10/20+ year time-frame context. In the context of the Industry Environmental Scan reviewed the Vision2029 document; concluded it remains applicable but suggested updating with more powerful and current commentary, reflecting how industry is progressive and cutting-edge.
- Network submitting a response to Performance Review of Australian Innovation, Science & Research System

3. Upcoming Events

- Cotton Collective: 26-27 July 2017- Griffith
- Cotton Innovation Network Meeting: 23 August 2017 - ACRI Narrabri
- Cotton Innovation Network Meeting: 16 November 2017 – Canberra

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.