

# Cotton Innovation Network

## Meeting Communique - 24 May 2018

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 (Deputy Chair), B Finney (CRDC), M Murray (CA), A O'Sullivan (DAWR), L Copeland (ACDA), J Manners & M Peoples (CSIRO), P Graham (CSD), N Macleod (QDAF), P Steele (guest, CSD), P Grundy (guest, Assoc. Australian Cotton Scientists), Paul Barnett (forum facilitator, Ethical Fields)

### Key outcomes:

#### 1. Information Sharing

Members shared industry and organisational information including:

- ACDA: i) regional universities concerned re impact on ag of government cap on university funding. ii) 2018 student intakes plateaued, but double 2012 intake iii) Publication of research showing quantity & quality of research, & by whom
- DAWR: i) May budget positive for DAWR, with continuation of existing work in agricultural policy area. Money to promote market access work with expanded OS representatives, biosecurity, pest & weed management
- NSW DPI: i) still working with CSIRO to finalise ACRI lease & obtain Treasury support for station upgrade
- CA: i) water & spray drift issues on-going ii) CA's Strategic Plan 2018-23 development nearing finalisation iii) 2017-18 production forecast of 4.5-4.6M bales iv) participation in myBMP expected to grow
- CRDC: i) 2018-23 RD&E Strategic Plan approved by Minister, to commence July ii) 2018-19 Budget approved, with \$24.3M investment in over 300 projects; approx. 40% will be via cross-sectoral collaborations iii) CA & CRDC holding R&D priority forum in June with growers
- CSIRO: i) AgCatalyst - 15/16 August in Melbourne, acknowledging CSD/CRDC partnerships ii) approval of capital improvement for ACRI site; co-development of site with NSW DPI, within 3-year timeframe
- QDAF: i) research into early planting benefits with Emerald reporting impressive yields ii) biosecurity update, with surveillance for new pests/diseases iii) weeds – new product registered this year
- CSD: i) with excellent picking conditions – all seed crops picked; owing to site redevelopment, CSD in very good position with varieties for 2018 planting ii) 2018 Crop Management Meetings schedule finalised
- AACs: i) acts as representative body promoting & enhancing cotton research as a profession; facilitating communication & collaboration between scientists; & point of contact between scientists, Aus. cotton industry, & International Cotton Researchers Association. Biennial 3-day Research Conference: Sept 2019

#### 2. Strategic Discussion:

- Revision of Cotton Sector RD&E Strategy, first developed 2011. Aim of forum: to start afresh & develop 'Strategy on a page', outlining future visions, capabilities, assumptions, & key actions. Focus not on research & technology, but scenarios supporting delivery of research impact across the network, collaboration, investment scale, investment efficiency and outcome alignment. Members worked through three stages: where are we now as a sector, where do we want to be, what strategic shift will get us there? Draft Strategy to be finalised at Network's August meeting.
- Reviewed & endorsed a 6-monthly progress report to Research & Innovation Committee

#### 3. Governance:

- The members congratulated Cleave Rogan on his appointment as Deputy-Chair

#### 4. Upcoming Events

- Cotton Innovation Meetings: 14 August, Melbourne (before AgCatalyst); 15 November, The Gate, Orange

Further Cotton Innovation Network information is available at: [www.crdc.com.au/cotton-innovation-network](http://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.*