

Cotton Innovation Network

Meeting Communique - 14 August 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), A O'Sullivan (DAWR), L Copeland & J Pratley (ACDA), M Peoples & F Pettolino (CSIRO), P Graham & P Steel (CSD), G McMullen (NSW DPI), G Fullelove (QDAF - by teleconference), J Iker (guest, Crop Consultants Australia), W Waters (guest, CottonInfo)

Key outcomes:

1. Information Sharing

Members shared industry and organisational information including:

- ACDA: i) 'Excellence Research in Australia' submissions, new focus on impact & engagement – issue of how to measure impact, with research/adoption lag times ii) Cap on university funding; regional unis struggle most, owing to less international students.
- DAWR: i) All about drought – questions re fodder/grain being imported from west ii) approval for cottonseed in to China remains work in progress.
- NSW DPI: i) Drought all-encompassing, discussions re how well prepared some industries are; looking at forward scenarios i.e. 3-months out with rain etc; biosecurity question with hay coming from across nation, 'a known risk' ii) \$50M investment in research stations, primarily WH&S upgrades.
- CRDC: i) ginning of 2017/18 crop approx. 90% complete, w'above average yields, quality & prices ii) picking results of northern Aust commercial & research trial crops encouraging iii) drought outlook: monitoring risks to revenue in forward budget & R&D investment capacity, seeking to retain agility & flexibility
- CSIRO: i) AgCatalyst- exciting times! - presenting novel fibres, cotton fibre quality, & synthetic biology ii) External 4-yearly program review underway, for each CSIRO unit; iii) Myall Vale paperwork to Fed Govt, with renovation to start within 12 months, with 2021 completion
- QDAF: i) No budget cuts, & some opportunities for more staff ii) Dry start to season - average outlook rain/ planting/season; Emerald 6% of allocation iii) Developing the north/CRC for Northern Australia –big response to call; getting collaboration happening, working with WA & NT.
- CSD: i) Implications of USA and Brazil court cases banning glyphosate ii) seed processing ongoing; seed availability covering for larger crop a bullish 'it will rain' attitude iii) Cotton Breeding Australia.- CSD & CSIRO collaboration extended to 2029 iv) Crop Management Meetings complete, 664 attending – dryland program positive feedback
- CCA: i) Continuing to build relations with CottonInfo e.g. IPM ii) big focus around drought on mental health of members, with CCA facilitating support to its small business members

2. Strategic Discussion:

- Warwick Waters, Program Manager, CottonInfo: Update on achievements, performance & forward strategy. Multiple partners & industry ownership of extension, not usual model; Research trials about validation, to better engage growers with research projects while they are in process; measuring rate & reach of extension
- Members: Review & discuss Cotton Sector RD&E Strategy, Fostering a Vibrant & Sustainable Cotton Research & Innovation Sector. Why do we need Network – where does it create most value? Network provides overarching framework, with open discussion among members; we are pushing in the right direction, creating more impact from working together; provides valuable forum for assessing the 'lie of the land'.

3. Upcoming Events

- Cotton Innovation Innovation Meetings: 15 November, The Gate, Orange; 20 February, Sydney

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.