

AUSTRALIAN COTTON & THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are widely recognised as providing a global pathway to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we all face. The SDGs provide goals and targets for every individual, business, industry and nation to work towards. Below is a summary of the most relevant SDGs to the Australian cotton industry, and how we are working to do our share to contribute to them.



Sustainable Development Goal



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
Ensure availability and sustainable management of water for all.



13 CLIMATE ACTION
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



15 LIFE ON LAND
Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.



2 ZERO HUNGER
Promote sustainable agriculture.

Australian cotton's work to contribute to relevant SDGs



WATER: Research has shown a long-term trend of a reduction in the volume of water needed to grow a bale of Australian cotton every five years. This trend is the result of sustained research and practice change. Maintaining this trend will become increasingly difficult over time, and will require increasingly more effort.



CARBON: We are working to reduce emissions, increase the amount of carbon stored on farms, and accurately measure our net carbon footprint. For many years we have invested in research and adoption to strengthen grower resilience.



BIODIVERSITY: We are working to more accurately measure native vegetation and increase the area of cotton farmland managed for conservation. Biodiversity on cotton farms can provide natural pest control and pollination, control erosion, store carbon and enhance water retention.



PESTICIDES: We are working to reduce the volume of pesticides, & to reduce their toxicity to human health and environment. Central to this is Integrated Pest Management, a strategy to manage pests with a range of practices including crop rotations, weed control, and native vegetation and refuge crops to house 'beneficial' insects and birds.



EFFICIENCY: We invest heavily in research to increase yields, and innovative cotton growers spend time and money adopting this research and new technologies.

Sustainable Development Goal



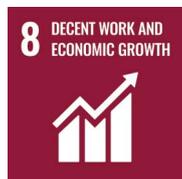
Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.



Reduce inequality.



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Australian cotton's work to contribute to relevant SDGs



PROFITABILITY: Profitability is a fundamental sustainability indicator for growers. Profitable cotton growers can re-invest in their own business, and contribute to local communities, economies and the environment.



DIVERSITY: We have programs to support a diversity of age, gender, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the cotton industry. We also monitor the cultural diversity of our workforce.



SAFETY: Agriculture contributes disproportionately to workplace health and safety incidents across Australia. More needs to be done to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on cotton farms.



TRAINING: Building the adaptive capacity of the Australian cotton industry is essential to maximise opportunities and minimise disruptions caused by technological transformation and environmental changes. We are investing in science and innovation capability, new knowledge and futures thinking to build this capacity.



WELLBEING: We have just started to monitor the wellbeing of cotton growers and their communities. We are using this information to understand if and how we can do more to work with government, communities, other industries and individuals to improve the wellbeing and social capital of our people and regional communities.

FOR MORE:

Read the Australian Cotton Sustainability Report 2019 at <https://cottonaustralia.com.au/sustainability> or www.crdc.com.au/publications.