

# Cotton Innovation Network

## Meeting Communique - 12 May 2021

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: A.Greste (Chair), C.Rogan (Past Chair), I.Taylor (CRDC), P.Graham, J.Quinn (CSD), A.Kay (Cotton Australia), F.Pettolino (CSIRO), C.Downs (QDAF), L.Copeland (ACDA), R.Jackson (NSW DPI), J.Iker (CCA).

### Key outcomes:

#### 1. Information Sharing

Members shared industry and organisational information including:

- Cotton Australia – General meeting in June to discuss industry issues & research priorities. Cotton Collective in August in Toowoomba. Rebuilding trust strategy with the public and media. Water licensing and floodplain water harvesting changes and the ongoing recovery of water in the MDB. Concern over coordination of biosecurity threats. TIMS stewardship of Extend Flex and the Northern RMP.
- CSD – High yields this season, field day engagement. The winter cotton management tour June & July. 2021-22 area forecast 500,000ha. Recruitment of staff for new positions.
- CRDC –NT Food Futures conference attendance and engagement with northern growers. Postgrad student engagement. Strategic RD&E planning process has begun to develop the 2023-28 strategic plan seeking feedback within/outside the industry. Recruitment of CottonInfo communications lead and R&D manager.
- CSIRO – Myall Vale site redevelopment is progressing. Black Mountain glasshouses operational for non-PC2 activities. Recruitment of a new Research Director, Crops following Klara Verbyla leaving CSIRO. 2021 Syngenta Crop challenge in Analytics won by a CSIRO team.
- ACDA–Covid impact continuing due to border restrictions and ongoing geopolitical climate. Enrolments are increasing. Institutions changing to VR teaching programs, implications for skills development. Syd Uni celebrates 100yrs of rust research.
- DAWE –Development of national Agriculture Innovation Policy. Agricultural Innovation Australia (AIA) Board appointment and CEO recruitment. Streamlining agricultural levies legislation. Clothing and textile waste roundtable and grant announcement. Establishment of the eight Future Drought Fund Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs.
- NSW DPI –2020-21 crop 2-3 weeks late. Water allocations for 21-22 improving. NSW DPI Myall Vale infrastructure redevelopment commencing, improving recruitment and human capacity. Gwydir flood event emergency response.
- QDAF – High yields from alternate growing systems. New challenges managing resistance risks from these new systems. New pathogens leading to increased capacity to diagnose and develop management strategies.
- CCA –Changes to Board membership and structure and a new President. Face to face workshops recommencing. Ongoing project to identify alternate IPM strategies and thinking. Consideration of the increasing issues around data ownership and privacy.

#### 2. Strategic Discussion:

- Continued relevance of the CIN for members and the industry. Importance of the network, knowledge sharing and ability to identify emerging industry issues.
- Capacity to identify key Industry issues and work on addressing these. Identify 2-3 key issues to review.
- An ongoing need to focus on capacity building within the industry.
- CIN terms of reference review.

#### 3. Upcoming Events

- Cotton Innovation Network Meeting – Toowoomba 24 Aug
- Cotton Collective - Toowoomba 25-26 Aug

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