

Cotton Innovation Network

Meeting Communique - 16 November 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), N Cottée (CA), T Parnell (DAWR), L Copeland & J Pratley (ACDA), J Manners & M Peoples (CSIRO), P Graham (CSD), G Fullelove (QDAF).

Key outcomes:

1. Information Sharing

Members shared industry and organisational information including:

- ACDA: i) Uni of Sydney's Narrabri research station has a significant dryland cotton planting and vision to showcase cotton ii) From 2019, ag +food will become a mandatory in technology unit for Yrs 7 & 8 in NSW Public Schools iii) Council of Deans – now has 20 members (from 11)
- DAWR: i) Call for submissions – 'Digital Economy Strategy' ii) International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) Australia well-represented at 2017 ICAC Plenary in Tashkent and seeking to host 2019 ICAC Plenary.
- CA: i) Study trip to USA in September, included growers, researchers and Monsanto, to assist industry preparedness for prospective new herbicide tolerant technologies of XtendFlex (Monsanto) & Enlist (Dow AgroSciences). ii) recipient of \$233K Australian Government funds for mid-level Leadership course, commencing 2018.
- CRDC: i) New Board welcomed ii) 2018-23 Strategic Planning underway. Three overarching goals – productivity + profitability; industry's adaptive capacity; cotton's value chain competitiveness & sustainability.
- CSIRO: i) Geelong facility making strategic shift away from natural fibre, to carbon/synthetic fibre. ii) Hosted outstanding Australian Cotton Research Scientists Conference. iii) Scoping ACRI site refurbishment, with NSWDPPI.
- QDAF: i) Emerald 'Big day Out', 85 attendees looking at cotton irrigation. Young generation attendance, very encouraging. ii) GRDC & QDAF joint R&D Condamine property purchase; cropping R&D including cotton.
- CSD: i) Seed sales ticking over – 355K irrigated & 70K dryland. ii) Trials at Horsham (60 Ha dryland), Flinders River, & Kununurra. Small areas but promising.

2. Strategic Discussion

- Guest speakers: Osman Mewett, Crop Biotechnology Policy, Croplife. Regulatory reform, & outcomes after 20 yrs experience in biotech: GM IR cotton has been greatest on-farm financial benefit; every piece of gene technology in Aust. is under review
- Melanie Bradley, Program Manager, AgriFutures. Climate Change Research Strategy for Primary Industries; 3rd phase focus - adaptation; emission intensity and markets; climate change in business and policy
- Jan Edwards, Strategy Chair, Soils Research Strategy. How much yield gap is due soil constraints? Demonstrated need for reliable, digital, soil information through a data-sharing platform.
- Cotton RD&E Capability Draft Vision developed - *Exceptional research capability, integral to the future of cotton and society*

3. Upcoming Events

- Cotton Innovation Meetings: 28 February 2018 – Data 61, Sydney and 24 May 2018 – 1 William St, Brisbane
- Annual RD Watt Lecture: focus on cotton, 8 March, University of Sydney

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.