

Cotton Innovation Network

Meeting Communique - 14 March 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 (Co-Chair), B Finney (CRDC), N Cottee (CA), A Bowman (NSW DPI), A O'Sullivan (DAWR), L Copeland (ACDA), M Peoples (CSIRO), P Graham (CSD), N Macleod (QDAF), P Steele (CSD guest)

Key outcomes:

1. Information Sharing

Members shared industry and organisational information including:

- ACDA: i) Under-grad student numbers healthy ii) Of concern: direction for post-secondary sector with shortage of technically trained people iii) Annual RD Watt Lecture (Uni. of Sydney) featured cotton.
- DAWR: i) New Minister, no major policy changes; review of Levy System is on-going; ii) Issue of cotton seed market access into China is progressing.
- NSW DPI: i) Change to Ag Division, now in 2 groups: Agriculture, and Corporate Support 'Research Excellence' ii) Increased regional investment in Research Stations, with ACRI Narrabri refurbishment plans underway
- CA: i) Water & spray drift issues on-going: Grass-roots/cross-industry approach to spray drift, seeking better coordination across industry ii) CA's Draft Strategic Plan 2018-23 to be soon released for comment.
- CRDC: i) Draft 2018-23 Strategic Plan to commence July, proposing \$125M in R&D investment with aim to create \$2B in additional gross value of production ii) 68 new project investments from 1 July 2018 iii) R&D Priority Forum in June iv) CottonInfo: Also creating a new 5 year Strategic Plan.
- CSIRO: i) Natural fibre manufacturing downsize at Geelong R&D facility progressing; Centre will now focus on carbon fibre. ii) AgCatalyst returning 15/16 August in Melbourne iii) Cotton Market Insights workshop highlighted importance of social licence issues.
- QDAF: i) Post-election, DAF's R&D 'big picture' plan on track for June completion, with no changes expected for cotton; ii) Condamine irrigation R&D farm now open, available for research in any space.
- CSD: i) Emerald early-plant harvest positive, 12-14 Bales/Ha ii) Northern Australia – Georgetown and Kununurra crops planted iii) CSD's site re-development on track/on budget, with infrastructure complete

2. Strategic Discussion: Innovation and data

- Carolynne James, Manager, Investment & Business Development NSW DPI: new initiative, Global Ag-tech Ecosystem (GATE), located Orange NSW. One-stop-shop to fast track Australia's ag-tech development;
- Bruce Finney, CRDC: Innovation Strategy, a customer-focused mindset, leading to a deliberate, dynamic and resourced approach to increasing innovation and commercialisation outcomes.
- Dr Simon Barry: Research Director, CSIRO Analytics Research Program, Data61; Mission – data for the future, focussing on every aspect of data R&D, with links to corporations, govt., academia, start-ups & scale-ups.
- Professor Tristan Perez & Dr Kate Devitt, QUT, Agri-intelligence in Cotton Production Systems Project: focus on actors in cotton value chain, identifying high-risk on-farm decisions, & pathways to risk reduction.
- Bruce Finney, CRDC: Digital Strategy Project, exploring current and future state of data within industry, & developing digital strategy & implementation plan.

3. Governance: Election of Chair and Immediate Past Chair

- The members congratulated Barb Grey on her re-appointment as Chair and Cleave Rogan to the new position of Immediate Past Chair.

4. Upcoming Events

- Cotton Innovation Meetings: 24 May 2018, Brisbane; 14 August 2018, Melbourne (before AgCatalyst)

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.