



Report

Future Cotton Leader Travel Bursary

June – September 2007

The Cotton Research and Development Corporation has made available up to \$1000 for travel to support your Future Cotton Leader project. The guidelines stipulate that once approved, you can make your own arrangements for travel. **Within one week of your travel** please send a Tax Invoice with copies of your expenses in line with the amount approved to Helen Dugdale, CRDC, PO Box 282, Narrabri NSW 2390 Telephone: (02) 6792 4088. Up to \$1000 will then be reimbursed. Also include a one page report of your travel including benefits to you, enterprise, industry and whether you would recommend this activity / event to others. Use this report format. Please email a copy of your report to jo@ruralscope.com for feedback prior to sending to Helen at CRDC.

PART A: PERSONAL DETAILS

Name:

Phone:

Email:

PART B: YOUR TRAVEL

1. Provide a short overview of what your bursary achieved. (Include name / aims of travel / course. Location of travel etc)

For my travel bursary I headed to the Fibre to Fabric course at the CSIRO textile unit at Geelong.

This course to me was a way for me to broaden my knowledge of the cotton industry post farm gate. This will be important if I am to represent the industry in the future and to become a farmer that is more conscious of the effects of what we do down the supply chain.

PART C: KEY LEARNINGS

2a. What are two or three key things that you learned through your travel bursary?

One of the most important things that I took away from the course was the importance of quality. As a grower we are constantly chasing yields, however it is the quality that will secure our place in the international market.

I also learnt about how important China's role is in the industry. Not only as competitors in production but also as the largest manufacturers and the demands they place on the industry. This puts Australia in a good position in comparison to a lot of other competitor countries as we are so close to China and get our cotton there quickly.

2b. Is there anything you would improve to gain more from this course / activity / bursary?

The tours through the plant were fantastic. As there were a lot of people there from different industry sectors I realized it was important to go through each stage thoroughly. However as a grower I would like to spend more time on the marketing and manufacturing. The growing part was good when it got to sections about growing techniques and timing for fibre quality. Some parts were a little basic, but I do understand the reason for this.

PART D: BENEFITS

3. What benefits have you achieved from your travel bursary?

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| For you | A much broader understanding of the supply chain. Particularly the manufacturing or yarn and fibre. Also the role synthetics have to play in the market. |
| For your project, enterprise or job | In our enterprise the importance of quality was highlighted. We need to start to strive for yield/quality balance, rather than just high yields. |
| For the cotton industry | The industry needs to look at why yield is so important to a farmer and how to make quality a key indicator in a growing seasons success. Ie. Financial return to make sure this is considered first and foremost. At this stage yield is the only financial gain to be had in production of cotton. |

PART E: RECOMMENDATION

4. Would you recommend this travel / course to others? Why / Why not?

I would most certainly encourage anyone from the industry to go and attend this course. There are few courses and certainly fewer in Australia over such a short time frame that can give you such an overview of the industry from the farm to the garment. I feel now that I am more equipped to understand issues within the industry and speak for the industry taking into consideration all of its sectors.