

### Rod Gordon Regional Development Extension Officer

#### - Introduction and Background

I look forward to making a valuable contribution in support of the Regional Development Extension Officer (Cotton) role in view of enhancing the prospects within the Border Rivers region. I value the input and support of the consultants and growers and I look forward to working with you.

I am a University of Queensland, Gatton Campus, Graduate in a Bachelor Degree of Applied Science of Crops and Rangelands and have an Associate Diploma of Applied Science of Agronomy. I have completed ACSA International Cotton course at Memphis University and obtained the USDA classing certificate.

My working history as a Cotton Consultant for Tatzenko Consultancies based at Pittsworth for four years has instilled sound agronomic knowledge and understanding of all facets of the cotton crop production process. This experience has ensured that I am up to date with the current challenges facing the cotton industry. I have developed an extensive knowledge from field to fabric from both my tertiary studies and agronomic experience.

### Macintyre and Mungindi Field Days were held last week with great success.

Key issues discussed included:

- **Solutions in Labour Management**

Recruiting overseas labour to solve the ever increasing labour shortages in the agriculture sector and the government requirements. Information about skilled migration and visas can be found at: [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)

- **Alternative fertiliser sources**

Implementing Manure/Compost into fertiliser programs with an objective aim to improve soil structure while increasing the biology in the soil enabling an increase in mobility of soil nutrients.

- **Producing a Premium Product**

Pima cotton can be used to offset low prices for upland varieties and to value add in cotton production. Cotton merchants are seeking a consistent supply in order to hold down a market share.

### Congratulations!

- **Macintyre Valley Cargill Cotton Consistency Award for 2005/06 Crop winner:** TSI Ag, "Macintyre Downs". Congratulations to Hamish Johnston, TSI Ag management and the Turner and Sullivan Families.
- **Mungindi Crop Competition 2006/07.** Reardon Farms, Worrall Creek, Field 9, Sicut 71. Congratulations to Andrew Ordish, and the Worrall Creek Management team.

### Results from Bt resistance monitoring 2006/07 until end of February

#### Hatching, parasitism and species composition

Across all sampled valleys there were 27338 eggs submitted to the program until mid-February 2007. Of those eggs, 70% successfully hatched, 20% were parasitised (by anything, not just Trichogramma) and 39% were *H. armigera*.

Valley	Trait	Total
Macintyre	number of eggs	3015
	% hatch	75
	% parasitised	40 (0-87)
	% <i>H. armigera</i>	59

#### Screens with 'survivors' from Bollgard II plants

During the 2006/07 season, we received for testing 231 *Helicoverpa* larvae that were collected on Bollgard II<sup>®</sup>. The larvae were contributed from 5 properties from the Lower Namoi (a total of 10 larvae), 4 properties from the Gwydir (a total of 11 larvae), 4 properties from the Macintyre (a total of 22 larvae), 3 properties from the Darling Downs (a total of 7 larvae), and at least 5 properties from St George (a total of 181 larvae). We are currently rearing this material in the laboratory and all healthy moths will be submitted to the F<sub>2</sub> screen component of the resistance monitoring program.

As at 7 March, we have screened 3 lines which were *H. armigera*, and 18 lines which were *H. punctigera*, against both Cry1Ac and Cry2Ab. Thus far, in the 2006/07 season CSIRO **have not** isolated any cases in *H. armigera* or *H. punctigera* of alleles conferring resistance to Cry1Ac or Cry2Ab.

- For full report please contact Rod 07 46716711